



HAMILTON ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

ACADEMIC
BALLET
MUSIC
VOCAL
DRAMA



NEWSLETTER

January —February 2011

Message From Principal and Artistic Director

This is the first newsletter of 2011 and we wish you all the best in this New Year.

In December HAPA produced and performed its first Christmas play "One Splendid Tree". Based on the comments we got from visiting students, teachers, family members and friends it was a great success. For the first time we marketed the play on our own as a fundraiser and were pleased to see more than 200 local school students at our day performances and over 120 guests at our evening play. We would like to thank HAPA parent association for organizing the bake sale and door prizes. The author of the book, Marilyn Helmer, was thrilled with the play and expressed her wish to stage it again at the Academy. Over all, it was a successful fundraising event and we raised enough money for an outdoor school sign.

Before the Winter break grade 5,6,&7 students received their Midterm report cards and Grade 8 and 10 students received their midterm report cards last week. Next school year, we will have one date for Midterm reports and it will be at the end of January.

In December we were inspected by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The inspector reviewed all school documents, visited the classes, and spoke to the teachers. As soon as the Ministry Report will be sent to the school we will inform you about it.

This Newsletter highlights very important dates for the Academy and we would like you to put them on your calendar.

The Red Ball, Fundraising Gala

On Saturday February 26, HAPA will be hosting its annual dinner-dance fundraising gala, The Red Ball. There will be performances by the students of HAPA as well as a silent auction, door prizes, raffles and cash bar. Tickets will be on sale shortly and we hope to have everyone supporting this dazzling event. We kindly ask parents, family and friends to donate silent auction items which are also needed.

Valentine's Day "Fun"raiser

A new fundraising initiative beginning Monday, January 31 until Friday, February 4, featuring Valentine assorted treats. Kindly fill out the order forms due this Friday. Forms will be sent home with students.

HAPA and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Students of HAPA will have the unique opportunity to observe company class and rehearsals of the dancers of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet on tour in Hamilton on Sunday, February 13 at 2 p.m. at Hamilton Place. Please keep this date in mind. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the school office to confirm attendance. First come first serve. Limited space available.

Open House, March 24 and 26.

HAPA will host an Open House Thursday, March 24 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. and on Saturday, March 26 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. for potential parents and students.

Auditions, Sunday, April 3rd

Starting this year, potential students entering HAPA grades 7 to 11 will be asked to audition for general admission and for scholarships.

Students for grades 4 to 6 need to audition only for scholarships.

All new students will have a meeting with the Principal before being admitted to the Academy. The details of the Auditions will be made public in the beginning of February.

Anna Shkolnik
Principal

Max Ratevosian
Artistic Director

Staff Meeting

School dismissal at
3:40 p.m. on
Wednesday, February 2

Valentine "Fun"raiser

Forms due Friday,
February 4th

Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Class observation
Hamilton Place
2 p.m.
Sunday, February 13th

**No School
On Family Day**
Monday, February 21,
2011.

**Red Ball
Fundraising Gala**
Saturday, February
26, 2011.

March Break
Reminder that March
break begins
March 7 to March 18

Open House
March 24 and 26

Auditions
Sunday, April 3rd



Report from the teachers



From Ms. Diane Le (English, Science, Geography, Civics, Computers, Visual Arts)

Students in all grades have started new Science units. Grades 5, 6 and 7 are finishing off their poetry unit with a final assignment where students are creating a collection of autobiographical poems. Students will soon begin reading “Underground To Canada” in honour of Black History Month. Grades 8 and 10 have been working on grammar and are starting novel studies for Anne Frank and Lord of the Flies. In Visual Arts, students are enthusiastic and excited to be working on drawing skills and experimenting with different drawing techniques and styles. A reminder for all students to come to each class prepared to avoid disrupting class by going to their lockers to find books or homework assignments.

From Mrs. Anna Shkolnik (Mathematics)

After the break in all elementary level courses we have concentrated on Geometry and Transformations. Although the students in various grades study Congruent and Similar Polygons as well Translation, Rotation, and Reflection they approach the topics at different level of difficulty. Students are enjoying constructions of polygons especially involving transformations. In Grade 10 we concentrate on Quadratics: expressions, functions, equations.

From Ms. Melania Pawliw (Ballet)

Grade 5 and 6 students are progressing in the curriculum in level 3 of the Vaganova Syllabus. Accents and tempos are accelerated, more exercises are on demi-pointe at the barre. Emphasis is on proper placement to help with balances, preparations for turns. Students will be preparing dance pieces for the gala.

From Mr. Max Ratevosian (Ballet and Historical Dance)

Students having returned from holidays needed to reestablish their proper placement of torso, positions of arms and legs, pirouette preparations, and the clean application of movement through the music. Special attention is on musicality and artistic expression in Adagios and Grand Allegro jumps, pointe work for girls and tour en-lair for men. After studying the elements of dance, students of Grade 8 and 10 worked on creating their own dance pieces, refining, and then presenting it to their class. Through the process of critical analysis, students then commented on each others works and assessed their own. Students are now preparing a repertoire piece for the gala evening.



From Susan Bowden (Modern Dance)

The senior students completed their practical examination on January 20th. Students shared material they have been working on for the last several months. It is wonderful to see them starting to really embrace this dance language. They have also been studying the human skeleton and the importance of proper alignment to help prevent injuries. The grade 5-7 class has been learning new floor material to help them find their sit bones and open the hip socket. Learning to find a neutral pelvic position on the floor is critical for standing to help prevent hip, knee and ankle issues that can arise from poor positioning.



From Ms. Marta Kicek (Vocal)

Students have started a new project preparing for the Gala on the 26th of February which will be performed at the beginning of the night. We are trying to put together an evening of music and poetry. In music, we have started a new unit with rhythm patterns and diction which we will be using to improve the diction and help to recite the poems on the Gala performance.

From Ms. Marie Franek (Social Studies, Drama)

Grade 9 Drama class have finished their first term and are learning the history of theatre where we will be starting with rituals, learning about origins, patterned stage framework, costuming and make-up. Grade 5, 6, 7 Drama class is learning about ancient Greek theatre and myths. In social studies, students have started new units. Grade 5 is studying Ancient China and have had fun tasting authentic Chinese cake tea and comparing it to English tea. Grade 6 is studying World Explorers and have been fascinated with building a Viking boat. Grade 7 is gathering information of conflicting arguments that lead to the war of 1812.

From Mr. Leon Karan

Since I have had an opportunity to teach short individual lessons with each student once a week, I would like to stress the importance for students to practice diligently at home. Music requires building knowledge (to read music of the staves and complete theory homework). To play any musical instrument requires practice. The knowledge and information learned should be applied during practical exercises, otherwise students will forget the theory learned.

