



A Semester Full of Inspiration and Innovation!



The Performing Arts students had a busy, successful semester working in various studio spaces, including our new multipurpose studio space! Here are some highlights of our semester one studio work, workshops, field trips and performances. #CreativityThrivesHere





Notes from the Studios

Department Head: C. Clarke

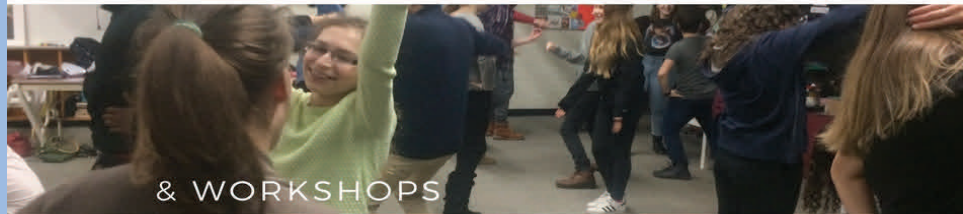


Performing Arts Department (Theatre Arts, Drama and Dance)

It All Starts In The Studio

Our studio work is always enhanced by real life curriculum extensions. Some (but not all) of the highlights this semester include:

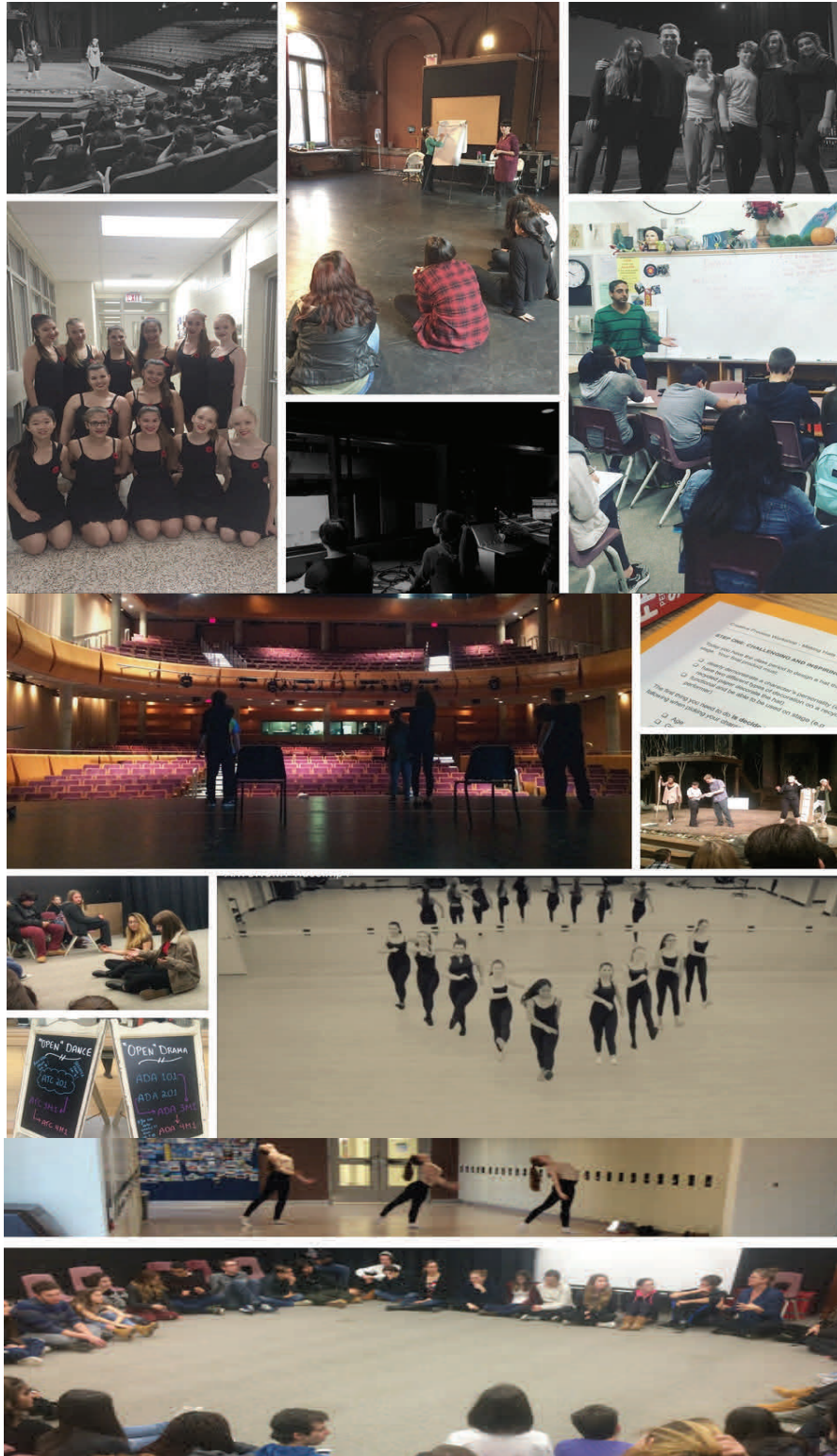
- ◆ Our trips to the Stratford Festival, National Ballet of Canada, Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, Vaughan City Playhouse and Studio 180
- ◆ Our workshops with Shakespeare in Action, Melanie Siegel, Allan Kinsella, Clara McBride, Ash Knight, Aaron Wills, Sharon Harvey, Lindsay Fell
- ◆ Our collaboration with the Resource Centre for Non-Verbal Inquiry Project (Grade 10 to explore communication barriers) and Production Proposals (Grade 12 to sharpen critical thinking skills and script selection skills for public production)
- ◆ Our collaboration with Visual Arts Mackenzie to learn about the Creative Process through costume design (Grade 9) and participate in YRDSB Artonomy (Dance Arts Mackenzie)
- ◆ Our collaboration with Ovation! Performing Arts for reach ahead audition/interview skills and post-secondary preparation (Grade 11)
- ◆ Our performances at Culture Days, Arts Night, Remembrance Day, Winterfest, Crazy for You, The Future is Now and Graduate Showcase





