





Brenda Russelo
Sales Representative
Call/text 519.358.3577

## EVER THOUGHT ABOUT RENTING TO OWN?

#### Thinking of Buying your First home or credit not quite 'there'?

It is easier than you think. If credit is an issue, no worries. I can help! Every situation is unique. Call me for details and I will help guide you in a way that fits your needs and is comfortable for you to achieve your goal.

# Ready to Buy Your First Home but Just Don't Know Where to Start?

Or if your just looking into purchasing your first home and not sure how to go about it. I have first time home buying packages that helps you every step of the way and up to you moving in on closing day.

Call, text or email me to set up your private & confidential consultation



Scan for current listings!



# Welcome to the 2013 Fall Issue of CK Child!

CK Child is a hip, local parenting magazine for those raising their children in Chatham-Kent. Our goal is to unite our community by offering various viewpoints on topics relating to all stages of parenthood.

CK Child also highlights the many, valuable locally run businesses in our region & local family-friendly events occurring in C-K. Be sure to check out our new website too at www.ckchild.ca

#### Letter from the Editor



Well here we or again...another school year begins! It doesn't seem like it's been an entire year since my little girl started Grade 2. Yet here she is, starting Grade 3 which seems just so much

older than Grade 2 for some reason. It means she is now on the other side of the school. When I walk in the school to find herI have to pass by all the Grade 7s and 8s to get to her. and she seems so small but acts like such a big kid. It's just so bittersweet...

It's just another reminder of how precious time is and how quickly it goes by. Before I know it, Chloe will be going into high school, then college, then... I don't even want to think about it! Instead I'm just coing to do my best to remember all this and ensure that I take every opportunity to show my daughter just how much she means to me and to make sure I never lose the amazing bond we share.

After all, being a parent is the most amazing thing I will ever experience. I am truly blessed and thankful to be lucky enough to be a Mom!

Tammy Chouinard Editor/ Publisher

#### Table of Contents

- 4 The Kids are Alright: In with the New
- 6 PURE Perspective:
  47 Guest Writer ~ The Cost of Dance
- Dad Around Town:Organic Learning with Growing Chefs
- 10<sub>&</sub> Does Coffee Come in Bucket Size?
  - 12 CK's Business Spotlight: NEW! Smart Studio
  - 13 What to Do, What to Do: Highlights
  - 14 The Music Lesson...the Lesson of Music

Please Note: Articles within CK Child Parenting Magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

CK Child is an independent publication created by a parent for the parent and caregivers of Chatham-Kent.



Please recycle your copy of CK Child.

CK Child shows our commitment to the environment by using a FSC certified printer

The cover of this issue of CK Child was photographed by Jennifer Marsh in her studio in Thamesville.

Our adorable model is sweet little 5 lb Claire who is wearing a handmade hat by Kristin of 'Made with Love'



Jennifer Marsh specializes in Newborn Portraiture, trained in Newborn Posing + Safety. Jenn is a photographer, mother of Oscar, Lucy, Libby, Boone + Scout and wife of Joe. Her true love is babies. Check out her new natural light studio in Thamesville on her home property.

For more info, visit www.jennmarshphotography.com

### The Kids are Alright: In with the New



I love this time of year in my adopted hometown. The cornfields stretch out over the acres like golden, rippling oceans; the fruit hangs heavy on the trees, begging me to turn my kitchen into an oasis of sweet and sticky baked goods, and the evenings, still dominated by the insects' songs, are just cool enough to feel the need to wrap

yourself up in a cozy sweater.

There is still romance in the rural life for me, and this, our third autumn here, is proving to be just as restorative, invigorating and salubrious as our first.

A new school year has begun, and for the first time ever, I will be at home while both of my kids are in school. For my kids, this means long days away and the need for routine, security and some decompression once they come home. I feel blessed and privileged to be able to offer them that.

For me, this new schedule means entire days unstructured but dedicated to writing, days I can spend doing exactly what I've dreamed of doing for many years.



The realization of our entire move to Chatham is coming to fruition, and much like the children waiting for the bell to ring on the first day of school, I am tingling with anticipation, excitement and a certain amount of anxiety. While the last two years, with my youngest daughter home, gave me a huge sense of purpose, not to mention structure, we knew that time was temporary. We knew that eventually, my little one would be going to school full-time and that once again, life would change drastically.

