



HAMILTON ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

ACADEMIC
BALLET
MUSIC
VOCAL
DRAMA



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September - October 2010

Message From Principal and Artistic Director

This is our first Newsletter for this school year. All of us at the Academy are excited to welcome new students and see our returning students back at HAPA. It was nice to hear from the parents that our orientation day helped them and their children in preparation for the new school year.

We are pleased to report that all students settled well at the school and are getting used to the daily routine. The teachers have already noticed the progress that students made in both Arts and Academic courses. The personal attention that the students get in all classes and the general friendly atmosphere at the school helped the new students to adjust in a new environment at HAPA.

We still have to work more with the students on using the break time more effectively and to clean up after themselves. Starting in October the students will take turns in being responsible for tidying the classroom and the lunchroom.

It is important to remind the parents that if their child is absent from class to get the class and home work from the teacher so that the student will not fall behind.

We would like to thank our teachers who worked very hard in preparing Grade 9 and 10 course outlines, and to report that all course outlines were submitted to the Ministry of Education on time.

This year for the first time we will participate in the Private Schools EXPO in Oakville Conference Centre on October 3. Other news that we would like to share with you is that HAPA has joined Ontario Federation of Independent Schools.

Anna Shkolnik
Principal

Max Ratevosian
Artistic Director

Staff Meeting

The staff meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 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 21 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 21 during the Parent-Teacher Interviews.

Parents meeting

Our first parents meeting will take place on October 28 at 7p.m. We hope that all parents will make an effort to attend this important meeting.

Thanksgiving Long
Weekend

There is **no school** on
Friday, October 8th
and Monday, October
10th.

Early Dismissal

Students will be
dismissed at 3:40 p.m.
on Wednesday,
October 6, 2010.

Parent Teacher
Interviews and Progress
Reports

Thursday, October 21,
2010.

3:00-6:00 p.m.

Parents Meeting

Thursday, October 28,
2010.

7:00 p.m.

Happy Birthday to
Miss Le and Claudia
Gennecaro!





Report from the teachers



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

So far, students are off to a good start. It is each students' responsibility to bring their required materials to be prepared for each class. Students with their own laptops may bring them in for English classes to type up written assignments. We will begin class trips to the Dundas Public Library to sign out books for silent reading and book reports. A reminder for all students to remember to complete their homework for each class. Homework assignments are written down in student agendas.

From Mrs. Anna Shkolnik (Mathematics)

During the first month of school we concentrated in all classes on the review from the previous grade and started learning new material. Students in grades 5 to 8 have two exercise books in Mathematics, and we are using them for both in class and for homework. Students' homework is checked daily and it is important for students to do their best in completing homework. It is important for the parents to remind their children about homework, and I would like to thank the parents for encouraging students to practice at home to reinforce the material learned in class. I make myself available to the students who need extra help during lunch time.

From Ms. Melania Pawliw (Ballet)

During the month of September we reviewed with the students of Gr. 5 & 6 the Vaganova Syllabus of Classical Ballet for level 2. At this time it is important for students to establish the proper body placement, clean arm, leg, and head positions. We would like to remind all girls to arrive in class with their hair tied in a bun, as required for ballet class. I am looking forward to an exciting new year of dance with our very dedicated and hard working students.



From Mr. Max Ratevosian (Ballet and Historical Dance)

Our school year started with a review of last year's Vaganova Syllabus of Classical Ballet. We also started to work on preparations for grand tours, grand adagio and grand allegro (big jumps). Given the fact that students are of different levels and come from different schools, it is important to bring all students to the same level of training. In character dance (senior level) students learned elements of the Mazurka and Waltz. Grade 5 & 6 learned a character dance to a folkloric Ukrainian song. I am very pleased with the work of all the students.



From Susan Bowden (Modern Dance)

It is wonderful to be back teaching modern dance at HAPA this fall. The students are studying Graham based technique. This is a beautiful dance language that has been enhanced and enriched over the years by David Earle; one of the most renown modern dance artists/choreographers in Canada. It is exciting to see the students learning to move their bodies in an entirely different way than they are used to. While this can pose many challenges for the dancers, the rewards will be tremendous as they learn to communicate through their bodies.

From Ms. Marta Kicek (Vocal)

I am very excited to welcome new students and I hope that I will be able to do some duets this year. We started a new section in vocal class which is called sigh singing. It is a challenging section for everyone because they have to learn how to read music with the voice without preparation. For all the new students the beginning will be very challenging because they have to catch up to the previous year. This coming week we will start some song to get ready for the November performance. I like to ask parents to encourage the children to participate as much as they can because I can feel some resistance.

From Ms. Marie Franek (Social Studies, Drama)

In Social Studies Grade Five students have been studying about migration of Aboriginal Peoples and French settlers to Canada. They realised how important the role food and its preparation played in their lives. Iroquoians and Algonquians are now our focus of interest. Grade seven is also learning about the Father of New France Samuel de Chaplain. Some students presented their first projects on food and shared some samples with the class. In drama the students enjoyed games to sharpen their concentration, observation, co-operation and trust. They are now learning how to improvise. In Drama, Grade nines explored series of pantomimes with focus on entrances and exits, character building, emotions, and co-operative improvisational mimed pieces. Some of them had their pantomime presentations to music and they are all working on team pantomime/theatrical dance. Soon we all be starting our big projects and learn about our Christmas show.

From Mr. Leon Karan

I am glad to see enthusiasm of all students in their music studies. I am trying to combine group lessons with individual lessons in order to get the best progress in their music education. I expect students to be ready for lessons and keep up with their practicing schedule throughout the week. All home assignments are tailored to students' ability to do them at home with ease and I am looking forward to seeing all students learn the basics of music theory and be able to play piano at their individual level according to their learning pace.

From Ms. Paulette Jestin (French)

The French year started very well and is fast paced. The children have survived the first difficult weeks of the "No English" rule and they are starting to feel comfortable in a French-only environment. The 5, 6 and 7 have started the play of the year "Louis la Grenouille" and the grades 9 and 10 are working with the play "Chat Angora." Both classes have to do a lot of work with verbs but usage of games help them to enjoy the classes and overcome their difficulties.

