



# **Campus Calgary: For the Love of Children Aero Space School**

**Annual Report 2015-2016**

sharing  
together  
personalized opportunity  
slowing-down  
hands-on unique experience  
learning depth  
experts  
community  
journaling



**Aero Space Museum of Calgary**

**"Inspiring flights of possibility one  
encounter at a time"**

# For the Love of Children Society of Alberta



We are so thankful to Mr. Ashid Bahl and the For the Love of Children Society of Alberta for generously funding and supporting the program. He has provided inspiration to students, parents and teachers, as the following comments attest.

*When my students knew they were going to meet Ashid and found out that he had made their trip to the Aerospace Museum possible through being a partner of the program, they wanted to do something. Stepping back as a teacher and allowing my students to work on something entirely on their own, does not happen often. I watched the entire class engage in a consensus process without anger or frustration. Teacher comment*

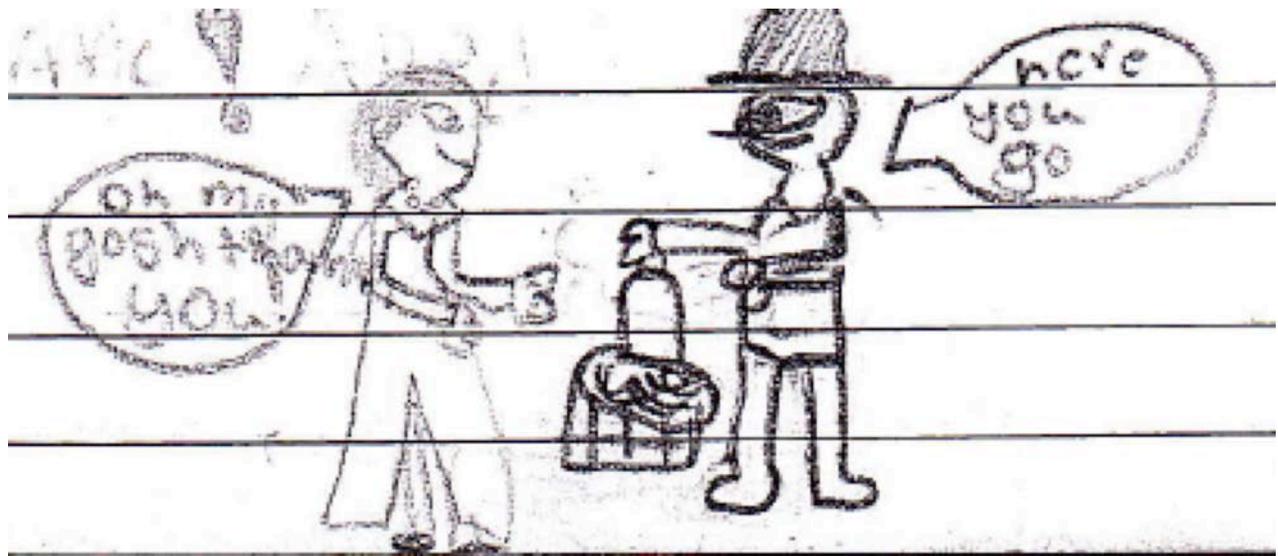
I have students who were so inspired by what Ashid Bahl does, that they are brainstorming ways they can fundraise. One student is collecting toothbrushes and making 'dental bags'. This student has already written Ashid a letter about her exciting plan on how she is planning to give back to others. Teacher comment



**The following pieces of writing were taken from student journals:**

Ashid Bahl

He has a very kind heart and cares a lot for children and their health, food, water and education. I noticed that he didn't just give something to them and leave. He really took the time to really understand how hard their lives are. Just giving them a pencil made them go crazy. Ashid Bahl told us that some kids he met asked for a bus to get to school because they were afraid to go because of snakebites. I couldn't imagine having to go to school being afraid of going to school because of snakebites. I don't even know how I would feel if someone told me I couldn't go to school because I was a girl. I can't believe that in some schools they are training the bullies to also spray acid on their faces. I think this is absolutely amazing what he is doing like teaching them art, helping them learn and giving them things that amaze them. I think what he has done is terrific!