And now that time is here, and we are all adjusting. My older daughter is just about to enter the tween years, and grasps at any opportunity to prove her independence. Reluctantly, but with great pride, I move out of her way so she can reach, unimpeded.

My younger daughter walks the school halls daily now, thriving but, I can see, contending with the desire to be a 'big girl,' versus the desire to still lay down for an afternoon nap.

And my husband is adjusting to having me dedicate all of my time now to the 'work' part of being a work-at-home mum, the quiet of our separate focus replacing the summer's boisterous noise in our shared spaces. We startle each other when we meet in the kitchen, but enjoy the moment or two of uninterrupted conversation as we sip our coffee that I now get to drink while it is still hot.

And like the kids now off to school, the excitement of newness will soon dissolve into a flurry of due dates and responsibilities; of small stresses and large ideas; of chances taken and chances missed, and of potential for disappointment tempered by potential for tremendous joy.

I'll watch as the leaves change and float to the cool ground, but I won't lament the summer's end or the growing of children no longer mine during the day. I'll take my cue from the kids in the schoolyard, and we'll pile the leaves as high as we can. We'll hold hands, and we'll let the leaves muffle our shrieks of joy as we jump right in.

Karen Green recently moved to Chatham-Kent with her family from Toronto. Freed from her full-time job as a writer and editor, Karen now spends her time...writing and editing. And frolicking in the leaves with her two small girls. Karen is a speaker, the founder of the nationally-recognized political movement, Mom the Vote and the author of the blog, The Kids Are Alright where she has been writing about the humorous and poignant moments of family life since 2005.

Interested in writing an article for CKChild?

Drop us a line! We would love to hear from parents & business owners in our community. Give us a call at 519.359.6383 or email us at ckchildmag@gmail.com



Mad Scientist Laboratory

Haunted Mini-Golf

Inflatable Bouncers

**Costume Contest** 

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

John D. Bradley Convention Centre

1:00-4:00pm
For children of all ages

**REGISTER TODAY!** 

Wristbands required for entry.
Purchase at your local Municipal centre.

**\$10** 

For Family of 5

For info, call (519) 360-1998. chatham-kent.ca/recreation





#### **G**UEST WRITER!

# PURE Perspective: The Cost of Dance



When Dance Dad Gourmet asked me to contribute to his blog in the expert's corner, I realized that there is really only one subject in which I could realistically consider myself an expert... money management. You see, I am a Financial Advisor at a large firm. I help my clients to make good decisions about their money.

I specialize in investment management, retirement planning, and provider-level retirement plan consulting.

In short, clients come to me with a problem and I help them solve it. Typically, the problem (in some way) centers on turning a smaller amount of money into a larger amount of money over some period of time while accepting some level of risk.

Therefore, I would like to address the issue of the cost of dance and it's ROI (return on investment). Don't tune me out; I'm not going to bore you with analytics.

The truth of the matter is that the cost of dance, especially competitive dance, is quite high. Class fees, private lessons, costumes, competition entry fees, travel costs to competition, time off of work, THE DAMN STONES (!!!) etc. All of these costs add up. The further one advances as a dancer, the higher these costs become. Since it is very unlikely that any of these costs will ever be recouped financially, this becomes a cost/benefit analysis of the explicit and opportunity costs of dance.

I'll take you through the process that I used...

When a new client comes to see me, we try to quantify the goal. It is never as simple as it would seem. Clients never seem to have a clearly defined goal. The same is true of the decision about whether to get (and keep) our daughter involved in dance, or not.

What do we want for our children? What is the goal? If we can't quantify it, can we at least clearly identify it? I will try, and please realize that I speak only for myself and my wife (a wonderful and devoted dance mom).

We want our children to be involved with something they love to their core. We want them to live it and breathe it if that is what they wish to do. We want them to be their very best selves while they are doing it, and we want them to do this activity surrounded by people who will support them and push them to be more than they ever imagined they could be.

We want them to build discipline, skills, memories, and friends that they will take with them for their whole lives. We want them to learn to be leaders, and we want them to learn to be led.

We want them to learn how to win. And lose... gracefully.

We want them to learn to lift up their teammates, and to lean on them when they, themselves, are not strong.

We want them to do all this in a place that is safe, nurturing, loving, caring, and fun.

Above all, they need to have fun. Even when it is hard.

Wow... not asking for too much, right?

