

# Distance Learning in Action

## Excellence

With our highly qualified staff, Canadian Academy delivers a curriculum that reflects rigor, portability, and global perspective. Additionally, our innovative programs and facilities support our students in challenging themselves and trying something new. What happens when these facilities are no longer available?

## Olympiaganza

On February 24, nineteen middle school students gathered to audition for our spring play, *Olympiaganza*, by Don Zolidis. The children were excited at the prospect of performing in our P&G Black Box Theater for their friends, family, and community. The students and Ms. Art, our secondary school Drama instructor, met for two practices before our campus temporarily closed.

## The Show...

Unfortunately, Covid-19 had other ideas. At first, the students and Ms. Art read through the play online, with the hope that we would return to our campus. When Japan declared a national emergency, with its twelve scenes, multiple characters, changing of sets and a variety of period costumes, the students and Ms. Art had to make a decision-- do we want to stop rehearsing and perform the play next year, or somehow find a way to practice and perform?

## ...must go on!

All nineteen students (and teacher!) committed themselves to putting on the best show they could-- and in doing so, became one of the first middle schools in the world to practice and perform a play entirely online! But it wasn't easy...

## The Process

The students and Ms. Art committed themselves to rehearsals on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, after our distance learning classes finished for the day. These practices focused on what would be possible and what might need to be changed given the limitations placed upon them.

The students were actively involved in deciding which scenes would stay while remaining true to the play. Additionally, costumes and props needed to be objects that were easily found around the house or in the closet. Sound effects, staging, lighting and blocking all needed to be considered in order to give a smooth performance-- even though it was being performed on nineteen different stages!

The scenes were recorded and edited by Ms. Art, and then shared with the performers. Feedback was given and received, and some scenes were reshot. As the work progressed, previews were sent to the families of the performers-- getting them excited about Opening Night!

## Opening Night!



On May 22nd, families gathered to watch the premier on Google Meet. After an introduction, the first act was shown. Families were invited to come back at intermission and share their thoughts online through padlet.

The final act was then shown. After the production was complete, a rousing ovation was given, and an award presentation ensured each student's contributions were recognized.

Congratulations to Ms. Art and our middle school students-- for not only putting on an outstanding performance, but for showing commitment and resilience as well!

Be sure to check out the entire performance on Canadian Academy's Facebook page!