

Dancers grow at Grace Academy

As fall quickly approaches, parents are busy searching for programs in which to register their children. But with so many to choose from - how are parents to know which is the best possible choice for their child? "Grace Academy of Dance and Performing Arts offers an exceptional program in which we see children thrive and grow" says Academy Director Heidi Knapp.

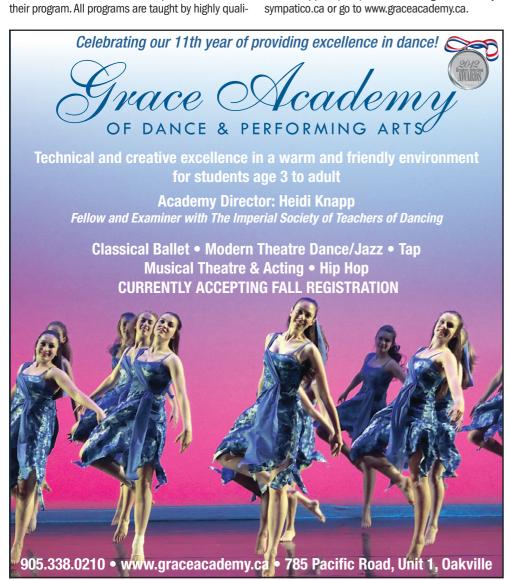
Recently celebrating their 10th anniversary, Grace Academy opened in the fall of 2003 with approximately 75 students. Today, it has grown into one of the most reputable studios in Oakville and is home to close to 450 dancers.

Grace Academy offers classes in classical ballet, modern theatre dance, jazz, tap, hip hop, musical theatre and acting. "We provide students with the opportunity to explore their creativity while fostering a natural appreciation for music and movement", explains Knapp. "Students receive a solid foundation in dance and theatrical technique in an environment that is warm and friendly. It is a welcoming, positive, and fun setting for students and their families - where strong friendships are developed as they develop a love of dance!"

Grace Academy is one of the few schools in the area that does not focus on competitive work within fied staff and provide the dancers with opportunities to participate in examinations and perform within the community. All students are given the chance to participate in a specially written family musical at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts each year. According to Knapp "our focus is on building the individual - allowing them to grow at their own pace and in their own unique way. Non -competitive dance programs in particular, teach children to appreciate and learn from what others have to offer. While they do encourage dancers to strive for excellence in themselves, they also teach them to see it in others - to value the work of other dancers and to use it as an inspiration. In a busy world where so much of our lives is competition based, non-competitive dance programs allow children to be free to learn and grow without always having to win a trophy. A sense of cooperation and community is developed, that will not only help them to grow as young artists, it will serve them well in all areas of their life".

The teachers at Grace Academy are excited for the year ahead and are looking forward to sharing their love of dance and fostering personal expression and confidence in all of their students!

For more information on Grace Academy, contact Heidi Knapp at (905) 338-0210 or graceacademy@ sympatico.ca or go to www.graceacademy.ca.





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