



25 Years...

February Newsletter

Hello Everyone - hope you all are surviving this cold snowy weather we've been having. Things are pumping at the studio this month there's a lot going on - if you need help with anything that is discussed throughout the newsletter please make sure to stop by the front desk so that we can help you out.

Costumes

All most all of our costumes have arrived now and we are just waiting on the last couple groups and solos. Once you receive your balance sheet from the Parents Association we ask that you please clear this total immediately so that we can hand everything out and clear the space in the studio.

Drop Off

We ask that parents please do not drop off their kids 10-15mins before class and leave them at the studio for us to watch. Teachers at this time of the year are working on solo routines, organizing costumes etc and it is not fair to ask us to watch your child. We ask that you please remain in the building until the teacher has asked the dancers to come into the classroom. We are finding that this is especially becoming an issue in our Beginner and Junior level classes. Your co-operation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Competitive Division

Festival season is quickly approaching and that means that teachers are full steam ahead in all of their classes. Over the next few weeks instructors will complete choreography and begin to clean all of our routines. Full attendance in classes at this time of the year is essential. Without all of our dancers in class it makes it most difficult to be able to complete routines and prepare dancers for the festival season. One of the guidelines to the competitive division is that dance is a priority over other activities. We have no back up dancers who can step in when your dancer is not in class so we ask that you please help us succeed with your children by having them in attend all of the time. The only exception is if the dancer has stomach flu then we ask that they please stay at home for 24hours after all symptoms have stopped. This year we are also ordering new eyelashes and earrings for all dancers. The studio will order in 1 of each for your dancer should you require more please add your dancers name to the lists on the bulletin board this week.

Practice At Home

All competitive dancers should be rehearsing at home on a regular basis. If instructors have not yet sent the music for the group routines they will be doing this shortly. Even 10mins every second day will make a huge difference in the end. When the groups hits the stage the instructors are not allowed to prompt/help the group in any fashion so it is most important that the dancers are confident in what they are doing so that they can execute the routines on their own.

Strawberry Tea

The Strawberry Tea has been moved to Sunday March 18th – this day will include performances from all of our **future stars (ages 3, 4, 5) as well as our ballet department**. This performance is the only Fundraising event that the Parents Association will be organizing so your full support of the day is greatly appreciated. This performance is mandatory for all of our competitive dancers. During this day dancers will perform a short display of the technique that they have been working on as well as their festival routine. The event is held at the community hall in Devon and the tickets will be sold before hand. At this event the audience will be seated at round tables around the dance floor. The Parents Association will be providing more information on this event shortly.

Parent Watch

During the week of February 12th – 16th we will be having our second Parent Watch of the season. Parents are welcome to attend the entire class to watch what your dancers have been working on. This is also a great time to video tape all of the steps to help when practicing at home.

Family Day

Yes there are regular classes being held on the night of family day.



Stage Rehearsal

As mentioned in the previous email we will be holding our stage rehearsal for all competitive dancers on Thursday February 22nd. This is a mandatory rehearsal for all of our competitive dancers as we will be marking out our spacing at the MacEwan University Stage at the Triffo Theatre on this night. There is a cost to rent the theatre for this opportunity and I am happy to report that our Parents Association has offered to pay for ½ of the rental, which will help all of our competitive families a great deal. Being a brand new theatre this staging rehearsal is so very important and makes a world of difference for all of our dancers especially those who are new to the competitive division. This is the venue that we will be at for 3 of our 4 festivals as well as our year end recital. The cost per dancer per routine will be \$8 (this is after the PA pays for the other half). We are just waiting on our final contract and then these totals will appear on your account.

Solos and Duets will also have the opportunity to perform their routines. They will not be staging the routine simply dancing it once on the stage therefore there will be no cost to this for parents. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board with time slots if your dancer would like this opportunity please choose a slot. **The Triffo theatre is located at the City Center Campus of MacEwan University - the Building is Allard Hall and is located at 1110-104 Avenue.** Please make sure that you arrive with your dancers a good 20 minutes before their start time so that you can find your way and the dancer has time to prepare properly. We are keeping a very tight time schedule and will not be able to wait for any late dancers. We are asking for 2 - 3 parents to volunteer to help show everyone which way to go. If you are interested please email me at kim@devondance.com - you will need to be at the theatre before the solos/duets start to rehearse. Most of the time a stage rehearsal would be closed to parents - this is a very common practice at many studios, Devon School of Dance however does allow parents in the audience to watch the performances (we will not allow you to be back stage please). We ask that you please keep the volume down while dancers and teachers are on stage, there is absolutely NO FOOD OR DRINKS allowed in the theatre or back stage - you will have to go to the lobby area for this. We will be assigning change rooms to each of the levels for the rehearsal for your use. Dancers/Parents this is a brand new building and I ask that you please show great respect for the theatre - we want to leave a good impression. Parents are NOT allowed to just drop off their dancers and leave - anyone who does this will be charged a child minding fee.

Stage Rehearsal Schedule:
Triffo Theatre in Allard Hall -
MacEwan University City Center Campus
1110 - 104 Avenue

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| 4:00pm - 5:00pm | Solos & Duets (sign up on the bulletin board) |
| 5:00pm - 5:15pm | Intermediate Jazz |
| 5:15pm - 5:30pm | Senior Jazz |
| 5:30pm - 5:45pm | Junior Ballet |
| 5:45pm - 6:00pm | Beginner Ballet |
| 6:00pm - 6:20pm | Contemporary |
| 6:20pm - 6:30pm | Junior Tap |
| 6:30pm - 6:50pm | Senior Ballet |
| 6:50pm - 7:05pm | Beginner Jazz |
| 7:05pm - 7:25pm | Lyrical 1 |
| 7:25pm - 7:40pm | Junior Jazz |
| 7:40pm - 8:00pm | Lyrical 2 |
| 8:00pm - 8:10pm | Intermediate Tap |
| 8:10pm - 8:20pm | Senior Tap |
| 8:20pm - 8:30pm | Intermediate Ballet |

*the schedule is based on when instructors are able to be in attendance to
be at the theatre with their groups*

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to our Parents Association for doing this for our dancers this chance to stage their routines is absolutely essential and your support and help is greatly appreciated by all!!

***Keep warm everyone -
looking forward to seeing
everyone soon,
Miss Kim & Staff***

***Happy
Valentine's
Day***