High expectations, I know. Therefore, this activity that we want our children to be involved in is going to require pretty special teachers. These people are going to need to have infinite patience, but they can't be pushovers. They need to be the best at their craft, but they need to know how to communicate their knowledge to young children in a way that builds the child up... not in a way that makes them scared to fail.

It will require the teacher to love our children.

That is quite a job description.

We were fortunate to have found a place that can provide all of these things for our daughter at her dance studio. She has been dancing since she was three and is now seven. This is her second season of competitive dance and her first as a member of the minis on the top competition team.

I have seen her blossom in the last 12 months from a shy, wonderfully sweet five-year-old who would barely speak above a whisper to those whom she was not familiar with, into a silly, sweet, wonderfully funny seven-year-old who constantly sings opera (she's doing it right now), and solo dances freestyle in the middle of Noodles & Company to music that only she can hear. Seriously... that just happened at dinner the other night.

She loves her dance family, and we love them, too. We trust completely those entrusted to care for, teach, and lead our daughter. We have met a group of parents that are as devoted to encouraging their children's dreams as we are, and they are



by Dad Blogger, Jeff L.

wonderful to be around. They lift us up.

Longwinded, I know. It had to be, because the goal could not be easily quantified into a dollars and cents value. Rather, we need to think of the true cost of dance in terms of opportunity cost. If you are not familiar with the concept, opportunity cost is defined as what you would be giving up by making or not making a given decision.

In this cost benefit analysis, I need to weigh the explicit cost in dollars and cents versus all of the growth and potential (as a person, not as a dancer) that I see in my daughter (the opportunity cost). This is not a calculation that can be done on a spreadsheet or a financial calculator, and therefore takes me somewhat out of my comfort zone. This is also not a decision made to grow a smaller amount of money into a larger amount of money over a period of time. For my family, though, this investment is reaping tremendous dividends. The dividends cannot be spent (and if they could be spent, we would likely have to use them to buy MORE DAMN STONES (!!!)).

Instead, this "investment" in dance is building a child who is

confident, strong, physically fit, and has a work ethic that would seem impossible for a seven year old to have. Dance is helping to mold her into a child who sticks up for her friends, speaks confidently to grown-ups, and is strong enough to not always follow the crowd if she knows something is wrong.

These are things that are invaluable. These are things that will help her to become the type of person I pray she will be. These are things whose benefits are far more important than their costs.

SOURCE:

Dance Dad Gourmet blog: http://dancedadgourmet. com/?p=671#comment-413

Jeff is a financial advisor in Merrillville, IN. He is a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor. He has been in the financial services industry for more than ten years and focuses his practice on wealth management and retirement planning. Jeff and his wife Lauren have two young children: Mady, 7



#### It's Fun. It's New.

## It's now in Chatham!

## Paint your own Pottery Studio



- Creative Birthday Parties in our cool & colourful party room
- Awesome Kids Classes for preschoolers, kids, tweens and teens
- Super School Events classroom activities, fundraisers and more
- Everyday Family Fun drop in anytime, no reservations required

Mention you saw this ad in CK Parent & we'll give you a FREE pottery perk! One per family please.

#### Dad on the Town: Organic Learning with Growing Chefs! Ontario in C-K



One of my trips around town this summer was to Kate Korpan's Grade 3 class at Tecumseh school which hosted an incoming food education program.

Growing Chefs! Ontario, a non-profit organization founded by Andrew Fleet in London in 2008, made its first stop in Chatham-Kent for a 4-module program to teach this group of 8-year-olds about nutrition, farming, and cooking. Andrew has worked in the restaurant business as cook and manager, and now puts his efforts full-time into Growing

Chefs! by sharing his kitchen skills with hundreds of children.

Part of the Growing Chefs! agenda is to unite chefs and farmers to promote local and healthy eating. One local farmer, Paul Spence from Lo Maximo Meats near McKay's Corners, teamed up with Andrew to bring his experience into the classroom and help students make the connection that food is grown right in our own community. It was through Paul's effort, in fact, that the program came to Chatham-Kent. Growing Chefs! requires a sponsor to fund a specific classroom session to supply seeds, plants, and food. In the summer of 2012, Paul organized Cha-

CHECK OUT OUR

ADORNALE MORE
ON THE COVER OF
THIS ISSUE OF
CX CHILD!

