

June 2017



Department Head: C. Clarke

NOTES FROM
THE STUDIOS



DANCE
THEATRE
DRAMA

Semester Two, 2016 - 2017
@AMHSPA



CREATIVITY THRIVES HERE

The Drama, Theatre and Dance students had a busy, successful semester working in various studio spaces. Highlights include: developing new Canadian work in all grades, performing at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts and other venues around York Region, Sears Drama Festival, field trips, student leadership with Dramatic Arts Council and Dance Council, guest artists and workshops! Check out what the Performing Arts students have been up to in semester two....





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Studio Living

Musical theatre, staging/directing/choreography techniques, film studies, inquiry based work, alternative spaces and healthy performance habits weaved through our curriculum this semester. Working with dance artist Lindsay Fell, film director Chris Di Staulo, and writer/director Ash Knight, the students applied their skills to their performances at the Sears Drama Festival, Richmond Hill Cultural Summit, Zero to Three, Dance Expressions, filming for Sean Cisterna's television show My Name is Ripley, Grade Twelve Showcase, and An Evening of Canadian Music at the Richmond Hill Public Library.





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NEXT

IT ALL STARTS IN THE STUDIO | #CREATIVITYTHRIVESHHERE

INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS

Fall 2017 will bring new and exciting workshops from the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, Stratford Festival, Studio 180, Mirvish Productions, and Ovation Performing Arts. Looking forward to extending our curriculum knowledge with Canada's top professional artists!

SAVE THE DATE! ARTS INFO NIGHT

This year's Arts Mackenzie information night will be held on October 25, 2017 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Featuring performances from across all grades, we invite you to join us for a celebration of Arts Mackenzie!

IB THEATRE ARTS

The Theatre teachers are ready to go for our first International Baccalaureate (IB) Theatre Course in 2019. Presentation and critical thinking skills will be the focus for Alexander Mackenzie High School pre-IB Grade 9 and 10 drama students!

IT ALL **STARTS** IN THE STUDIO

Join Us!!!

OPEN AND ARTS MACKENZIE COURSES OFFERED IN DANCE, THEATRE AND DRAMATIC ARTS.

LEARN COMMUNICATION, PRESENTATION, CRITICAL THINKING, AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS THROUGH PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES.

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Music



Department Head: E. Hudspith

Music Department

Music students have been involved with many exciting performing activities as well as inspiring workshops and fun field trips over the course of the past few months. It's amazing to look back and see how much has been accomplished and how much each musician has grown over just a short period.



Band and Chamber Choir's "An Evening of Canadian Music" which was presented in collaboration with the Theatre Arts department.

This semester, music students were involved with two community concerts in celebration of Canada's 150th Birthday. Richmond Hill Northern Harmony's collaborative Choral Bonanza in February and just recently, the Richmond Hill Public Library hosted the Jazz



The Jazz Band also entertained crowds at the Winter Carnival held at Mill Pond back in February. Many Alex Mac students and alumni were in attendance to watch the performance.

The Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Choir both participated in the Kiwanis Music Festival and were awarded Gold and Platinum respectively. The feedback was invaluable and it was also a great opportunity to hear other ensembles perform. The Chamber Choir was additionally awarded a scholarship for their performance in the festival.

The Coffee House and Silent Auction in March featured many different performing groups and small ensembles. It was great to see students doing what they love and also be able to raise \$1200 for the Music department through this event.



The same month marked the beginning of the Music Alive Music Festival—over the next eight weeks, the Symphonic Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra and Mackenzie Singers all participated in the festival, and the Chamber Choir performed in the University of Toronto Choral Festival with six other Ontario choirs.