There are lots of kids out there that are not as fortunate as us and he is there helping them and giving them the best. Mr. Bahl has helped a lot of people and he doesn't get money for it. He just want to do it and help people. He has helped all over the world.

He does it to see smiles on the kid's faces. He helped over 100 000 kids.

He said life is not about us but about others.

This year we have decided to let the students, teachers and parents tell the story of Aero Space School. The photographs, comments and journal entries take us on a journey through their experiences, and documents the value of slowing down and learning within a dynamic community alongside knowledgeable and passionate experts.



Explore,  
discover, reflect,  
share

“The students were busy and engaged all week. My child now thinks of science differently. We have had lots of conversations and discussions about his learning at home: how he loved the Lancaster and really appreciated the gentleman who funded this program.” Parent comment

“I think it is important when you are looking at the planes to put yourself in the place of the people who are in the plane (pilots, copilots, navigators, etc.” Student comment

“One of my favourite parts was going in the planes because you can hear the stories but when you are inside the plane you can feel all of the tension that happened too.” Student comment

“A highlight for me was wearing the uniforms because it felt like I actually had to do that job.” Student comment

“I liked learning about the planes and to feel what the pilot felt, smelled, and heard. It was amazing.” Student comment



Work alongside experts; develop awareness and action

“My favorite activity was meeting people who had flown an airplane in the museum and we got to go inside the airplanes. It was very exciting.” Student comment

“My favourite part was when we tried to find out what time the plane would reach Medicine Hat. I didn't know that they had to do so much math to get the answer. I didn't even know they had to find out when they are going to reach the destination.” Student comment

“The continuing conversations we have revolve around the volunteers and experts they met, the stories they heard, and knowledge and skills they gained while on site.” Teacher comment



# Customized to meet individual needs

**Asking Questions**

One of our students asked a question around an astronaut's badge that was part of her Mystery Photo.

Twitter allowed her to ask, through the teacher, questions about its meaning. The students were all excited that Robert Thirsk tweeted back within hours of each question. She was able to view the responses on her parent's Twitter feed.



The screenshot shows a series of tweets. Shelley WL (@ShelleyWL) asks questions about an astronaut's badge. Robert Thirsk (@RobertThirsk) responds, explaining the symbols: a bird (eagle) representing a space shuttle and a sun representing life. Shelley WL follows up with more questions about the badge's design. Robert Thirsk provides a link to astronaut mission patches and answers a question about designing a mission patch for Mars.



“I do have a reluctant writer in my class who is very fascinated by airplanes. Although writing was difficult for this student, he absorbed so much information and had so much to share when he got back to the classroom.” Teacher comment

“It worked so well to have two planning sessions with Kathleen. We were able to preplan and then honour the voice of my students with our second planning session. I also believe that the open communication between Kathleen and I enriched the experience for students. Kathleen and I were both flexible, willing and collaborative.” Teacher comment



## Integrate curriculum, community, participants



“The week at aerospace is truly an awe-inspiring event that allows students to open the door to history and real life experience and become fully immersed. Students are able to have connections to science, history and story in a rich and meaningful way.” Teacher comment

“A highlight for my child was learning about the different professions within the aerospace industry. They benefited from learning about the complex engineering, planning and execution required. He was very interested in the stories from real life that the volunteers shared. He liked the Memorial Room and gained an appreciation for the sacrifice others gave through the stories about all the brave men- especially the Lancaster Bomber.” Parent comment

“I loved learning about air traffic control and how runways are numbered. Your guest speakers were amazing. The “hands on” is key. The more touching, hearing, etc. that can be done the richer the experience.” Parent comment

“A highlight for me as a parent was watching and seeing the students engage in the discussions and hearing the questions, thought processes. Amazing! My child began making connections to what he has been learning at school. He has now expressed an interest in enrolling in air cadets.” Parent comment



