

# LAM ARTS EDUCATION

## March 2023 Newsletter

### Dance – Ms. Fleming

The LA Matheson Dance Program emphasizes student choreography, youth leadership, identity and culture, and an understanding of the histories and contexts that give rise to the dance styles we all love. Our classes and teams have been connecting with audiences throughout the Surrey Community all year!

In October, our Senior Bhangra, Senior Gidha, and Junior Bhangra dancers were invited to perform at the District Education Centre Diwali celebration, as well as our own Matheson Diwali celebration. Their energy, creativity, and passion were a joy to watch, and through these performances the dancers shared their cultural and personal identities with new audiences.

In January, our Senior Dance Class performed their piece "Matheson Air" on the Bell Centre Stage at the District Dance Festival. This piece demonstrated the dancers' hip hop foundations and their abilities to portray characters and stories through dance. This was a high-energy event and our students had so much fun.



Other January events included the Breakout Dance Competition, where our Junior Bhangra, Senior Bhangra and Senior Street Styles teams all received Top 6 placements! Our dancers worked so hard, and they could not have done it without the vision and leadership of our alumni coaches and student coaches/choreographers.

Our dancers ended the semester with an energetic and creative Dance Showcase here at LAM. Student choreography from all grade levels and many genres was shared with an enthusiastic audience of dancers, family, and friends.

Currently our Dance 9 classes and Choreography students are working towards building their foundation and starting their class pieces for the Semester 2 Dance Festival. We are also working towards hosting the Bhangra604 Dance Competition here at LAM on April 18 - come out and watch if you can! Finally, we are lucky to have SFU student teacher Ms. Pishvaei working with our dance classes and sharing her knowledge with our LAM Dance community until early April!



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### Drama – Ms. Jemmottt

Our Drama program supports our students in developing their creativity and social and emotional skills. In the fall, our grade 9 Arts Integrated Module (AIM) focused on exploring identity through cross curricular learning in Drama, English Language Arts, and Social Studies. They inquired into themes of identity, power, and resistance. Students head into their new semester armed with a deeper knowledge of themselves. They get a chance to build connections with classmates that are so important for navigating high school life.

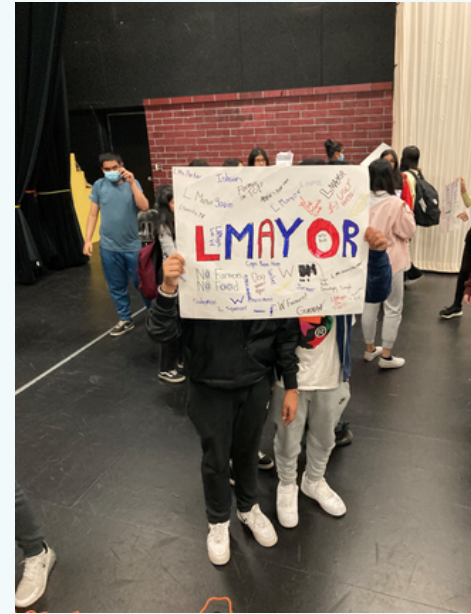
Our Theatre Company (after-school programme) gets students exploring different aspects of the theatre: acting, directing, costume design, technical theatre, and prop and set making. There is something for everyone. This school year we welcomed audiences for our first in-person Halloween haunted house and Christmas play since 2019. We are hard at work getting our spring offering ready.



*AIM 9 sports day back in September 2022. We spent our first few days together working on team building. Even our principal Mr. Deol, joined in on the fun.*



*BTS: AIM9 Final performance. It was written and performed by all 75 students. Elementary schools in our neighbourhood were invited to attend.*



*Role drama is one of the highlights of the AIM program. Students get to role play while also reflecting deeply on issues in our world.*



*From Theatre company's Alice in Wonderland themed haunted house.*

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### Music - Mr. Tse

The Music Department hit the ground running since the start of **September**. The grade 8s were excited to start high school band and selecting their instruments, as well as forming the Junior Jazz Band 8-9. In **October**, we prepared our very first show, the Halloween Music Concert - it was a lot of fun being all dressed up in costumes and light effects. If anyone recorded any videos of this show, please send them to Mr. Tse (tse\_g@surreyschools.ca)! In **November**, our Senior Concert Band was very busy, performing for the Remembrance Day Assembly, and having Jacob Visser (Grade 12 Trumpet) playing the honourable Last Post and Reveille sequence. They also performed at the District Concert Band Festival (Senior Concert Band: Ballade - <https://youtu.be/yHj0QJg8Omo> and Affirmation - [https://youtu.be/mh8qDo9kD\\_g](https://youtu.be/mh8qDo9kD_g)). In **December**, we wrapped up 2022 with our Winter Music Concert (<https://youtu.be/9JsdHHsoMHY>). In **January**, our entire department prepared a completely new set of music, and we prepared our Promotional Elementary Music Concert (<https://youtu.be/1M7JNPR7qKQ>) for our 6 Associate Elementary Schools with over 450 staff and students present. This was also the month where our Senior Concert Band has completed the two-year program with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) Secondary Connects Program: The students had the opportunities to have sectionals with VSO musicians, a visit from a promising music student, a field trip to downtown Vancouver's Orpheum Theatre to watch the VSO rehearse, watching the concert, and even have the assistant Music Director come into our classroom to rehearse our students. Congratulations for all your hard work, Senior Concert Band!