Music

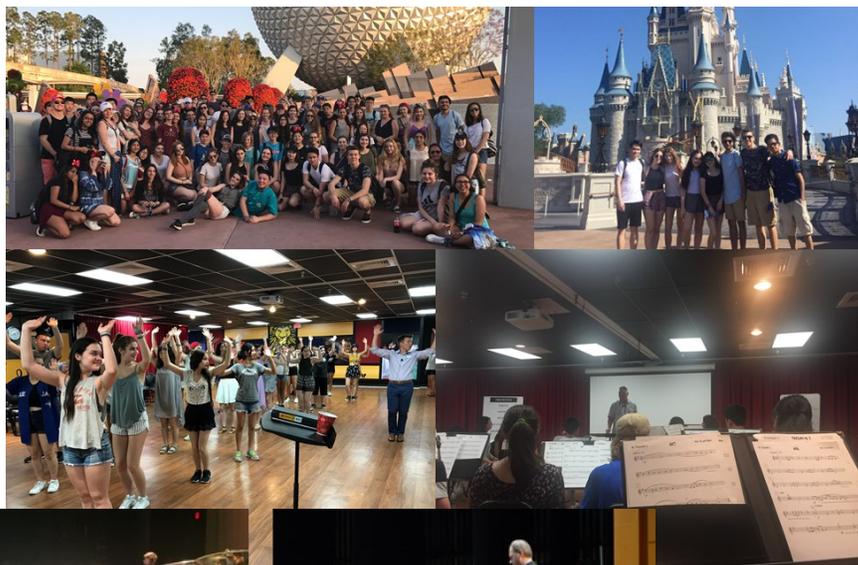
Department Head: E. Hudspith



Music Department

One of the highlights of this year for many music students was the chance to take part in amazing workshops, including those at Disney World in April where the Trip Choir, Trip Orchestra, and Trip Band each got to learn and record a Disney song in a professional studio which was then set to a clip of a Disney film. Many great memories were made on this trip, which will not soon be forgotten.

Fanfare and Spring Celebration in May showcased all of the wonderful musical accomplishments music students have aspired to all year as they put on their final major concerts of the school year.



In June, we had one more party: the banquet and awards show, which this year was themed as

“A Night in Paris”. Our performance calendar finished with the Symphonic Band’s ‘Pops’ concert which took place on the field of Alexander Mackenzie.

Looking forward to next year, please mark the following dates in your calendars:

- Showcase 2017– November 15, 2017
- Fanfare 2018 – May 10, 2018
- “Beauty and the Beast” (next year’s musical) – December 7 and 8, 2017
- Spring Celebration 2018 – May 16, 2018

Next year’s after school Rehearsal Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
198 After School	4:30-6:00 Symphonic Band	3:05-4:35 p.m. Concert Band (grade 9)	3:05-4:35 Intermediate Band (gr. 10)	3:05-4:35 Full Orchestra	3:05-4:30 Trip Band (Feb.-Apr.)
196 After School		3:05-4:35 p.m. Advanced Orchestra			3:05-4:30 Trip Orchestra (Feb.-Apr.)
Lunch	11:35-12:15 Jazz Choir	11:20-12:00 Women’s Choir (Sem 1)	11:35-12:15. AM Stages	11:35-12:15 Beginning String Ensemble	
195 After school	3:05-4:05 Music Council	3:05-6:00 p.m. Musical Theatre Rehearsal (Sem 1) Women’s Choir (Sem 2)	3:05-4:35 p.m. Mackenzie Singers	3:05-4:35 p.m. Chamber Choir	3:05-4:30 Trip Choir (Feb.-Apr.)



Visual Arts Department

As another school year comes to a close, we would like to thank all of our art students for their enthusiasm and the wonderful artwork they produced.

Over the course of the second semester we were fortunate to have two guest artists work with our students. In February, Joanne Rich joined us for a week of creating light sculptures with the grade 9 and 10 classes. Joanne shared her wealth of knowledge and creativity with our students in helping them create their own functioning paper lights. In April, students had a chance to explore the oil medium guided by guest artist Judy Sherman. Classes concentrated on still-life painting during this week.

In March, many of our students attended a private screening of the film "Kiss and Cry" at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. It was directed by Richmond Hill film maker Sean Cisterna. Sean and Sarah Fisher (lead actor) attended the screening and spoke to our students about the experience of creating a film and working in the industry.

In April, we held our third annual Arts & Crafts Sale. All of our Arts Mack visual arts classes participated in the creation and selling of their art and craft items during our school's annual "AMAC Fights Back" cancer research fundraiser. The sale was a huge success and we are pleased to now call this an annual Arts fundraiser for cancer.

In early May, we had our fifth annual off-site student-run art show at Richmond Green's Boynton House. Positive comments came from the community as it was also part of 'Doors Open' Richmond Hill. The show featured painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, film and mixed media works. A selection of works from the Boynton House show was then displayed at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts throughout June. Student works were also displayed and toured as part of the Richmond Hill Youth Art Festival this spring.

Later in May, students saw a range of art from gallery to the street on our trip into the city. We started at Toronto's Contact Gallery with photography exhibits. We then went on a tour of, the always colourful, Kensington Market and finally finished with the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit at the AGO.

Our Arts Mack students are currently working on their legacy pieces (artworks created for the purpose of remaining on the school walls). Our halls will look refreshed with colour when we return after the summer holidays!

We would like to wish our graduating students all the best in their future endeavours. You have all contributed so much to the school and to the community over the past four years. You will all be greatly missed. Also, a thank you goes out to all the parents and guardians of our students for being so supportive. Have a great summer!



Aruna Art Show at Boynton House



Senior students at work on their legacy pieces



Arts Mack grads at Boynton House



AMAC Fights Back Craft Sale



Alexander Mackenzie High School
 300 Major Mackenzie Drive West
 Richmond Hill, Ontario
 L4C 3S3