# Slow down and go beyond the obvious

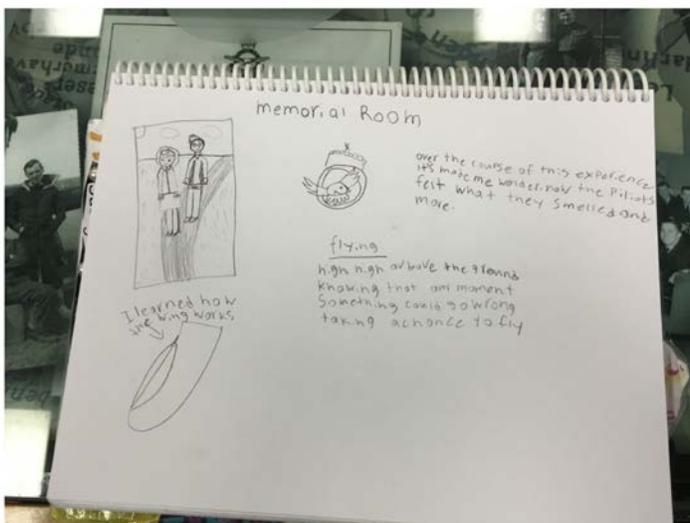
“This affected my learning because getting to go to the same place for a week helped me to suck everything in. When you go on a fieldtrip for one day you might miss something tiny that might really interest you.” Student comment

“The physical space of the aerospace was an immediate inspiration for students. Being able to access experts and hear first hand stories made the experience meaningful. The obvious highlight overall was the ability to be fully immersed in the history and real life planes. Children were awestruck by the sheer presence of the planes.” Teacher comment

“The experience of being able to be hands-on and involved was very engaging for all students in my class. They essentially had the museum to themselves and were able to peacefully explore the site and look deeply at artifacts.” Teacher comment

“This experience has motivated her to learn. She had to slow down, use her observation skills and was encouraged to look deeply and to think critically.” Parent comment

“A highlight for the students was seeing real life examples of how science and engineering is used to allow society to improve peoples’ ability to live. This experience enhanced and inspired my child to ask questions and understand why. He is genuinely interested in the history and the details of the Lancaster now. This was a very good and unique opportunity for my child and I wish I had this as a kid. Thanks so much for the opportunity to volunteer and participate.” Parent comment



## Engage in exciting hands on activities



“The hands on discovery of the week worked really well with the students. My daughter was excited the whole week. She was talking about her experience to her friends and others in her family.” Parent comment

“The hands on aspect of the learning made it more meaningful and assisted students in making connections to the learning they had already done in the classroom. It brought the learning to life and was truly inspiring.” Teacher comment

“I have a student who is usually below grade level and while at Aero Space School, he was actively engaging with questions and was making connections with his previous knowledge. IT is the most engaged I have seen this student in two years. He was confident and knowledgeable.” Teacher comment

“A highlight for my child was learning about the different professions within the aerospace industry. They benefited from learning about the complex engineering, planning and execution required. He was very interested in the stories from real life that the volunteers shared. He liked the Memorial Room and gained an appreciation for the sacrifice others gave through the stories about all the brave men- especially the Lancaster Bomber.” Parent comment

“ My favorite part of the overall fun week was going in the planes and journaling about them. Going inside the Anson’s cockpit, flipping switches and watching the plane react was a unique and hands-on experience and I learn most from these hands on experiences. Exploring the museum I learned a lot because I could choose what to journal about. Interacting with pilots and ex-pilots I learned a lot because they were talking to us about personal experiences.” Student comment



Here I am sitting in a small cold  
lonely place. I'm a tail gunner, I feel  
nerves and cold. I'm sitting in a round  
shaped clear ball. Here in front of me is  
a back masher gun. I'm really scared  
because the tail gunner is the most  
important place in the Lancaster.  
My face is cold and numb. When we  
are taking off I felt a spark of  
fear in my body. Then we took  
off and I felt confident.

