

# HHGC Connections

September 2020



# Welcome back families!

We have been anxiously awaiting to get all of our athletes back in the gym since beginning of spring. We are so happy that the day is finally here that we can start running our classes again. With all of the changes happening in the world, we know how important a sense of normalcy is.



Summer camp was a huge success this year running on our half day camp programs for six weeks of the summer. Both the campers and coaches had a blast and we loved seeing how much fun you all had this year. We cannot wait to get to run our summer day camps again next year! Despite the goings on in the world, our camps were full for most of the weeks of summer and all of the athletes were very excited to participate in their favourite camp games and activities again! Our specialty crafts were a huge hit creating slime for our circus week, Canada flags for our Olympics week and oceans in bottles for our under the sea week to name a few! The campers loved getting to use their own materials from home and enjoyed getting to create! Our fashion show on week one and our Olympic relay on week six were our biggest highlights of the summer, starting and ending on a high note. The coaches and campers alike participated in the events and loved showing off their cat walks and speed during our big activities!

The recreational fall session started back up this year on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> and we are happy to see you all working on your skills. We want to welcome you back to the fall 2020 session with the most fun possible while experiencing the fun, fitness and fundamentals of gymnastics with the amazing support of our coaches to assist all of our wonderful athletes in the best environment for gymnastics possible.

For the fall session this year, we have created new structure protocols with enhanced cleaning and sanitization implementation throughout all of our programming to make you and your child feel safe while enjoying gymnastics, parkour, trampoline or tumbling. When coming into the gym, our kinder programs will have one parent able to watch from our viewing area and our recreational gymnasts will be asked to enter the facility independently. Everyone who is entering the gym will be temperature screened by Alyssa, our Recreational Director or Katelyn, our Recreational Supervisor each day. We have created a document that you can find on our website as well with all of our changes this session due to COVID which includes drop off and pick up changes, report card and testing changes as well as what to expect in a typical class now. Our coaches have had extensive training in our cleaning, sanitizing and general class management changes over the last few weeks of the summer and we can't wait to see you all back again!

Alyssa Lopez, Director of Recreational Programs

## Important Dates:

Sept 7—HHGC Closed

Sept 9—Comp / Interclub training resumes

Sept 12—First Day of Fall Programs

Oct 5—HHGC Closed—Happy Thanksgiving



## Competitive, Interclub and T & T Update:

Wow, the summer is over and we are back to a more “normal” fall. We were so happy that we were able to open June 15<sup>th</sup> and offer summer training. We had most of our gymnasts returning for the summer training getting them ready for the fall regular season training. We had many sore gymnasts in June when we started back after over 2 months off. We are confident our gymnasts are in good shape for regular training and we are looking forward to improving their skills and learn new ones this season. We are happy to know that our parents and gymnasts feel confident with all the cleaning our coaches are putting into the gym and they feel safe to be back to training.



It was GREAT to have our Interclub gymnasts training full hours this year. Despite the current situation most of our Interclub gymnasts were back to training. It was a time to get back to fundamentals of gymnastics and take it easy.

Now we are looking forward to achieve new skills and get them ready for the season. In gymnastics there will always be challenges and we just passed and adapted to a big challenge that is still part of our society .

We also had a great summer with lots of bounces in our Trampoline program for those who were eager to bounce out of isolation. We have a few athletes graduate this year and they are off to University that we are very proud of (Jessica and Amber), but our teams are strong, kids are excited and we have plenty of trampolines to jump on. We trained full hours in the summer and are ready for the fall schedule. Back to a more normal lifestyle is always welcome. Looking forward for a great season.

We would like to welcome back Shannon Weslake to our coaching staff. Shannon was one of our gymnasts for many , many years before becoming a recreational coach. Shannon is now back from University and will be joining our Competitive Coaching Team. Welcome Shannon!

Florin Chivu, Director of Competitive Programs

## SUMMER CAMP 2020



We did it! Summer of 2020 is a wrap! It was so successful. We ran camp for 6 weeks this summer and had over 80 kids come through our summer program this year. Each theme was an absolute BLAST, the kids and coaches had so much fun, our facility was and has been kept squeaky clean and NOBODY got sick!

We understand that we are living in a new normal, but the FUN has NOT left HHGC. It is still here. Fun, Fitness, Fundamentals are our priorities here at HHGC and we value and prioritize these greatly. The COVID-19 pandemic has only given us pep in our step and has forced us to level up our game here at HHGC and make our facility, that much better!

There are no hypotheticals here. We’ve done it! We have proven that we can operate a safe, fun and successful summer camp program and we can-

Thank you for your support!



## *Message from our Executive Director..*

We are now well on our way into the fall session and the journey we have taken to reach this point is truly amazing. I would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts on the unprecedented situation we all find ourselves in and what has been happening at HHGC over the past 6 months.

After a 3 month shut-down on March 15<sup>th</sup>, HHGC has done amazing things by opening gradually and carefully with our Competitive Program, followed by summer camp and now our fall programs.

