



# HAMILTON ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

BALLET  
MUSIC  
VOCAL  
DRAMA



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November 2009.

## Message From Principal and Artistic Director

The end of October and beginning of November was a busy time for us at the Academy. Everyone present at the school's Grand Opening on October 29 enjoyed the event very much, and we were honored by the presence of Honourable Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster, Flamborough, Dundas, Westdale; Almut Sweet, wife of David Sweet Federal MP for Ancaster, Flamborough, Dundas, Westdale; Councillor Russ Powers, Dundas Ward 13; Councillor Tom Jackson, Ward 6; and Arlene Vanderbeek, Executive Assistant to Russ Powers, Ward 13. We received a lot of complements regarding our talented students and about the event. We would like to thank all staff and parents who helped us to prepare the Opening. We are pleased with our first promotional pamphlet and would like to thank all parents for giving us their consent in using their children's pictures for school promotional material.

The Open House on November 7 and 8 provided an opportunity for the public to come to the school and learn about the Hamilton City Ballet and HAPA. We will continue promoting the Academy through out this school year to raise the awareness in the community and to prepare the Spring registration for 2010-2011 school year.

Principal  
Anna Shkolnik

Artistic director  
Max Ratevosian

### Remembrance Day

On November 11, 2009 all students and staff took part in a ceremony at the Dundas Amour commemorating the Remembrance Day. For some of our students it was the first time they saw a veterans parade, military guards, the war planes flying above our heads, and putting poppies at the feet of the monument to fallen soldiers. It was a good learning experience for our students, and we were proud of the way they behaved at the ceremony.

### The Nutcracker

On Monday December 7th at 7:00 p.m. the Ontario Ballet Theatre will stage The Nutcracker in St. Catharines as a part of its tour across Ontario. The show features dancers from Japan, Russia and Canada. We are thrilled that this production of The Nutcracker is directed by our Artistic Director, Mr. Max. We encourage the parents and staff to attend the performance in St. Catharines as being the closest location to Hamilton. The performance will take place at the David House Theatre, Brock University. The cost will be \$27.50 for adults and \$17.50 for children 12 and under. Please call this number (905) 688-5550 ext. 3257 to purchase your tickets prior to the performance. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For information on show times on weekends and locations please contact the Academy. There will be 30 shows across Ontario.

### Fundraising Initiatives

Due to the H1N1 concerns we made the decision to postpone the Ball until Saturday, February 13. Moving this fundraiser to the Valentines weekend will give us more time to promote the Masquerade Ball and raise more money for Scholarship, Bursary, and Building Funds. The tickets sold for November 7 will be honored at the February Ball. We will still be counting on our parents and staff to sell some tickets. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the Silent Auction, and we will appreciate additional ones. We also would like parents and staff interested in joining a committee to help the school to organize the ball to contact Patti Cannon at the school. As you know our fundraising efforts are ongoing. Last Friday you received a letter regarding our gift card fundraising campaign. If you or any of your friends and family would like to support the school, this is a way to do it that doesn't mean spending more than you do in your regular daily life. These gift cards can be purchased for presents or you can just purchase them and then use them to buy groceries, gas and much of your regular spending. Look over the cards and the stores that they can be used at and see if you can re-route some of your daily purchases through this fundraising. The school will receive anywhere between 3% and 6%. We are doing a test campaign for Christmas which is a very short campaign as you can see by the letter that was sent home. If this works out well for us we will do an ongoing program in the new year.

### Mid-term reports

The Mid-term Report Card will be set home on December 17.

### School Xmas Potluck Lunch

On December 17 between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. we will have a Potluck lunch for the staff and students to celebrate the holiday together. The sign up sheet will be posted in the Lunchroom.

**Winter Break**  
School Winter Break begins on Monday, December 21 and classes resume on Monday, January 4.

Happy Birthday to Mr. Max and Dalia!



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## Report from the teachers

*“Teaching is the greatest act of optimism.”*

*Colleen Wilcox*



### **From Ms. Diane Le ( English, Science, Social Studies, Visual Arts)**

We have started Visual Arts with artist Andy Stocks. The students have created many watercolours and will continue to learn more from Mr. Andy. For the rest of the term we will be studying poetry in English and incorporating some Christmas themes and activities in spirit of the season. The students will start taking home some work and assignments from previous units that have been displayed in the classrooms. Students should make sure that they are prepared beforehand and come to school with everything they need for classes each day.

### **From Mrs. Anna Shkolnik (Mathematics)**

For the first three weeks of November we have been doing Geometry focusing on different aspects of perimeter, area, properties and construction of geometric figures based on the grade level. Studying Geometry, students were using their knowledge in measurements, rounding numbers, and operations with decimals.

After the test we are starting operations with Decimals in grades 4 and 5 and Fractions in grades 6 and 7. It is important for students to complete homework and to bring it to school.

### **From Ms. Melania Pawliw (Ballet)**

The last month in ballet class consisted in learning new elements at the barre, centre and jumps. The focus remains working on proper body placement, reinforcement of the abdominal muscles and back, clean arm positions and strong, stretched legs and feet. It is important for the students to remember to bring their full ballet attire and tie their hair neatly in a bun for each class. Our next step will be adding more exercises in the center and starting croise positions. Also, we will be establishing additional stretch and conditioning exercises for the last part of the class.

### **From Mr. Max Ratevosian (Ballet and Historical Dance)**

Starting November 9th, Mr. Max has been offered the exciting opportunity to stage the full Nutcracker ballet with the Ontario Ballet Theatre in Toronto. As Artistic Director for the company, his responsibilities are to conduct morning ballet classes, restage the choreography and rehearse the dancers. Replacing Mr. Max these few weeks is a substitute teacher. In Historical dance, the students have learned the Pavane (First half of the XVI century) and the Menuet (one of the most popular dances of the XVI & XVII century).

### **From Ms. Shelby Kerr (Vocal and Drama)**

The students have been rehearsing for the Christmas production of Santa's Big Sleep. They have been learning what it takes to get ready for a real live show. We will be performing for schools around the area between December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The show is approximately one hour long and performances will be in the morning. We have scheduled one weekend show to allow parents, siblings, friends and grandparents to attend and see what the students have been doing. This show is Sunday December 13, at 1 p.m. and will be here at the Academy.

The show is being produced by Northern Lights Theatre Company. Tickets for this show are \$5.00 for a child and \$10.00 for an adult or \$25.00 for a family of four 2 children and 2 adults and can be booked at the office from Patti.

The final performance on the morning of December 17<sup>th</sup> will be on stage at Hillfield Strathallan.

### **From Mr. Leon Karan**

During the last month, students succeeded in playing music pieces assigned to them. All students are able to navigate through rhythm and notation and students are getting used to the right pianistic posture. The sight reading skills and appropriate level of music theory will be reinforced in the weeks to come.

### **From Ms. Paulette Jestiin (French)**

The children have been working very hard. They all are very excited to present our play “Les Trois Petits Cochons.” I focused on the French and left the acting to the students, they do speak too fast but they are fun to watch. The play and song will be on December 2nd at 4:15 p.m., this is a 10 min show, and we hope that you can make it.