## Build strong relationships; inspire ownership and stewardship

“Advice for other students attending: I think it’s really important that you are respectful everywhere not just in the Memorial Room. Respect the people who did this.” Student comment

“A highlight for me was being able to see the students make connections to their own lives. They enter the museum on a mission to investigate what a legacy is and how they can leave their own behind. This led to the students wondering how some of the artifacts in the museum left a legacy behind. The students had a purpose for being there and were able to see the link to legacy with everything we did.” Teacher comment

“Watching my students connect with the artifacts at the museum was amazing. They really took ownership of their aircraft and even now, I hear them talking to each other about it, or coming up to me with something they have learned.” Teacher comment

“The parent volunteers commented on how much they learned themselves. They went in thinking they’d just be circulating with a group and quickly realized they were learning alongside the kids.” Teacher comment

“This experience has guided our year. We have been exploring perspective all year as well telling a story and heroism. It feels as though Open Minds has been our anchor and we keep coming back to it. Students’ learning has been profoundly affected. They consistently reference our time, experience and learning at Aero Space.” Teacher comment

“The highlight for my students was the authentic learning experiences. The classroom learning had real life meaning and connections. We visited in mid October and students still talk about our week at Aero Space School.” Teacher comment



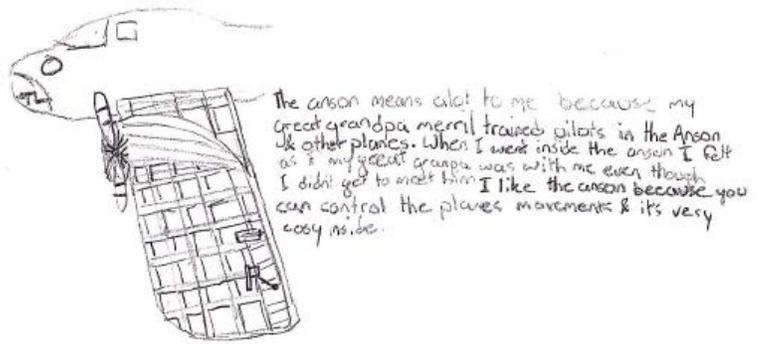
March 7

Nothing is more interesting to me than  
witnessing a mind accepting a challenge  
it doesn't matter if it's present or past,  
it's the "zone" where heroes are born and  
the history got written.

The story about bombarding the  
German dam was great! Thank you.



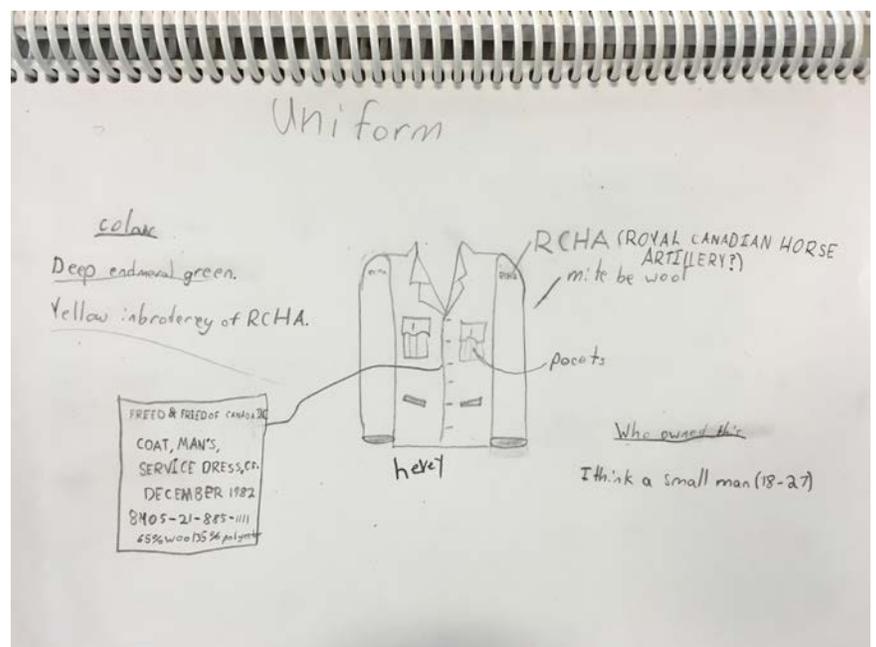
# Personalized learning opportunities



“It was seeing students engaged and learning in a new way! I saw reluctant learners engaged. “Coded” students actively participating and literally minds opening to the world of possibilities.” Teacher comment