We have overcome tremendous obstacles and are proud of the effort and results we have achieved so far. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some important people and groups for being a part of this success;

- Board of Directors for their commitment and guidance,
- Our staff and coaches for their unwavering loyalty and tenacious effort,
- The Provincial and Federal governments for their innovative and generous financial support,
- Our landlord, McNally Ltd. for their buy-in to the Rent Assistance Program,
- Our corporate sponsors for their understanding and patience – many of whom are experiencing the same challenges we are,
- Gymnastics Ontario, whose guidance, support and collaboration have helped us navigate this situation and finally,
- Our parents, who are in many cases, experiencing incredible challenges both in their personal and professional lives and who are continuing to support the HALTON HILLS GYMNASTICS CENTRE.

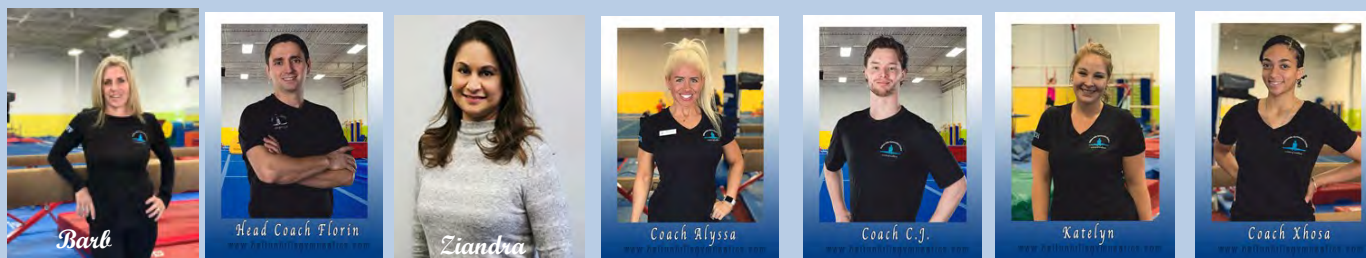
Thanks to everyone for being a part of the HHGC family. We are truly grateful.

I want to give special recognition at this time to our full-time staff and coaches at HHGC.

The full-time staff at HHGC is here to make the experience for your child the very best it can be. They are dedicated and competent gymnastics professionals that care about the well-being of your child and are focused on fulfilling the mission of HHGC:

***“To make positive and lasting change to the participants of the centre, through the provision of high quality gymnastics, tumbling, trampoline and other physical activity programs in a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment.”***

The leadership role they play is critical to getting through this COVID-19 crisis as well as the long term success of our organization. They are a big reason that HHGC won the Reader’s Choice BEST GYMNASTICS FACILITY OF THE YEAR award. Here they are, in order of tenure....



Barb Cameron, Office Manager (21years)

Florin Chivu, Director Competitive Programs and Head Coach (15 ½ years)

Ziandra Martin, Manager of Finance & HR (4 years)

Alyssa Lopez, Manager of Recreational Programs & Parent Relations (1 ½ years)

CJ Calvert, Competitive Coach (1 ¾ years)

Katelyn Sales, Recreational Co-ordinator (1 year)

Xhosa Baker, Competitive Coach (1 year)

## *Message from our Executive Director Cont..*

This is quite simply the strongest staff contingent we have ever had at HHGC and are the backbone of our success. As a parent, you can be sure that your child is getting the best, most caring and most competent coaching and support possible. We are so proud and lucky to have them!!

So, we will forge ahead to continue to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. We feel proud of our organization and honored to serve the community of the Town of Halton Hills.

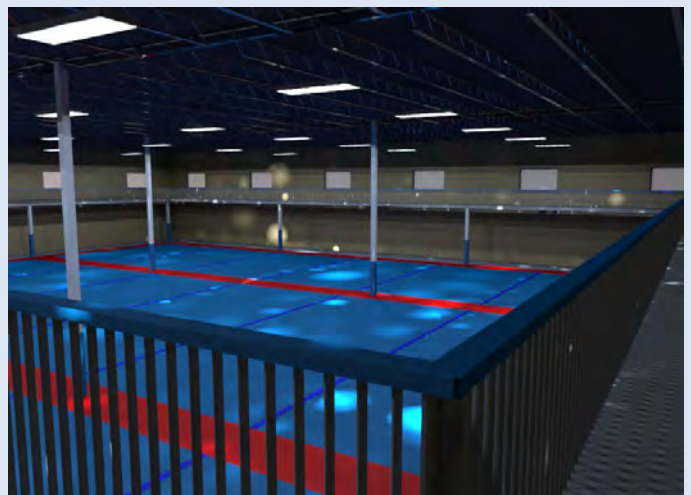


Bill Harrison,  
Executive Director



### *The Search for a New Facility*

Our search for a new, 24,000 - 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art gymnastics facility with a walking track and multi-purpose activity rooms is temporarily put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have a great vision for the future; one that will serve the growing and diverse population of the Town of Halton Hills. Stay tuned for more updates once the pandemic is behind us!





**Delta**  
BINGO ▶ GAMING

HHGC wants to thank  
OAKVILLE DELTA GAMING  
CENTRE for their support  
through the Egaming funds

