



Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance)

## Notes from the Studios

Department Head: C. Clarke



The Performing Arts students had an opportunity to work with many different artists and classes to hone their performance skills over the semester.

The semester was full of performance opportunities for the Performing Arts students. In Theatre ARTS, the performance season started in February with Mara Goldbloom's award winning *We Can't All Be Famous* at the Sears Drama Festival. The performances continued throughout the semester with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

in April, presentation at YRDSB's *Together We're Better Conference* in April, and *That Elusive Spark* in May. The Theatre ARTS students celebrated a successful year of creativity with the Excellence in Student Theatre Awards in June.

On May 5, 2014 the Dance Department presented *Dance Expressions* at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The show consisted of faculty and student choreography that varied from classical ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, contemporary and modern.

The audience was extremely receptive to all of the choreography. The performers truly showcased their artistry, talent and growth throughout their time in the program. *Dance Expressions* really captures and showcases everything the Dance Department has to offer!





Department Head: C. Clarke

## Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance) *cont...*

### Fun From the Yellow School Bus

We love field trips and workshops!  
Highlights include:

- Steppin' Out's Performance of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*
- Instructional classes at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.
- Technical Theatre experience at Theatre Aurora
- Original Play Performance and Workshop at YRDSB *Together We are Better* conference
- Shaw Festival *Peter and the Starcatcher* performance, workshop and backstage tour



Theatre ARTS students know how to perform! Above: Theatre ARTS 9 at *Together We Are Better* Conference, Left: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Right: *That Elusive Spark*





## Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance) *cont...*

### Some Additional Notes from the Dance Studios

It has been yet another fantastic semester for ARTS Mackenzie's Dance Department. The past few months have flown by with many great achievements!



While working diligently on their daily assignments, students participated in workshops and fieldtrips as well as developed their own choreography and performances. In March the students participated in a fieldtrip down to the National Ballet of Canada. Students saw a mixed program that included ballets such as *Allegro Brillante* by George Balanchine, *Carousel* by Christopher Wheeldon, *Man In Black* by James Kudelka and the very popular and eye-catching *Chroma* by Wayne McGregor.

On May 25, 2015 the Dance Department put on it's annual gala entitled Dance Expressions at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The show consisted of faculty and student choreography that varied from classical ballet, to tap and all the way to hip-hop. Student began to prepare for the show in March and worked with choreographers Kiera Punnett, Julia Cratchley and Colleen Snell of Frog In Hand Dance Company. The show culminated in a beautiful finale with all four grades participating. Dance Expressions is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of the dance students! As always, a great success!

Next September already looks to be an exciting start to the school year as we will have a full program of dance classes being offered from grade 9 through to grade 12. The Dance Department is looking forward to welcoming the new grade 9 students to the program as well as possibly participating in workshops with local Toronto as well as New York based choreographers and dance companies.

It has been yet another outstanding year for the dance program. Thank you to all of the students, parents and community members for their continued support. The Dance faculty would like to send a huge congratulation to the dance students who truly commit themselves to the program and make the department what it is! The department would also like to wish the very best to the Graduating Class of 2015! We wish you the very best as you embark on a new chapter in your lives. Thank you for contributing and helping to build the family that we know as the Dance Department. Have a safe, healthy and happy summer.

J. Toshakovski  
Dance ARTS Mackenzie





Department Head: C. Clarke

## Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance) *cont...*

### Some Additional Notes from the Drama Studios

#### Grade 9 Open Drama:

This semester saw our grade 9 Open drama students working on a varying number of different types of performances in class, as well as learning about performance and audience etiquette, and the importance of self- and peer-reflection in the creation of the dramatic art form. From scripted and unscripted mimes and movement pieces, to mask and ritual performances, our students were able to experiment with different styles of dramatic techniques to create their own unique and scripted performances. Students completed fairytale tableau storytelling, ritual movement performance, as well as small-group scripted short comedic scenes. They ended the semester by creating their own Anthology performances commenting on individuals and groups who have made a positive difference in the world. The class has worked energetically; they have performed admirably and have been a pleasure to work with throughout the semester.



#### Grade 10 Open Drama:

Throughout the semester, the grade 10 Open drama students were also participating in many various performance types, and engaged in life-skills learning activities. From working in large half-class sized choral-speaking groups, to being individuals on stage in monologue situations, the class explored numerous dramatic forms and techniques which pushed the boundaries of their performance comfort levels – ultimately allowing them to grow as artists as well as individuals. The class learned about, and explored, the various stage positions and how to attain focus, how to use body language and movement to tell a story, and the different forms of script delivery. Students also had the opportunity to learn about the process of creating sound & voice through exploration of vocal anatomy. They concluded their semester by creating original Anthology performances commenting on various group-chosen themes relevant to their lives and the lives of other students. Throughout the course, students have worked actively and have performed well. It was a great experience to work with this group of newly-realized artists.

J. Eason  
Performing Arts Department: Drama



## Performing Arts Department (Theatre ARTS, Drama and Dance) *cont...*

### Some Additional Notes from the Drama Studios



**Looking Forward to More Creativity and Innovation In September 2015.  
Have a Wonderful Summer!**

*Know someone interested in joining our artistic, academic adventure? Creativity thrives at ARTS Mackenzie. Let arts, academics and innovation guide your secondary school career. More information about the program here: <http://goo.gl/ZkVHau>*

Performing Arts Department Faculty:

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**@AMHSPA**



## Music Department

*Department Head: E. Hudspith*

The AMHS Music Department would like to congratulate all the students who have worked so hard this year and taken part in the many different concerts and events.