SPECIALIZING IN NEW BORN PORTRAITURE
WWW.Jernmarshphotography.com
EXPERENCE THE WONCER | TRAINED IN NEWBORN SAFETY + TRAINING

tham-Kent Table showcasing local farmers' products through an elaborate outdoor dinner party; all proceeds went to Growing Chefs! to make the Tecumseh school visit possible. A similar Chatham-Kent Table event will be occurring September 21st of this year to further sponsor Growing Chefs! to make a return visit to our area.

My four-year-old, Ethan, and I were allowed to partake in one of the sessions. My wife and I have been taking our children to local farms for eggs, meat, and vegetables, including Paul's farm, and Ethan has seen chickens that lay the eggs and fields that grow the vegetables. He could now get some professional instruction on putting those foods into action. It is the interactive nature of the course that sticks with the kids – getting their hands in the gardening dirt, the prepping of restaurant-style food, putting vegetable remnants in a compost bucket.

The Growing Chefs! curriculum focuses on themed projects and we were attending the fourth lesson in the Classroom Gardening Project. Each session has a lesson plan developed by teachers and chefs who dissected the Ontario school board curriculum to fit food and cooking into subjects like science, math, history, and geography.

As Andrew informed me, "You can teach anything with food." The previous session taught the science (mixing oils and acids) and the math (ingredient ratios) of making salad dressing.

"Did anyone try making salad dressing after our last class?" Andrew asked.

More than half of the students shot their hands in the air. One girl had brought in her own handwritten recipe she concocted at home. Andrew read it aloud, impressed that it had the correct combinations of oil, acid, and sweet. Here was evidence that as energetic as they were about having something new in the classroom, it was being carried over to the home.

"Healthy food has a stigma," Andrew said, "with a certain level of anxiety and even mystery around it." Understanding that taste buds are different in each of us can resolve some of that mystery and inspire kids to try new things. One way to alleviate the stigma is not by hiding vegetables in brownies or smoothies, but rather making them the star attraction on the plate.

Previous lessons included planting their own container gardens and being introduced to unique vegetable they've never seen before, like celery root or garlic scapes. This lesson started with the students gathering green beans, lettuce, and peas from the gardens they planted over a month ago. These were then used in a cooking segment where Andrew teaches practical stuff, like how consistency in cutting vegetables is important so they cook evenly in a stir fry.

One by one, a handful of kids assisted Andrew with making a salad dressing: squeezing fresh lemon juice, squirting honey

by Darin Cook

from a jar, cracking black pepper from a mill, pouring olive oil, adding pinches of salt. In a sea of frantically waving hands, Ethan didn't get picked to approach the cooking table to help, but he was right in there when the Mason jar made its way around the group to get five shakes from each child to mix it up.

"All of us are working as a team," he beamed, passing it on to the boy next to him.

Once the salad was made and the stir-fry finished cooking, the students had a quick lesson in dining etiquette – they gathered their plates and cutlery, setting them at the community table, and were taught to wait until all food was served before digging in.

There seemed to be very little aversion to being served an allveggie meal they had helped grow, prepare, and cook. Only two students decided not to try. Andrew says it is normal for one or two per class that stand their ground; a few others that are apprehensive usually end up saying it is very good.

"Kids want to like healthy food and know about healthy food in theory, but don't know how to enjoy it because of a lack of exposure," Andrew said. To carry over this classroom exposure, the recipes introduced in the four classes are provided in a personal recipe book for each student to take home to continue their

WYZGUYS Training C

education in their own family kitchens.

Growing Chefs! provides education for the entire food spectrum, from kitchen hygiene to recipe math to food prep to table manners. It's not a coincidence (although it was a surprising outcome) that at dinner that same night, Ethan had the best table manners he's had in a long while. It may not last for an extended time, although I hope it never ends, but he did learn things. When his mother asked how the time spent at the school was, he replied, "I learned to eat and cook and taste, and I'll have really good table manners. You know why I didn't listen to you before? Because I didn't go to that school yet and now I'll have good manners every day." Cooking class was good on many levels for him and for his mother and I as parents.

Darin Cook is a freelance writer who works and plays in C-K. entertainment and family-oriented attractions with his wife, Jennifer and their sons, Ethan and Jonah. Share in more of his experiences at www.darincook.ca



The more friends who shop the more pretty pieces you can earn at half-price or totally FREE!



