



HAMILTON ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

ACADEMIC
BALLET
MUSIC
VOCAL
DRAMA



NEWSLETTER

September - October 2011

Message From Principal and Artistic Director

On September 2nd we started our third school year and we are pleased to greet our students and our teachers. We are excited to welcome our new teachers: Mrs. Welsh, Mr. Macchiusi, Ms. Muller, and Ms. Garlisi. In addition, we are also excited to welcome our new students: Kallan Holley, Inessa Ratevosian, Isabella Lecomte, Marina DeSousa, and Clara Rakovac.

We are pleased to report that all our students have settled-in well at the school and the general atmosphere is very pleasant and supportive. Together with all students, teachers, and parents, we are looking forward to another exciting year here at the Hamilton Academy of Performing Arts.

Parent-Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Thursday, October 20th, 2011 and the schedule will be emailed to the staff and parents soon.

We would like to congratulate Addison Holley for being chosen for a child's leading role at the Murvish production of "War Horse" and for an important role in a TV series "My Babysitter is a Vampire".

Our warm congratulations are also going to Isabella Lecomte for winning "The Rising Stars" competition.

It is with a great pleasure we would like to announce that Amelia Wanderlingh, a former prima ballerina and Artistic Director of Vancliffen Arts Foundation, has joined HAPA as a guest ballet teacher.

We would like to remind parents that we have a dress code for the students at the Academy and students should not come to school wearing revealing clothes and excessive jewelry.

Anna Shkolnik
Principal

Max Ratevosian
Artistic Director

Staff Meeting

The staff meeting will take place on Thursday, October 6th, 2011 at 3:45 p.m. On that day, we will have a short period day schedule of each class shortened by 5 minutes. The last period of the day will end at 3:40 p.m. Parents can pick up their children earlier and we will have supervision for children until 4:30 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday, October 20th 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 20th during the Parent-Teacher Interviews.

Thanksgiving Long Weekend

There is **no school** on
Friday, October 7th and
Monday, October 10th.

Early Dismissal

Students will be dismissed
at 3:40 p.m. on Thursday,
October 6th, 2011.

Parent Teacher Interviews and Progress Reports

Thursday, October 20,
2011.

3:00-6:00 p.m.

Hamilton City Ballet
OFFICIAL NOMINEE
Hamilton Spectator's
Readers Choice Awards
In 2 categories: Dance
School &

Dance School - Children!
Vote online!

Deadline is Oct. 3rd.

Thank you for your Support!

[http://surveys.thespec.com/](http://surveys.thespec.com/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=14LL914)

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Celebrating a September Birthday

Happy Birthday to
Ms. Cindy!





Report from the teachers



From Mrs. Anna Shkolnik (Mathematics)

In all math classes we spent the first two weeks reviewing mathematical concepts learned in the previous year and now we have started learning the material of the current grade. Since all the students in my class are returning students, they are well aware of doing their homework daily and submitting it the next day. I would like to encourage parents to look through student's notebooks and workbooks regularly.

From Mrs. Jessica Welsh (English, History, Geography)

It has been a pleasure getting to know all of the students during the first month of our new school year. It has been a great start! For English, students in grade 4/5 are concentrating on reading strategies (predicting and connecting) and short stories. Grade 6/7 students are working on a fairy tale unit and have just finished their first major unit project on fairy tale authors. Grade 8/9 students have completed their study on humorous personal narratives and will be moving onto short stories (myths, legends, and science fiction). History students in grade 8 have been studying Confederation and students in grade 9 have been studying the Canadian involvement in WWI. We will soon begin class trips to the Dundas Public Library to sign out books for silent reading and upcoming book reports. All students should make sure they have their own library cards to sign out books.

From Ms. Melania Pawliw (Ballet, Historical Dance)

We are so pleased to welcome the students of gr.4/5 and 6/7 to the Academy. Our goal at the beginning of the year is to learn the basics of the ballet technique as taught by the Vaganova Method and with a review of last year's material with the gr. 6/7. The emphasis is on proper body, leg, feet, arm placement. In Historical Dance, students learn about the different styles of dance of different eras and are introduced to basic arm and feet positions, pas marche, pas eleve, 1st and 2nd form of pas chasse, pas balance and basic reverence. You are all a pleasure to teach!



From Mr. Max Ratevosian (Ballet, Historical Dance)

The beginning of the year started with a review of last year's material, and started working on preparation of the first training directions for grands tours. Also we are working on elaborate adagios, different tempos for class and more emphasis of the class-work is in the centre. In Historical Dance we are studying the dances of the Renaissance period - the Romanesque.

From Ms. Julie Garlisi (Modern Dance)

The Modern Dance classes are extremely inspiring. The students are all excited, open, and willing to learn as much as they can. During class, I see constant smiles and bright faces on every student. They are talented, musical, creative, and hungry for dance. All of the students retain the information from the previous class and use it to improve themselves in the next. They always remember their homework, journal entries, and personal technical corrections. September has been a breath of fresh air teaching all of the students. I am hopeful that the year is going to be incredible. I can't wait to see what creations are made in the year during the Modern Dance class.



From Ms. Marta Kicek (Vocal)

Dear parents and students, I would like to welcome all returning students and all new students. I like very much the energy of the grade 4/5 and I hope that they will continue being eager and excited to the end of the school year. We are just starting to learn how to read music and new songs. As for the other grades, we are in the process of reviewing materials. Soon we will start to work on the Christmas show. I wish everyone an exiting new year and I look forward to a lot of improvement in the students voices.

From Mr. Frank Macchiusi (Science, Math)

Being new to HAPA, I am excited about the opportunity of working with such a wonderful group of students. In science students have been introduced to their respective unit of study (Grade 4 – Habitats and Communities, Grade 5 – Human Organ Systems, Grade 6 – Biodiversity, Grade 7 – Interactions in the Environment, Grade 8 – Systems in Action and Grade 9 – Sustainable Ecosystems). In addition to reading about and discussing various topics, students have been participating in a variety of hands-on activities to reinforce concepts in class. In addition, they have been putting to practice lab skills and learning how to write a proper lab report. In math students have been reviewing basic skills and have completed a unit on number patterns. Students should make a good effort to complete any homework that is assigned in class. Practice at home, especially in math, is essential to mastering concepts covered in class. Great start to the year by all of the students!

From Ms. Cindy Muller (French, Social Studies, Visual Arts)

To enhance our French classes this year, students will record themselves at home; reading parts of a short story or poem. New material will be arriving next week for students as well. The 4/5 group have done self portraits and Canadian symbols. In visual arts grade 6/7 is working on colour wheels. We are hoping to have an exhibition at the end of the year to showcase their work. In Social Studies students have enjoyed viewing the CBC series Canada a People's History. The first part covers the grade 6 and 7 curriculum. Grade 4 is learning about Canada and mapping, and grade 5 is learning about levels of government.



From Ms. Marie Franek (Drama)

I am very excited about the new students this year as the drama classes are buzzing with energy and creativity. The fairytale, *The Love For Three Oranges*, has been chosen as our Christmas show and there are many skills that our students have to learn in drama to make this production successful. In contrast to last year's production, I would like to explore the comedy and acting style of Comedia del' Arte for which this fairy tale was written. Therefore, ADA20 class has been diligently working on improvisation units, and they all are given plenty of opportunity to learn different techniques. Grade 6/7 has an amazing bond and they are exploring more detailed pantomime. Grade 4/5 has been great at developing sharpening their senses, imagination and team work. I am also planning school theatre trips to give students more opportunity to view local theatre.

