



# HAMILTON ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

ACADEMIC  
BALLET  
MUSIC  
VOCAL  
DRAMA



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October—November 2010.

## Message From Principal and Artistic Director

Dear parents and staff,

On October 3 HAPA participated in Private School Expo in Oakville. There were many private schools promoting their institutions and many visitors. We were pleased with the number of parents who stopped at our booth asking question about our school.

We would like to thank all parents who came for Parent-Teacher Interviews last Thursday and our teachers for being well prepared for the interviews and staying late that day.

Our first parents meeting took place on October 28. All parents present supported Academic Policies dealing with missed assignment deadlines and academic dishonesty as well as non-academic policies in regards to unpaid tuition fees, extra-curricular activities, bursaries and usage of electronic devices during school hours. Once non-academic policies will be approved by the staff and board of directors, they will take immediate effect. We are very pleased that all parents present at the meeting expressed their wish to join the parent's committee. It shows their interest in childrens' education and trust in the school. We are pleased to announce that HAPA's first Parents Committee Executives are:

Sophia Christiansen—President  
Anita Gennaccaro—Vice President  
Anna Ranger—Treasurer  
Leasa Steadman—Secretary

The mandate of the Parents committee is to facilitate fundraising for HAPA and to act as an advising group to the Board and the school administration.

Anna Shkolnik

Max Ratevosian

Principal

Artistic Director

### La Traviata

Giuseppe Verdi's famous opera La Traviata is being performed in the Toronto area by Opera Belcanto and live orchestra. The senior dancers of Hamilton City Ballet and Claudia Gennaccaro of Hamilton Academy of Performing Arts have been invited to perform the "Gypsy Dance". Performances were held in Richmond Hill and Barrie to standing ovations! We invite all parents and opera lovers to the next upcoming performance of La Traviata that will take place at The Living Arts Centre Mississauga, 4141 Living Arts Drive. Tickets can be ordered through Box office: 905-306-6000 or lac.boxoffice@liingarts.on.ca

### One Splendid Tree

There will be three performances of this play for local elementary schools on December 9 at 10a.m. and on December 10 at 10a.m. and 1p.m. Our school office has contacted the school boards, and sent information directly to the schools. The evening performance on Thursday, December 9 at 7:30p.m. will be designated to the families and friends as well as arts lovers in the community who maybe interested in becoming sponsors and patrons of HAPA.

**Early Dismissal**  
Students will be dismissed at 3:45p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 for our monthly staff meeting.

La Traviata

Thursday,  
November 4, 2010.

One Splendid Tree

December 9

December 10

Happy Birthday to  
Mr. Max!





# Report from the teachers



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

Students are working well in the past 2 months. In English, all grades have started novel studies and will be studying poetry next. For grades 8 and 10, it is recommended that students bring their laptops every day for classes. We use laptops for research and typing programs during class time so students should be prepared each day. Also, a reminder that students need to remember homework assignments.

## From Mrs. Anna Shkolnik (Mathematics)

During the first half of October grade 5, 6, and 7 students concentrated on learning Factors, Multiples, and Long Division. The last two weeks we spent on Measurements, Perimeter and Area.

Grade 8 students have completed the unit on Ratios and Percents and started Fractions. This is a very important unit for students' future studies of Algebra.

In Grade 10 we are continuing studying Analytic Geometry.

## From Ms. Melania Pawliw (Ballet)

In October the students of gr. 5 & 6 worked very hard to prepare for their first ballet exam of the year. The students are showing good progress and self-discipline. Students started writing class and personal corrections in their notebooks as a tool to help them improve on their technique. New hand-out information has been added to their ballet folders regarding Agrippina Vaganova and the Vaganova technique, positions of the body, feet, arms, and arabesques.



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

The senior students started working on slow turns and preparation for quick turns in big poses used in grand adagio in centre work. Difficult elements are gradually introduced in the centre adagio. Students are also studying beats in small jumps and are learning the grand allegro. Tour-en-l'air is introduced for men's training. The students are developing the strength and control of the demi-pointe and pointe work (for girls) in big poses. Senior students are working on analyzing and learning the process of creating choreography. The students had a successful exam in ballet and have done good progress. They are also learning the Spanish dance from the ballet Swan Lake, choreography of Marius Petipa. The gr.5 and 6 started working on "Seguidilla" dance from the ballet Don Quixote.



## From Susan Bowden (Modern Dance)

The students have been working very hard in preparation for their mid-term exam on Thur Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Students will show a variety of floor work sequences, centre work and dance phrases in their exam. It is wonderful to see them starting to embrace this new dance language. They are starting to focus on where the movement initiates from and are enjoying performing for one another.

## From Ms. Marie Franek (Social Studies, Drama)

**The drama 9** students are vigorously working on their monologues. Not only that they have to memorise them, they have to choreograph the scene with gestures and movements, and become believable characters. Our Wednesday classes are devoted to the Christmas production **One Splendid Tree**, so we work on the script, gather costuming and props from the period, discuss the historical context, and improvise the scenes to find out the logistics of the set design (very complicated.) Also, we are gathering wartime stories to see how our students' families were affected by the WW2. To keep the family stories alive, tell your kids about your past, and write them down! We will include them in our programme with your permission of course! Wish list: There is a need for one Canadian soldier uniform from the Second World War or at least a hat. **Drama 5-7** is learning about storytelling as they dramatise a Greek story of **Athena and Arachne** and an Iroquois story **The Fox and the Boastful Brave**. In social studies the student are working on their projects.

## From Mr. Leon Karan

Piano is a demanding instrument that requires knowledge of music language and technical skills. It is important to foster a love and appreciation of music at home and at school. Once students are enjoying music, they will be more motivated to practice and play better over time. Music helps students to stay focused, to multitask, teach responsibilities, and gain self-confidence. Music makes our lives more meaningful and fulfilling. Please remind your students to practice piano at home and to bring music books with them on Tuesdays.

## From Ms. Paulette Jestin (French)

Two months are gone and we are well into the program. Grade 9 and 10 students will get their first major assignment in November and we are practicing how to surf the web in French. Grade 5 to 7 students have improved their fluency and we are working on the future tense and negative form. Students are making progress in oral communication and enjoying the class.