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Department Head: C. Clarke



Performing Arts Department

Highlights of Learning Through The Arts:

- ◆ Bringing together all of the skills, knowledge and experienced gained through grade 9 and 11 to develop productions/choreographic work for the Grade Twelve Graduate Showcase
- ◆ Refining understandings of various artistic conventions and historical movements
- ◆ Developing confidence in a variety of effective communication skills while connecting with students from different backgrounds, communities, and cultures.
- ◆ Engaging in the creative process to design/write/choreograph, rehearse, refine and perform creative and meaningful new Canadian work
- ◆ Creating a personal movement vocabulary based on variety of sources of inspiration, including mental health topics, social justice issues, poetry and inspirational people
- ◆ Taking creative risks in everyday studio work and supporting that creative work with forward thinking descriptive feedback
- ◆ The confidence, creativity, presentation skills, and sense of community to inspire each student's unique journey

NEXT

IT ALL STARTS IN THE STUDIO | #CREATIVITYTHRIVESHHERE

LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Dramatic Arts Council and Dance Council will continue to organize events that impact the whole school community. Thank you councils for the AMAC Gives Back and Winterfest Charity Drive in December!

PERFORMANCES! PERFORMANCES!

Spring time = performance time! Stay tuned to @AMHSPA for exciting information about Sears Drama Festival, AMHS Film Festival, Spring Theatre Arts Performances and Dance Expressions!

IB THEATRE ARTS

The Performing Arts faculty continue to prepare for AMHS' first International Baccalaureate (IB) Theatre Course in 2019. Presentation and critical thinking skills will be the focus for pre-IB Grade 9 ADA.10 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.

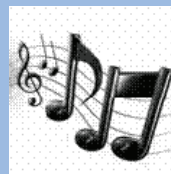
FOR MORE INFORMATION, DROP BY STUDIO 112 OR 121





Music

Department Head: E. Hudspith



Music Department

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

We started the semester with multiple performances at the Arts Information Night in October. In November, Mackenzie Singers performed on Remembrance Day and the Grade 11/12 Arts class put on "An Evening Around the World". Later the same month "Showcase 2016" featured 250 music students performing in concert bands, choirs, orchestras, and jazz ensembles at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The Music Department's annual musical, "Crazy for You" was a huge success in December (with more details on a separate page).