Music students should be very proud of their many accomplishments this year, including their many gold and platinum level performances at the MusicAlive Festival as well as their inclusion in the MusicAlive Showcase Concert (represented by the Grade 12 Woodwind Ensemble), which features top performers in the festival. The Symphonic Band was also awarded Gold at the Kiwanis Music Festival this semester and the Mackenzie Chamber Choir was one of 6 choirs to participate in the University of Toronto Choral Festival and perform alongside members of the MacMillan Singers in a massed choir.

Music students proudly represented AMHS on their trip to Halifax and Quebec City where they competed in



the Atlantic Band Festival. The Trip Band, Trip Orchestra, and Trip Choir all put on amazing performances and were awarded Gold, Silver, and Gold respectively. The Trip Choir was additionally awarded Most Outstanding Vocal Ensemble. It was an amazing experience for all those involved and the memories will last a lifetime. Special thanks to Mrs. Conrad-Knight, Mrs. Carageorgopoulos, and Ms. Clarke for chaperoning the trip.

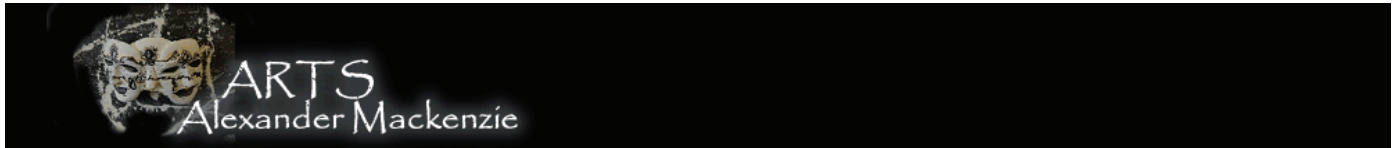


Our spring concerts "Fanfare" at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts and "Spring Celebration" at the Richmond Hill United Church were both great successes. "Fanfare" featured music students performing in concert bands, orchestra, and jazz ensembles, while "Spring Celebration" showcased the choirs, strings, and small ensembles. Music students blew the audience away with their phenomenal performances. Thank you to everyone who came out to our shows. Your support means a great deal to these young musicians.

Music students were also involved in many performances in the Richmond Hill Community this semester. For example, vocalists performed in a collaborative concert with the RHUC choir and members of the Grade 12 Band Class kindly dedicated their Saturday morning to perform as an enroute band for runners in the Strides for Stroke race.







## Music Department cont...

*Department Head: E. Hudspith*

At this year's Coffee House and Silent Auction, music students showcased their unique talents in solo and ensemble performances in a variety of styles from jazz/classical to pop/rock, and even some original music and bag pipes! And to end off the year, the senior band students performed their pops concert right here at AMHS. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the individuals who donated food and auction items for Coffee House as well as raffle items at our concerts.

Our Music Council hosted very successful events for the music students, including Laser Quest and the Music Banquet and Awards Ceremony.



Congratulations to all of the students who were given music awards this year and especially to all our music graduates. Our Music Graduation Award is being presented to Tracey Kennedy at this year's graduation ceremony. We could not be more proud of all our graduates.

A list of ensembles can be found on our department website, [www.amhsmusic.ca](http://www.amhsmusic.ca), for any students looking to get more involved. Auditions for next year's musical (Cinderella) will take place August 31<sup>st</sup> and Sept 1st. Please contact Ms. Alexander-Lui and Ms. Clarke for more information.

## Visual Art Department

*Department Head: A. Bhatia*

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 year we were fortunate to have two guest artists work with our students. In February Judy Sherman joined us for a week of still life painting. Judy shared her great sense of humour and excellent technique with our students in helping them create a painted still life. In April, sculptor and multi-media artist Lauren Schaffer worked with the art students in helping them create kinetic sculptures which they then filmed and edited resulting in some very unique experimental films.

In March, we held our first 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 "Manicure For Cure" cancer fundraiser. The sale was a huge success in which the art students raised over \$800 in the space of 80 minutes! We hope to make this an annual tradition.



## Visual Art Department cont...

Department Head: A. Bhatia

In the extracurricular department, the Arts & Culture Council (ACC) held our annual Java Night in April; an opportunity for students to show off their musical, dramatic, dance skills and comedic timing. We always appreciate the amazing effort put forward by the council. It was a fantastic night of performances!

In early May, we had our third 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.

We would also like to celebrate the great achievements by some of our grade 12 students. Shadi Yehia won a gold medal in Graphic Design Presentation at the York Region Skills Competition held in April at Seneca College, Newnham Campus. Juno Yim was a silver medal recipient in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for the second year in a row. Congratulations to our students on their great achievements!

As well, 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.

We would also like to thank all the parents and guardians of our students for being so supportive. Have a great summer!



Momentum Art Show at Boynton House



Julia Peacock's Stained Glass window



Shadi Yehia and his first place trophy



The graduating Arts Mack Visual Arts class



Juno Yim's award winning Painting *Insomnia*