Book your party today at 519.351.7523 or visit www.nancymatteis.graceadele.ca





Chatham's premier karate club kids & adults love it!



www.zanshindojo.ca



Boarding • Breeding

Give us a call at **519.359.6383** or email us at ckchildmag@gmail.com

Interested in promoting your business with

### Does Coffee Come in Bucket Size?



One morning as the reddening leaves swirled in the wind and we readied ourselves for school, I heard our front door open and close. Intrigued, since I could see our 3-year old and knew it wasn't he who was mak-

ing the escape, I called for our 6-year old.

take a little longer this morning and got Kiddo #2 ready for a drive to school and daycare. Nonchalantly, Kiddo #1 entered the kitchen and sat down in front of her cereal.

Me: Morning, honey. You look really ready for school. Yay you!

Kiddo #1: Thanks Mom!

Me: How's the cereal?

Kiddo #1: Good. Pretty good, Mom.



by Elizabeth Sunnen

I let it go and packed up the book bags and lunches and got Kiddo #2 into the car. The bus was long gone by this point and the two of us nonchalantly, no-big-deal-ish, got into the car. I backed it out of the garage and faced the car at the end of the driveway and stopped. It was at that point that I noticed there was writing on the box.

Me: What do you suppose it says on that box?

Kiddo #1: I uh, well, I uh, dunno.

Me: Really?

Kiddo#1: Well, it's in black marker, I see.

Me: Sure.

Kiddo #1: Well, that's a serious-message colour.

Me: Yes.

Kiddo #1: If it was silly or not real, it would be in lots of colours.

Me: Yes.

Kiddo #1: So. It could be for ... uh, puppies.

Me: Puppies?

Kiddo #1: Well, I mean, I don't know for sure.

Me: Let's drive up and see.

Kiddo #1: No! You should just leave the box.

Me: Well we have to go to school anyways, so we'll just check it out when we get to the end of the driveway.

I pulled up and looked at the box. On one side it said "Free Puppies" and on the other side, it said, "Please Leave Your Free Puppies here"

Honestly. Then, I giggled.

Of course.

Where are puppies left in any assortment of children's movies? In cardboard boxes on the side of the road.

I started to really chortle when I thought of some cartoon guy in overalls driving around in a 1950's style truck with a litter of cute puppies crawling all over the passenger seat. He's frantic; he loves the puppies but he can't keep them. He's looking for a box –any cardboard box would do-- to put them in so he could give them away. And, as luck would have it, here is a box at the end of a driveway, begging for free puppies! How could he not oblige the polite request? He looks back at the pups, then to the box and back at the puppies. Surely the people who

put this box out were serious (hence the black marker), good people (good manners goes a long way!) who could take care of his litter of beautiful pups.

Then, I realized how incredibly smart Kiddo #1's plan truly was.

... And that's how we ended up with 3 identical puppies, Husband. I swear. It was just a flukey thing... totally random... happenstance.

Elizabeth is a teacher and writer who takes motherhood one laugh at a time. She grew up in C-K and is thrilled to be back in such a great community. For more great reading, check out her blog at

www.DoesCoffeeComeinBucketSize.blogspot.com

#### Simplify Your Family with Back to School Orognizing Tips!

#### **C**REATE A HOMEWORK STATION

If a task is simple to do, it's more fun to do. Homework is no different. Decide on the best spot in your home to

set up homework central. Take into consideration how involved you need to be with homework and your child's style. Does he focus better with people around or



when working on his own? Is he better suited to sit at a table or curled up on the couch with a lap desk? Once you have a

place picked out, corral together handy homework tools and supplies into a nearby bin, cabinet or drawer. Stock up on age appropriate supplies such as pens, pencils, erasers, paper, crayons, markers, a ruler, a calculator, a dictionary, basic craft supplies and a pencil sharpener. Ask your teacher for ideas on supplies to keep on hand throughout the year to avoid last minute trips to the store for special supplies.

#### Source.

For more fabulous tips on managing your family and your back-to-school life, visit www.simplify101.com/kids-organization-tips/back-to-school-organizing-tips/

## CK Business Spotlight: SMART STUDIO

Our CK Business Spotlight features outstanding local businesses who have made a positive impact on our community! Let us know if you would like to be featured in one of our future issues...