“The students are excited about learning the history and stories behind the airplanes they saw and the different artifacts from the museum. I have two girls that are particularly interested in the parachute dress and plan to do research about it and create their own “parachute” dress. Another student is planning on doing research about the medals that were on display in one of the cabinets. He is anxious to learn about the medals and the story behind them: who wore them and why did they get these medals.” Teacher comment

“ During this trip to Aerospace Museum, not only did I learn about planes and aviation, I increased my dream of flying and going to space.” Student comment



# Maintain high standards for quality learning experiences

“Thanks for your time i just wanted to tell you that Areo Space school it was the best time of my life.” Student comment

“The visit inspired the drive for knowledge and where to attain it, other than a google search. The questions that have been inspired by their visit are critical and certainly not simple.” Teacher comment

“This truly was the best week of my students’ year. I learned so much myself from you and the volunteers. Thank you for providing my students with this rich experience.” Teacher comment

“You always made us all participate. You made us see it was okay to “take a guess” and “stretch our thinking”. Student comment

“I just have to tell you what a rich and wonderful learning experience you have facilitated for all of us. I t has been a gift to work with you and I so appreciate all your expertise, focus on our them and insights into the endless possibilities.” Teacher comment



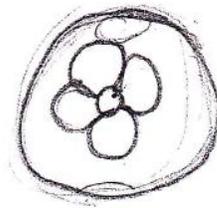
## Learning as unique as every student

"Some of my students found the writer within, through creating poetry and careful choice of words. My students have come back from this experience with more confidence in the ability to express themselves." Teacher comment

"Experiences like Aerospace Museum School give all students a chance to stretch their wings. By removing the classroom walls and providing a new space to explore, all can stretch their wings and reach new heights (pardon the puns). My most reluctant students grew in both their journaling and thinking." Teacher comment

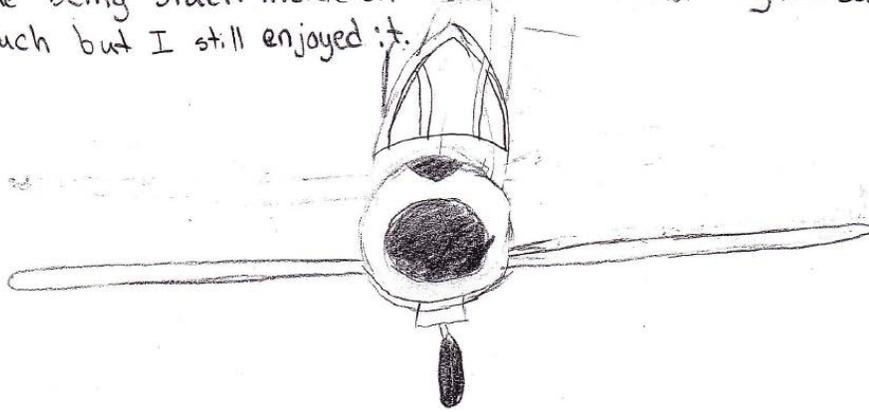
"One student in particular came to my attention when I realized that he had the heart of a poet. Reluctant to write, poetry offered him an avenue to step away from the structure of stories and paragraphs. His confidence grew and has continued to be demonstrated after our time at the museum." Teacher comment

42 planes  
old to new  
thousands of names  
from world war two  
They served in Canada  
and now lost  
rest in peace  
memories and more memories  
they shall grow not old  
in the sky still looking down  
at all the planes.  
We will remember  
Through hardship to the stars