Starting the second semester, in **February**, our Senior Jazz Band prepared for a Mardi Gras Celebration (<https://youtu.be/dQiDRluxx64>), a gig sent to us by a retired LAM staff member, and the students had such a great time playing fun music for our guests to dance to. We also had our District Jazz Festival, where our Intermediate Jazz Band had the fortunate opportunity to perform and be adjudicated ([https://youtu.be/w\\_2wr8EalCs](https://youtu.be/w_2wr8EalCs)). We would like to congratulate Payal Singh (Grade 10 Bass/Trombone) that won the Creativity Core Competency Award as well as a \$50 gift certificate at this festival. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our Senior Jazz Band were not able to perform, but they will - as well as several different schools - perform on Thursday March 30 as a completion session, and would be eligible to win any awards. Here is their set in preparation: [https://youtu.be/TfbJz8IU\\_o](https://youtu.be/TfbJz8IU_o). Here is also the Senior Representative Band performing, where our very own Jesse Hartley (Grade 12 - Drums) and Jacob Visser (Grade 12 - Trumpet): <https://youtu.be/WvC2LXw4tTI>

Currently in **March**, we are preparing for our Spring Music Concert on Wednesday March 8. In April, our Grade 8 Concert Band will be performing at the Surrey District Grade 8 Concert Band Festival. In May, there will be 51 students and 5 chaperones that will be headed to Banff and Calgary in Alberta for our Spring Music Tour! We are looking forward to updating you in our next newsletter! It is through a hard work ethic, diligence, resiliency, and responsibility, that the music students are so successful, and it is definitely a program to be a part of!

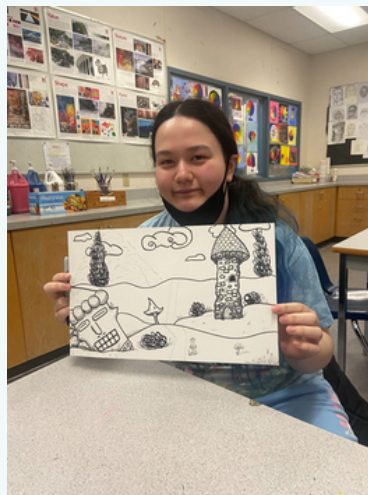
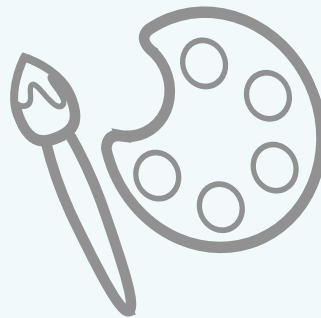
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### Visual Arts - Ms. Hodzic

Both the senior and grade 8 art classes have been familiarizing themselves with the Elements and Principles of Art. Senior classes with Ms. Hodzic practiced contour line drawing - and worked hard on creating their own self-portraits! Students played around with different angles, using a mirror to follow the contours of their faces. They practiced drawing details and adding shading to their faces to create more depth and overall form.

Currently, students are working on their line techniques. They are drawing landscapes and adding details with different line formations. The students have had an opportunity to learn about how something as simple as a line, can change their entire image!



Ms. Hodzic's senior art classes are very creative - the students have fun expressing themselves and trying new techniques.

The grade 8's in Ms. Hodzic's class are busy learning about colour! They created beautiful images based around the colour wheel. What's next for this busy bunch? They will be learning more about lines, shading and 3D sculptures!

Here, it is all about "trusting the process" - great job everyone!

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### Visual Arts - Ms. Sapira



Ms. Sapira's senior art classes have been focusing on the foundations of art theory by beginning the semester off with projects on the elements and principles of art and design and the colour wheel. The elements of principles of art and design are some basic concepts that help students begin to communicate eloquently and effectively using visual language. For this project, students designed a deck of cards of their choice with options ranging from UNO to tarot to Magic the Gathering. Each card from the deck was decorated to represent a different element or principle. From this point, students built on their understanding of the element of colour by painting a creative interpretation of the colour wheel. Students learned about various colour schemes and the importance of mixing their own colours. They had the opportunity to practice colour mixing using acrylic paint and created beautiful paintings that used all 12 colours and exemplified their relationship to one another. In the most recent classes, students have been analyzing and critiquing the work of famous professional artists, using the language of art theory, to reinforce prior learning and expose them to art history and contemporary art practitioners.