Our choice for this issue's 'Spotlight' business is Lesli Jeffrey and Sandy Moon who are opening an amazing new concept for kids in our community who have a passion for the fine arts!

--

Lesli Jeffrey originally opened Ella Minnow Pea Toy Shop six years ago on King Street then in 2012 moved into the Downtown Chatham Centre and later passed it on to new owners. Sandy, a lifetime friend, helped Lesli run the retail store from it's opening and was an integral part of Ella Minnow Pea. The synergy they shared working together made them realize it was time for them to move on to a dream the two have had for many years.

SMART Studios is located in the Blair Bootcamp block on Forest Street between Victoria Ave and St. Clair. 'The Block' is a newly restored century schoolhouse waiting to be filled this autumn with creative and artistic minds of children and adults. SMART Studios is the newest art studio in Chatham-Kent providing fine art classes for children and adults. 'Picasso' workshops are available for wee ones that allow them to create their own unique versions of classic pieces while learning fun facts about art history and the artists who have shaped history. There will also be open studio times throughout the week. Local artists will cycle through monthly offering classes of their specialty (ie watercolour classes). Students will be exposed to many different mediums and styles through SMART Studios in such a way that it will open up the artistic mind to the many different techniques and philosophies.

Sandy attended both Sheridan College and St. Clair College where she earned her diploma in Graphic Design and Lesli compliments her skills with a diploma in Business and Marketing. This new venture is their passion and they want to encourage and share it with others. The response from local parents with artistic children has been absolutely overwhelming and they look forward to sharing their love for the fine arts with so many others in our community.





They will celebrate their Grand Opening with an open house mid October. Check out their website and Facebook page for exact dates and details. They will also post their schedule for class times and workshops online or you can call to inquire about any questions you might have at 519-365-2472.

What a fantastic addition this will be to the Chatham-Kent community!

For more information on Lesli and Sandy's brand new fine arts school call them at 519.365.2472 or visit their page on Facebook. Or you can stop in at their NEW studio at 55 Forest Street (old McKeough Elementary School and current location of Blair's Bootcamp).



### What to Do, What to Do

We have launched our brand new online 'What to Do, What to Do' Event Calendar at www.ckchild.ca! Here is a highlight of some of the events coming this Fall:

Rondeau's Annual Monarch Butterfly Migration Festival www.rondeauprovincialpark.c	Rondeau Provincial Park a/events	September15th	519 674 1768
Pride Chatham-Kent Parade & BBQ www.pride-ck.com	Chatham and area	September 20-21st	226 268 2766
Chatham-Kent Bike Fest www.dukeshd.com	Duke's Harley Davidson	September 21st	519 360 1270
FireFest Chatham-Kent www.firefest.ca	Downtown Chatham	September 21st	519 809 2114
Smokey Mountain Harvest Festival www.countrysingerimpersona	Dresden tions.weebly.com	September 22nd	519 683 2356
Spark IT fun!raiser www.chatham-kent.ca/library	Club Lentinas	September 27th	519 354 2940 x240
1st Annual Chatham-Kent Pumpkin Run www.foundationckha.com	Rondeau Provincial Park	October 6th	519 436 2538
Halloweenfest www.chatham-kent.ca/recreat	Chatham ion	October 26th	519 360 1998
Safety Treating in the Village www.cksafetyvillage.org	Wilson Conservation Area	October 26th	519 360 1270
Romeo & Juliet www.cktickets.com	Capitol Theatre	November 1st	519 354 8338

### What are you Doing this Weekend?

Go to our website & check out the NEW online version of our calendar at www.ckchild.ca!

#### Do you have an Upcoming Event you would like to add to our Calendar? Let us know!

It will be updated on a regular basis & we would love to help you to share any family event you will be holding including charity events, fundraisers, town fairs & virtually anything that unites our communities & offers something fun for the families of C-K!

### www.ckchild.ca



### The Music Lesson...the Lesson of Music

by Ms. Jane Ripley & Dr. Norman King



Rather than ask why we should take music lessons, perhaps we should ask what is the lesson of music. We need to study music because of what it

teaches us. Music teaches us a new language. We learn to make beautiful sounds with our hands and our voices. We acquire the discipline involved in learning to play or sing. Music teaches us melody, harmony, pitch, rhythm, and all the technical skills that make for a capable and flexible mind. More than that, however, music teaches us the language of the soul. It reaches behind all our defenses and touches our inmost core. Especially if it is beautiful, music reaches and expresses all the feelings of the human heart, evokes memories of all that has been dear to us, heals the wounds of life, and gives hope to the human spirit. To embrace music with an open heart is to learn what it is to be fully human.