## Aerospace: In the planes

Sabre: In the sabre and I was the pilot. It felt lonely. I'm a person who likes to talk to someone, and I couldn't begin to imagine what it would be like. Alone for hours, in a small space. When I was in the plane I felt stressed, claustrophobic, it's powerful, and strong. Like I have all of the control in this huge plane. Because it's a small space it felt cozy and warm. It was very comfortable. I was scared as well, I mean if I started crashing or my ejection seat wasn't working there would be no one to help me unless my radio connection could help me. It smelled like being stuck inside on a warm summer day. I couldn't see much but I still enjoyed it.





Bell 47G!

This one was a helicopter that has no skin at its tail and had a rancle were if someone got shoot they would put them on the rancle. Strap them up and take off but if i got shoot and put me on the rancle i would not have a good night sleep cause of all of the noise and the wind blowing at my face but the helicopter made me feel like i was a fish in a fish bowl.

☺

## Revealing Stories Hidden in Nose Art



I guess the ram was chosen for the message that when armies are at war they're going to charge and not stop till they win. I imagine the ram has wings to tell the enemy they have each element. I guess the ram has a smug expression because the enemy is scared. The ram's horns represent that they have all sorts of weapons. Student Journal Entry

The ram represents a tough pilot and a determined one. I bet it also represents the pilot is not going down without a hard fight. It says to other pilots to not underestimate the power of the pilot. The wings warn the enemies that they will hunt them down. Student Journal Entry

## Student Blog Entry

Last week room 12 went to the Aerospace Museum of Calgary, to learn about flight. It was an amazing experience because we were able to not only to see the aircrafts, but we got to go in the actual planes from long ago. We learned about all different types of aircrafts, including hot air balloons and helicopters. We met Hal, who is a retired helicopter pilot and herd stories of his amazing journeys. Mike, a retired Air traffic controller also came to speak to us, he explained how air traffic control works, and what it is. We got to see, understand, and make our own flight plan all together.

Later in the week, we walked to the runway to watch airplanes take off and land. We also visited both the manufacturers of airplanes and the airplane junkyard. We were able to see how airplanes are made, how they run, and what happens to them when they get old and breakdown. We got to understand the lifecycle of airplanes.

The next exciting thing we got to do was examine and even try on uniforms! While wearing the uniforms, we made a timeline, showing when the uniforms were used and how they evolved through history. We learned about this, so that we could better understand how airplanes have changed over time. For instance the beginning of the timeline, they needed to wear a leather cap to keep their heads warm, because their heads were not protected from the outside. Then as planes evolved, so did the uniforms. The most recent uniform was from NASA, and it was a jetfighter helmet. This taught us how depending on the conditions that you are flying, depends on what you need to wear.

Probably the best part was when let us independently explore the museum. It was nice because you got to see without hearing other peoples perspectives, so you could create your own understanding. We could go to what interested us, and spend as much time as we liked observing, sketching and making up our own stories.

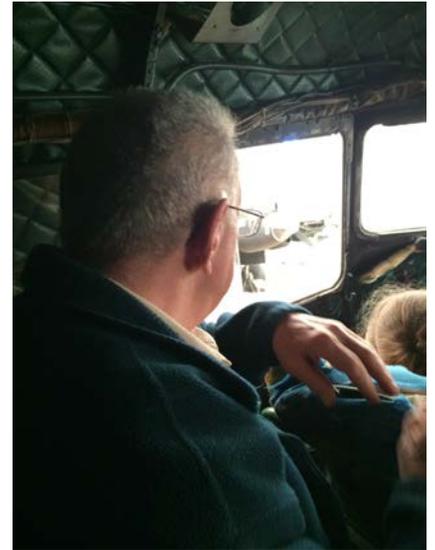
While we were at the Aerospace Museum, we did a lot of journaling, so that we could express our understanding. It was important to journal so that we could look back on our notes to help us with our next task. I am looking forward to writing a story about one on the airplanes at the museum.

