

## *Dance is the joy of movement and the heart of life! – Unknown*

Hello All!!! Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Backstage Dance Newsletter of the 2023-2024 year! Backstage staff are happy to see all the shiny new faces at the studio as well as the lovely faces of the returnees and we hope you all had a great summer. The classes went really well this past week and we're all enjoying the warmth of this Fall this year, so, yay!!

*Speaking of Staff ...here is a little intro to our people if you haven't been here before.*

**Miss Nika** – is assistant-teaching the Hip Hop Classes. We have acquired “Studio Motiv8” with instructional videos for some cool new work for the students!

**Misses Sadie, Farrah, Neveah, Margo, Helena, and Jorja** – These girls are helping with Tiny Tots classes Monday and Tuesday, the A level Classes Tuesday (3 assistants!) and Gr. 8 on Fridays. There may be a few more to add to the list by the end of September. Most have helped before and are always an asset to any classes.

**Miss Mandy, Miss Vicki, Miss Shauna & Miss Elizaeth** – These four are on our sub/choreography list so are never far away. We so appreciate having such great back up teachers. Congratulations go out to Miss Elizabeth and Miss Mandy that have BOTH brought new babies into the world since recital!! A girl for Miss Elizabeth and a boy for Miss Mandy!!

**Miss Renee** – Miss Renee is starting out by teaching all classes. She is the *slightly* more mature member on staff...☺. She attended some great workshops this summer and is ready to pass it on.

***\*\*Remember to place your shoes neatly on the steps as you come in. Also, PLEASE, if you have any drink (esp coffee, frozen drinks, etc) that STILL has liquid in it, POUR IT IN THE SINK. O.O Most of the plastic containers are now recyclable and can be put in the recycle bin...but only if empty and rinsed out. THANKS!\*\****

**THERE ARE SOME “TIME-SENSITIVE” THINGS TO GET IN, SO PLEASE READ & RESPOND ASAP!**

**#1. I need to know by SATURDAY Sept. 22nd, who would like to attend DANCE JAM in Saskatoon on OCT. 1<sup>st</sup>. The registration form is also attached to this email. The classes eligible and for what level are as follows:**

**LEVEL 1 – B/C Groups (This level costs \$70 for the 5 classes)    LEVEL 2 – D/E Groups**  
**LEVEL 3 – E/F/G Groups    LEVEL 4 – G Group    (Levels 2,3&4 are \$80 for the 5 classes on Sun.)**

**Of course, your child may want to attend a class lower or higher, depending on their confidence.**

**Send your registration sheet and money and I will add the name...you can e-transfer me the cost.**

**#2. I've talked to some of the girls about some exams for the fall. The Ballet exam fees have to be in by midnight **THURSDAY SEPT. 28<sup>TH</sup>** and Tap/Jazz exam fees have to be in by **FRIDAY OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup>**. I'll be in contact with more info for the students involved. Please let Miss Renee know if you are on board with your child doing exams.**

**DATES TO REMEMBER – Please contact us if you have any questions about the dates mentioned**

**CHOREOGRAPHY WEEKENDS – We may do some choreography weekends this year. Please contact us with your schedule so we can choose weekends that everyone is available**

**MAR. 19-23 – SPRING STARS COMPETITION – Saskatoon (We are registered for this)**

**APR. 11-14 – DANCE NATION INVITATIONAL – Assiniboia (Not registered as of yet)**

**APR. 26-28 – Festival of Friends Swift Current Competition (Hoping this runs!!!)**

**MAY 1 - 5 – Moose Jaw Festival of Dance – Dance Inspirations Competition (We are registered for this)**

**MAY 20 – Tentative date for Recital**

There are a few things we would like everyone to be aware of at the studio, as well as some specific info for the students in the exam/competition/dance-even-more category

**1. ATTIRE** – In all classes, the teachers expect the students to participate with proper attire. Proper tights, bodysuit, shoes, hair in a bun....these are the expectations in class. Be sure the students' dance bag has what the student needs to meet this requirement; there are Dance Kits for sale for \$10.00 that have elastics, pins, hairnets, barrettes, hairbands, safety pins, band aids, hand sanitizer as well as needle and thread. Students 6 years and under, hair in a ponytail or pig tails are acceptable but from 7 years and up, hair up is required in ballet classes and 9 years up in the other disciplines as well. When we are working on turns, hair up is a necessity for proper form. Also, please put the students' name in their shoes....it helps us to return misplaced shoes!

**2. WASHROOM** – Please encourage the students to visit the washroom before class...the staff can all relay tales of the “bathroom parade” they witness once one student goes out the door!! And **LEARN THE BATHROOM DRILL!**

**3. ATTENDANCE** – Please be on time for classes, 5 minutes ahead is great. Let us know by text or email if your child is going to be late or missing...it keeps us from worrying about them.

**4. FOOD** – When the young students have more than 1 class in a row, the teachers will take 2 minutes for the students to have a quick, healthy snack or drink of water to keep them going. Please **do not send sugary snacks or drinks to avoid the blood sugar spike and crash; and be sensitive to food allergies especially nuts.** If students have a break and eat, use the table in the waiting room and not in the dressing room where spills could end up accidentally soiling possessions of others. Everyone clean up after themselves...pour out excess liquids in the sink, put refuse in the garbage and be sure to use the recycling can for cans and bottles (not garbage!) **PLEASE RECYCLE!!**

**5. PROBLEMS** – Please, please...if you are experiencing any problems, let us know. We can't help to create a solution to a problem if we don't know it exists. Most problems are easily rectified, but we need to know! ☺

**6. EXAMS** – There are a few tap and jazz classes that we would like to participate in exams before Christmas. If your child brings home an exam notification form, this would be why!

**7. ACCOUNTS** – Please get any and all payments in as soon as possible. We still have many outstanding accounts from last year as well. If you need to make special arrangements, just give Miss Renee a call at the studio...we are fairly understanding and would much rather work with you than to have to call collections!

**9. ATTITUDE** – At Backstage, we would like to promote a healthy, positive attitude, from everyone involved – students, parents and teachers. We as teachers have high expectations but recognize students' limitations. A love of dance is promoted...and we do things the way we do them because after 30 + years of teaching, it's what we really believe is best for the students. We also respect there are different viewpoints in the dance world, based on different experiences. Let's all be encouraging and positive to all involved in dance, in whatever capacity that entails....  
**HURRAH FOR DANCE!!!**

***IF YOU STUMBLE, MAKE IT PART OF THE DANCE! – Unknown***

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