\* \* \*

It may be helpful to think of the decision to engage your child in music lessons as a new step in their life journey. For each child, the journey will be different, as will the musical experiences. And yet, depending on the teacher and the commit-

Art Classes
designed to
encourage
everyone to
find their own
creative genius.

55 Forest St., Rm. #15, Chatham ON. NFL 1Z9
(Located within the walls of the Historic McKeough Public School)
Phone: (519) 365-2472

ment of the child, each musical journey will be one that affords not only the student, but also the teacher and parents alike, to grow beyond simply learning the instrument and refining technical precision.

To engage a child in the

pursuit, and more especially the joy of music, is to open a world

of untapped imagination, creativity, and wonder. To engage in listening to and making music is to create a heightened awareness of the world around us and indeed, inside us. Music study not only develops new skills, but also awakens us to sensitivity, compassion, and even a new sense of love.



#### The famous conductor

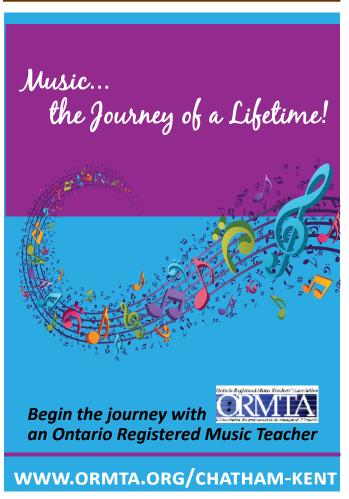
Leopold Stokowski said that music is written upon a canvas of silence. Today, we live in a world that is often cluttered with ipods, cell phones and other technology that may create chaos in us and around us. Lesson time, and the time spent in practising, may be thought of then as an opportunity rather than an imposition; an oasis where one may experience stillness and even silence.

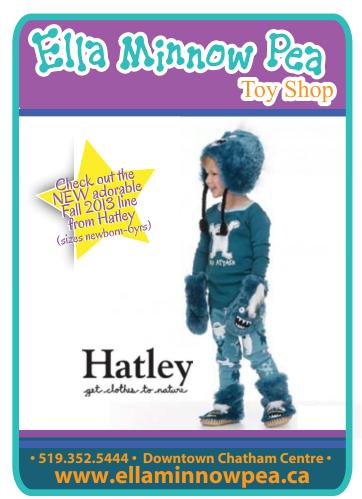
In this sense, we may come to think of music lessons as a gift for both child and parent. The inevitable practising may then be felt, not so much as drudgery or discipline, but rather as time to discover what lies within the music, and even to uncover the music inside each one of us. The process of creating something musical may also become the process of creating something beautiful within us. When we come to recognize music as a gift for ourselves and to offer that gift to our children, we open ourselves and our children to rootedness, commitment, beauty, and an energy that encourages us to be in touch with the centre of our being. Through the gift of music, we may support and encourage our children to find and live out of their true selves.

This article was submitted by the Ontario Registered Music Teacher Association of Chatham-Kent. (see ad to the right). For more information and to talk to a local teacher, please visit their website at www.ormta.org/chatham-kent











### Register now for all FALL Programs and Summer Programs / Camp!

Registration available online, by phone or in person



## FALL PROGRAMS AGES 18 MONTHS+

Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Acting, Music, Singing, Lyrical, Streetdance + Tricks, Parent & Tot, Fitness

- DISNEY Dance Team
   Blenheim PAK
- Combo Classes (5yrs+)
   Ballet/Jazz
- Ballet & Jazz Medal Testing
   Acting

# **Exciting NEW Additions!**

WE HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH OUR NEW SISTER STUDIO,
DESIR McGoniele's School of Dance, to be able to on
Community aven more! Here are some of the Highlights;

- . NEW! Ballet & Jazz testing
- NEWI Blenheim "Dance PAK"
- NEW! Dance The World' Program

ARE YOU AN EDUCATOR? WE ARE NOW ALSO OFFERING CALL US FOR DETAILS

9.352.5000

121 Heritage Rd in Chatham Wallaceburg \* Blenheim \* Florence

WWW.PUREACADEMY.CA