.... Thank you so much to all of the volunteers to helped make this amazing field trip happen!

# Campus Calgary Open Minds Celebrates it's 100000<sup>th</sup> Student



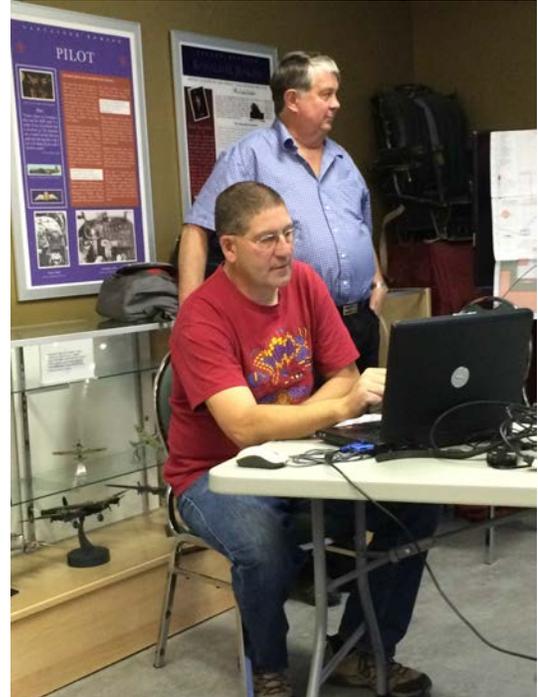
## More of our wonderful volunteers



“A highlight for me was to listen to the volunteers who shared their own aviation experience and knowledge.”



“Even though we completed our week at the Aerospace Museum, the experiences we shared together come up often in class. The continuing conversations we have revolve around the volunteers and experts they met, the stories they heard, and knowledge and skills they gained while on site.” Teacher comment



The continuing conversations we have revolve around the volunteers and experts they met, the stories they heard, and knowledge and skills they gained while on site. Teacher comment



“It was so much fun to watch the kids learn from the wonderful volunteers.”

“I now know that planes don’t magically fly. Science is behind it.”

# For the Love of Children Aerospace School 2015-2016

Teacher Coordinators: Kathleen Meuse and  
Kim Hunter

This year we completed eight successful one-week programs with grades 5 and 6 from R. T. Alderman, Sundance, Midnapore, and Olympic Heights schools.

The following is a snapshot of the numbers involved in this year's learning community

920 Students and their 8 teachers

173 Parents

This program would not be possible without the assistance and support of the broader community and extend our appreciation to:

## **Corporate and Financial Sponsors**

Ashid Bahl, founder and president of For the Love of Children Society of Alberta

Anne Lindsay and the staff of the Aero Space Museum

Board of Directors of the Aero Space Museum

## **Educational Support**

Calgary Board of Education

Calgary Catholic School District

Campus Calgary Open Minds Operations Team: Jennifer Gray, Ita Kistorma and Travis Robertson

Campus Calgary Open Minds Advisory

Campus Calgary Open Minds Executive Sponsors

Southland Transportation

## **Museum Volunteers**

Dwight Allen

Rob Baker

Mike Brandon

Ray Courtman

David Mitchell

Terry Pearce

Neil Pfeifer

Don Ross

Bob Schwarzenberger

Hal Tetz

John Ursulak

Bill Whytock

Dougie White

Bill Zuck

## **Community Volunteers**

Captain Chris Taylor

Craig Stephens (Rocketry Club)

Richard Clark (Balloon Club)

Norm Gold (Balloon Club)

Dirk Luxen (Balloon Club)

Linda McAtamney

# **We are definitely BETTER TOGETHER!**

“This museum has magnanimously ameliorated my knowledge on aviation. All the facts Aerospace volunteers told us, and all the real life stories were really interesting. The artifacts were really intricate and unique. This week was bigger than the Sabre’s blast and hopefully I get a chance to visit the museum again.” Student comment