Music students have had many extra opportunities both outside of the classroom and through interaction with guest artists. In October we joined the other



Arts departments for a trip to Stratford to see "A Chorus Line" and in the same month grade nine and ten vocalists attended a workshop and performance put on by Opera Atelier. Over the semester, Arts students in vocal, band, and strings all received multiple private lessons specific to their instruments in addition to participating in advanced workshops on performance skills and different genres. The grade 11/12 Arts class enjoyed performances and clinics on the music of India, world wind instruments, and had an opportunity to make their own African hand drum.

Finally, our Music Council hosted successful events for the music students, including a grade nine barbeque, a movie night, and the Holiday Party.

In second semester, we are looking forward to another busy performance schedule including concerts, music festivals, and our annual extended trip (this year to Disney World, Florida).



Holiday Party



Upcoming Dates:

March 1, 2017– Coffee House and Silent Auction
(Please contact the music department if you are interested in donating items for the auction)

April 25-30, 2017 – Extended trip to Disney World, Florida

May 10, 2017 – Fanfare 2017 at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

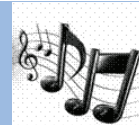
May 18, 2017 – Spring Celebration 2017 at Richmond Hill United Church

June 1, 2017 – Music Banquet

June 12, 2017 – Pops Concert at AMHS on the lawn



Musical



Who Could Ask For Anything More?

On December 8th and 9th, *Mackenzie Music's Musical Theatre class* presented *Crazy for You* at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. *Crazy for You* blew audiences away with the calibre of talent, passion and commitment displayed in every aspect of the show. It truly had something for everyone with a stellar cast, outstanding live orchestra, and an incredible set design.

As audience member Dan Celetti (Teacher at Pleasantville P.S.) stated: "The singing and dancing and comedy was awesome to watch. The audience really enjoyed the show and [we] were taken by the fact that these are high school students doing an amazing job all the while studying and writing tests and getting up early and practicing day and night."

The production included *over a hundred students* from across multiple AMHS departments and was *supported by a variety of parent, community, staff and student volunteers*.

Musical theatre students appreciate the opportunity to have a professional production experience within their high school curriculum. Sydney Nicholson, Grade 12 Musical Theatre student, "definitely wouldn't be the person that [she is] today without [the] course." Sydney adds: "you learn something about yourself and that's not really something you can get anywhere else. It's something so specific to this school and this course that has just changed all of us for the better"

Students interested in studying musical theatre in grades 10, 11 and 12 can sign up for *AMT courses, located under Music in Career Cruising*. We look forward to seeing you at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on *December 7th and 8th 2017* for our next musical.

CRAZY FOR YOU | 2016





Visual Arts Department

Thank you to all of the art students this semester who put forth such a great effort with their creativity and skills in creating a fantastic array of artworks. In September, local Richmond Hill textile artist, Melanie Siegel, came in to our Grade 9 art classes to work with our students on creating masks. In November, several works of art from Alexander Mackenzie students were on show at the International Quest Educational Conference at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel in Markham, where they received much praise. Our school also had a team of four artists at Quest that participated in 'Artonomy', a collaborative multimedia experience, along with teams from other York Region schools. In December our Grade 11 class had the pleasure of seeing their sets come to life on stage during our school's production of 'Crazy for You'. The Grade 11 Art class both designed and painted the sets and gave up many hours outside of class time...but it was worth it as they were spectacular!

Out and about.... our students went to the Art Gallery of Ontario to view the Mystic Landscapes exhibit, as well as on a few walks up to Mill Pond to do some *plein air* sketching in the fall. On April 27th, our Arts and Culture Council will be hosting our annual Java Night, which entails a variety of multi-discipline performances. In May (12-14th), we will once again showcase the talents of our excellent students in our annual Boynton House art show which will be held at Boynton House (Richmond green grounds). Here's looking forward to an exciting semester!



Rose by Jenna Zaitchik



Crazy For You, set design & painting, gr. 11 art students



Bird by Alana Doberstein



Crazy For You, set design & painting, gr. 11 art students