

# Hamilton Academy of Performing Arts



HAMILTON ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

October 2009.

## Message From Principal and Artistic Director

This is our first Newsletter. We are pleased to report that our students settled well at the school and are getting used to the daily routine. We already see the progress that students made in both Arts and Academic courses due to the personal attention they get in all the classes and our dedicated staff. All teachers are enjoying working with the students.

We still have to work more with the students on using the break time more effectively and to clean after themselves. The students like to socialize with each other and the staff and therefore our lunchroom has become the most favorite place in the school. Starting this month the students will take turns in being responsible for one day a week for tidying the classroom and the lunchroom.

The cold weather has arrived. We ask that students have warm clothing for school and ballet classes such as sweater & leggings.

The staff is busy with preparations for the Parent-Teacher Interviews, Open House, and a fund raising Masquerade Ball.

Principal  
Anna Shkolnik

Artistic director  
Max Ratevosian

### Visual Arts Course

We added a Visual Arts course on Fridays starting October 2. Our Ms. Diane Le and Andy Stocks, an accomplished artist, children storywriter, and a TV personality will teach this course. The students are very excited by the opportunity of having another Art course.

### Fundraising Masquerade Ball

On Saturday, November 7 we are organizing a Masquerade Ball to raise money for Scholarship and Building Funds. Once the tickets are available we will be counting on our parents to sell some tickets.

### HAPA Open House

We will have an official opening of the school with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 29 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a student presentation for the invited guests and the parents. We are looking forward seeing you at the school on that night.

On Saturday, November 7 from 11:00a.m. until 1:00p.m. and on Sunday, November 8 from 1:00p.m. until 3:00p.m. there will be an Open House for the community. We are having the opening the doors of our new school to the public during the Dundas Arts Weekend. Our students will perform only on Sunday. This weekend will be a great opportunity for your friends, relatives, and neighbors to visit our school. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

### Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday, October 22 between 3:00p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The schedule will be emailed to the parents. Please be advised that school dismissal on that day will be 3:00 p.m.

### Progress Report Card

The first Report Card will be given to the parents on October 22 during the Parent-Teacher Interviews.

### Important Dates

Thanksgiving long weekend: Oct. 12.  
Parent teacher interviews and progress reports: Oct. 22.  
Open House: Oct. 29, Nov. 7, Nov. 8.  
Masquerade Ball: Nov. 7.

Happy Birthday to Ms. Le, Mrs. Jestin, Ms. Kerr, and Claudia.



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## Report from the teachers

*“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”*

*William Arthur  
Ward*



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

We are pleased to announce that as of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, we have added visual arts to our studies. Visual Arts will occur every Friday in replacement of Science. The students will require a sketchbook (any book with blank white pages) that will be used for the rest of the year in art. For the month of October we will have unit tests in English and Science. The exact dates have not been finalized, but the students will be notified well in advance and reviews will take place before each test to ensure that students are well prepared. To clarify any confusion involving computers, we are incorporating computers into English and Social Studies classes. However, **students are not required to purchase laptops solely for class use.** Laptops can be used only as an extra tool but are not necessities at this time. Again, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to e

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

During the first month of school we concentrated on the review from the previous grade and now started learning new material. The Math Workbooks have shown to be a great tool to enhance students learning. We had one quiz and one test so far, and the next test is coming on Friday, October 9.

I would like to thank the parents for encouraging students to complete homework assigned.

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

Our grade 4/5 school year begun with a review of the basic ballet technique for Level 1 of the Russian Vaganova Syllabus. The main focus was to work on proper body placement, leg, feet, and arm positions, through the basic ballet exercises and dance steps. Most of the exercises were done from 1<sup>st</sup> position- facing the barre at a slow tempo, gradually progressing to 5<sup>th</sup> position, then to one hand on the barre. Simple stretches are also an important part of each class. The students have also learned a pas-de-valse combination and a small polka dance.

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

I am very proud of the very talented young dancers in class. They work hard and are very disciplined. It is only with such work ethics that success will be achieved. In the past month we have worked on proper body placement, port-de-bras, leg positions. We reviewed previously learned ballet steps that for some had to be properly re-taught. Students accept the changes and apply corrections with ease. New elements of dance have been learned from the Russian Vaganova Syllabus – Level 3 and 4.

All students are learning the Polonaise in our Historical Dance class, music by Peter Tchaikovsky from the ballet “Swan Lake”. This dance will be presented at the official opening ceremony on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

In vocal music class in the past month we focused on proper diaphragm breathing. I taught several different warm up techniques that can be used outside of class. We learned major scales( so-fa ) and I began some basic ear training wherein I had the girls repeat the note they were hearing. I also had them try out some basic intervals. Finally we worked on “O Canada” as a chorus number. In drama we performed several warm up exercises covering relaxation, energy focusing and characterization. We discussed relationships and how they are important to a role. In both classes I have the girls keeping a performance dictionary in which they are writing the definitions to different terms and how they relate to performance. I have given them scripts for their Christmas performance and will be assigning roles in the coming week.

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

During the first month students learned basics of natural position of their body and shape of fingers. They learned notes durations, rhythms and music alphabet and how keyboard is organized. All students are able to play some songs individually and with teacher’s accompaniment as well as to sing the right pitch in right rhythm. I am very pleased with their enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

Since we have group lessons, it is important for the students who missed the class to catch up with work missed. Attendance is very important for the class that is offered once a week.

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

The children have started their journey toward French fluency and we compensate the difficulty of “no English allowed” with a variety of activities so nobody get tired or bored. We have learned the basic vocabulary to function in a classroom, and now we are beginning to practice and study our play “Les trois petits cochons”. Every day we learn new words and integrate them in our activities.