

DANCE LIKE NO ONE IS WATCHING! – Unknown

Greetings of the New Year to you all!! I hope all our families had a wonderful holiday and a very Merry New Year! The Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the thoughtful gifts you bestowed upon us...we truly appreciate every kind gesture. ☺

**** Please Remember, both Students & Parents, to place your shoes neatly on the steps as you come in...especially with the snowy weather. THANKS IN ADVANCE!****

I apologize for this only being the 2nd Newsletter. There have been so many emails sent that I thought I had sent out another newsletter....ack!

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

#1. The first item we need to get in is our Competition Fees. **Please get these in right away.** The fees are as follows:

MAR. 27-29th – ONE MORE TIME COMPETITION in Saskatoon (B, C, D, E/F CLASSES)

Solos (\$75.00) Duos/Trios (\$65.00/entrant) Groups (\$50.00/entrant)

(B class- Just Ballet & Tap Groups (2), C Class 3 groups, D class 4 groups, E&F Class 5 groups)

APR. 5-6 – DANCE INVASION in Medicine Hat (C, D, E & F CLASSES)

Solos (\$75.00) Duos/Trios (\$65.00/entrant) Groups (\$50.00/entrant)

APR. 27 – FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS in Swift Current (ALL CLASSES except Tiny Tots)

Solos (\$40.00) Duos/Trios (\$35.00/entrant) Groups (\$30.00/entrant) **DO NOT PAY THESE FEES YET!**

We are not sure this will run yet, but will do a Showcase if it doesn't.

MAY. 1-3 – DANCE EXPLOSION in Regina (D, E & F CLASSES)

Solos (\$50.00) Duos/Trios (\$40.00/entrant) Groups (\$30.00/entrant)

Please note: Solos/Duos/Trios will be scheduled on Thursday/Friday during the day, groups will be scheduled Thursday/Friday during the Evening & Saturday.

#2. There have been some Ballet Entries put in for the exams March 1st. The D Ballet class for Gr. 4 Ballet, and 2 students from the B class for Primary Ballet. **The Fees are \$135 for Primary and \$165 for Gr. 4.**

Also, another “CONGRATULATIONS” to the exam students from before Christmas...everyone was successful!! Woo Hoo!!!

#3. Entries will be due for more exams in a month or so. Exams we're contemplating are:

A Class – Pre-Primary Ballet, maybe Prelim Tap (for the 6 year olds.)

B Class – Prelim Tap, Prelim Jazz (maybe Primary Ballet)

C Class – Primary Jazz, Primary Tap

E Class – Gr. 4 Jazz, Gr. 3 Tap

D Class – Gr. 3 Jazz

F Class – Gr. 4 Tap, Inter Jazz

#4. Other dates for your Calendar

FEB 17-23 - FEBRUARY BREAK – No Regular classes. Please let Miss Renee know plans during the break as we will hold 2 days for ALL classes, so you don't miss a week. Time for extra solo/duo practice is available.

APRIL 18-24 – EASTER BREAK – Same as February Break....

MAY 5&6 – Tentative date for Pictures

MAY 12-16 – Recital Practices at the Studio

MAY 19 – 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!!!

Let us never forget the JOY that dance is...Enjoy the journey! – Rhee Gold

Staff of the Backstage Dance Co.

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