

In The Spotlight **December 2011**

December Closings

Just a reminder that the studio will be closed on Monday, December 5, 2011. This is the day we will be traveling to one of the largest costume sales in the country that day. This is the only way I have to keep the costume price within the \$40.00-\$60.00 range. I hope everyone enjoys the day off!!

We will also be closed from December 21 through January 3 to celebrate Christmas with our families. We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season, and we will see you in 2012

Christmas Open House

Remember that our Christmas Open House is scheduled for the week of Monday, December 12 through Friday, December 16 This is a very special week for our students as they get the opportunity to share their talents with everyone they love.

All students (and their visitors) will report to their regular scheduled class dressed in regular dance attire and ready to dance. Please remind your children that you are just there to observe and they are still to listen to the direction of their instructors. There is a limited number of seating available, so please notify your instructor if someone in your family has a disability and needs to have a seat. We will be sure to reserve one for them.

KinderClass Dance Bags

If you have a child in one of the KinderClasses, please make sure they only have their ballet shoes in the bag they bring into class. Some bags coming to class have clothes, sneakers, coats and toys in them. We are trying to teach your children the independence of changing their shoes on their own, and it becomes difficult with so much in their bags. Some children dump everything out and we are left trying to sort all the items into everyone's bags. If you could also make sure everyone has their names on their shoes, that would be a huge help.

Cancellation Policy

With the winter months upon us, I would like to update you on the cancellation policy for the dance studio. In the case of inclement weather, studio closings will be posted on the first page of the website and on the studio answering machine by 2:00p.m.

We do not follow the Tuscarora School District because weather conditions can both improve or decline as the day goes on. Please do not try to contact the studio before 2:00p.m., because it is not posted until then.

Attendance Policy

With the weather changing, we are reminded how sickness also comes in with the holidays. We have been seeing attendance decrease each week with all the sicknesses already going around. That is why I like to review the attendance and class make-up policy.

When you pay your monthly tuition, that is for four classes. There are several weekdays in each month (excluding February) that has five days in that month. This averages out to three and sometimes four extra days per year for each day of the week. Those days are built into the holiday studio closings. In other words, we do not pro-rate the tuition for the months with holiday closings because those classes are made up in the months that have five classes during that month.

If your child is sick and has to miss a class, they are welcome to come to another class to make-up the missed time. This can be any class in any subject of their own age, however it has to be made-up within one month of the absence. If we miss a class due to inclement weather or any other reason (no heat or power in the studio,

etc.), every effort is made to schedule a make-up class. If one cannot be fit into the schedule, that class can also be made up in another class.

I understand we all have very busy weeks ahead, however, we do not pro-rate classes for any reason since we have a make-up procedure.

ALSO:

With the winter sports season on us, and spring sports just around the corner, please remember that after February, any student cannot miss more than two consecutive classes and still perform in the June Show. You are still welcome to take class, just not perform in the show.

At this time we are working very hard on new choreography for our show, and it is unfair and disrespectful to the students who are present each week to show up weeks later and expect to review everything they already been taught. Please understand that many absences directly affects the outcome of the performance for the entire class.

Costumes

Costumes for the show will begin coming home next month. Please hang these up immediately to avoid the need for ironing. The steam from hanging them in the bathroom can help with the wrinkles. If you still see the need for ironing, please use only a cool iron with a towel between the costume and the iron. **Do Not place even a cool iron directly on the costume. This is delicate material that will melt with even a cool iron.**

They are not to be worn until pictures and the show (they can put them on to show off to family). A detailed list will be sent home in February for all costume accessories needed. Please be sure to get what you need right away, because pictures are scheduled in March.

Give Thanks to your Studio Assistants

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas quickly approaching, we all find ourselves thinking of the things and people in our lives in which we are truly thankful for.

I don't think many of you realize how crucial your child's assistant instructor is to the quality of dance your child receives. Assistant Instructors are hand picked by Miss Dicey and must meet very strict criteria in order to be considered for the position. First, they must be in High-School and be enrolled in at least Ballet, Jazz, and Tap classes. Also, they must forfeit any other extra sports they would like to attend because this may not only interfere with their teaching schedules, but also the classes they attend. They cannot be efficient teachers, if they miss many of their own classes. If their grade point averages drop, they will be removed from the studio assistant position.

In class, these young ladies must wear many hats to help the classes run smoothly. Typical responsibilities are taking attendance, knowing all the class work, beginning warm-ups if the instructor is delayed, class demonstrator, changing classroom trash, and keeping the room sanitized for all our dancers. But it doesn't stop there, they are also responsible for wiping noses, escorting and assisting smaller students in the restroom, they take time to pull hair back, and take out earrings, clean-up any accidents in the classroom quickly and getting the student in clean clothing to continue with class. They also comfort children with separation anxiety, put bandages on cuts and scrapes, tie countless shoes, and make sure each child is where they need to be either in line or on their "marks." They are also required to be at all parties and events sponsored by the dance studio to help assist in anyway they are needed. All this with smiles on their faces no matter what kind of day they had or if they may even feel under the weather. All of the above does not even begin to cover their most important responsibility.... Becoming your child's friend and mentor. And trust me, this is something they all learn to hold very important in their everyday lives. The next time you see your child's assistant instructor, be sure to give them an extra "Thank You" for all their sacrifices and what they are to your children. They often go unnoticed, but are extremely critical to the operation of the studio, who without, your child could not receive the high quality instruction they get when attending classes.