



AUGUST 2011

OPENING NEWSLETTER – 2011/2012 SEASON

WELCOME

A very warm welcome is extended to all students of Grace Academy. We hope that you are enjoying a fun-filled summer and are looking forward to a wonderful year of dance. Grace Academy is looking forward to continuing to develop a strong technical foundation in each of our dancers, while instilling a natural love of movement and creativity.

REGISTRATION

MANY OF OUR CLASSES ARE FILLING UP QUICKLY OR ARE ALREADY FULL – WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF FAMILIES PRE-REGISTER THIS YEAR (All families who were with us last year were given a chance to do this in June).
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY IN RETURNING YOUR REGISTRATION IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SECURE A SPOT.

Registration can be completed by mailing your signed registration form, along with the correct fee to:

785 Pacific Road, Unit 1
Oakville, Ontario
L6L 6M3

Families who have pre-registered will receive a notice with this letter indicating the balance of fees owed and due date.

If you prefer to register in person, you may do so on one of the following dates at the school. We strongly recommend calling the school to discuss class availability prior to these dates.

| | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| August 24th and 31st and September 1st | 5:00 – 8:00 pm |
| August 25th | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm |
| September 7th | 4:00 – 7:00 pm |

TIMETABLE

The proposed timetable for the 2011/2012 season accompanies this letter. This timetable is subject to change based on registration. Where there is insufficient registration for any class, this may be cancelled and an alternative given.

Students will be watched carefully to ensure that they have been placed in the correct level. Teachers will discuss this with the parents, should a problem arise. Every effort is made to do only what will be of benefit to each individual child. Parents should remember that because dance is a physical activity all students will develop and progress at different rates.



AGE RESTRICTIONS

Minimum age requirements:

Ballet – 3 years by September 1st 2011

Tap – 7 years by September 1st 2011 OR 3 years of dance at Grace Academy – at Miss Knapp's discretion

Musical Theatre – 7 years by September 1st 2011 (junior)
– entering grade 7 in September 11 (senior)

All students new to the program must be taking one form of dance as well

Junior/Int Acting – 9 years

Senior Acting – please discuss this with Miss Knapp

Modern jazz – 6 years by January 31st 2012 OR 2 years of Ballet at Grace Academy

ALL STUDENTS wishing to take hip hop MUST also be attending the corresponding modern class

Intermediate foundation ballet 2nd year students and above MUST be attending 2 regular ballet classes per week to attend the pointe and pirouette class.

We recommend that students in grade 1 ballet 2nd year and above attend 2 classes per week in order to progress through the level in 1 year (please discuss this with Miss Knapp if you have questions). Students who do not attend twice a week will not necessarily be ready to move ahead to the next grade level.

Those interested in The Spirit Moves Christian Dance Company should speak to Miss Knapp.

Senior actors should speak to Miss Knapp if interested in attending this class (not listed on the timetable).

Advanced 1 modern dancers may register for the Thursday or Saturday class. Thursday will be free work based on the syllabus level. The Saturday class will be set work in preparation for exam work. Dancers who wish to take an exam must take the Saturday class and are advised to attend both classes. Dancers who do not wish to take an exam may attend either class.

STAFF

Grace Academy is pleased to have Sarah VanDuyvenvoorde on staff. She has been teaching modern, jazz, tap and ballet for 18 years and is an Associate of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing. Sarah also holds advanced certificates in ballet, modern, tap and national dance. For those of you new to the school – our dancers call Sarah "Mrs. Van Dunk" – a combination of her maiden and married name- and much easier to pronounce

In addition, Natalie Spurrell will return to work with the musical theatre class. Natalie holds a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Music Education, majoring in voice. She has directed many musicals and award winning choirs. Natalie is the owner and director of Spurrell Singing Studio in Oakville.

Dia Frid will also return to work with the senior acting class. Dia's work as playwright, director, actor, teacher and coach has seen her work in a variety of educational institutions. These include the University of Toronto, Ryerson Theatre School and Mayfield School of Performing Arts.



TERM DATES AND HOLIDAY TIMES

Autumn Term: Saturday, September 10th – Monday, December 5th 2011

Winter Term: Tuesday, December 6th 2011 – Friday, March 9th 2012

Spring Term: Monday, March 19th – Saturday, June 2nd 2012

No classes will be held during the following holidays:

Saturday, October 8th and Monday, October 10th (Thanksgiving)

Monday, October 31st (Halloween)

December 21st 2011 to January 6th 2012 inclusive (Christmas break)

March 10th – 18th 2012 inclusive (March break)

Family Day and Easter Break will be confirmed. Some classes may be held due to upcoming examinations and the year end performance. Details will follow during the year.

CLASSES WILL RUN ON THE MAY LONG WEEKEND (May 19th – 21st) AS USUAL . THESE WILL BE IMPORTANT SHOW REHEARSALS!

Please make note of SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH! This will be the date of our annual CHRISTMAS PARTY – to be held in the afternoon! Details will follow.

FEES

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY

ALL FEES INCLUDE HST

Please consult the fee structure for the correct amount, or, where there are a combination of classes, kindly verify the amount with the Academy. The Academy year is divided into 3 terms of approximately 11 – 12 weeks each. Fees are payable with registration and on or before the 1st day of each term thereafter and will only be refunded at the discretion of the director. Late fees will be charged an additional 2% per month over due.

3 CHEQUES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION:

- 1. 1ST TERM FEES – TOTAL FEE OR BALANCE OWED IF ALREADY PRE-REGISTERED
THOSE WHO HAVE PRE-REGISTERED MAY POST DATE THIS CHEQUE FOR AUGUST 26TH –
ALL OTHERS MUST DATE THE CHEQUE FOR THE DAY ON WHICH THEY REGISTER**
- 2. 2ND TERM FEES – DATED FOR DECEMBER 6TH 2011**
- 3. 3RD TERM FEES – DATED FOR MARCH 19TH 2012**

The Academy requires half a term's notice if a student is to be withdrawn.

PLEASE MARK THE DATES CAREFULLY ON YOUR CALENDAR. A \$25 FEE APPLIES TO ALL NSF CHEQUES.



UNIFORMS

Please refer to the attached list for the correct uniform. We ask that you check this list carefully. All uniforms, including shoes can be purchased from INSTEP ACTIVEWEAR in Oakville (905) 844-4415. INSTEP carry a large variety of bodysuit colours that are suitable for modern jazz. Other local dance shops will also carry some uniform items. Please contact the Academy if you have any questions.

Students should attend class in the appropriate uniform with their hair neatly off the face. Buns are required from grade 1 ballet onwards. No jewellery is to be worn to class. **Proper grooming is an important part of each dancer's training.**

PLEASE NOTE:

STUDENTS WHO HAVE BALLET AND MODERN OR TAP CLASSES THAT RUN BACK TO BACK MAY WEAR CONVERTIBLE BALLET TIGHTS TO MODERN OR TAP CLASS RATHER THAN BLACK TIGHTS. PRIMARY BALLET STUDENTS MAY WEAR BALLET TIGHTS INSTEAD OF SOCKS IN THIS CASE.

2ND HAND UNIFORM SALES

Each year a number of families express an interest in selling uniform items. If you have an item to sell, a note may be placed on our bulletin board listing size, colour, cost etc. You may return a note with your registration and it will be put up for you. Notices can be put up at any time during the year. If you are interested in purchasing a 2nd hand item please stop by the studio to look at the board on any of our registration dates.

USED COSTUMES

Monique Delorme – a Grace Academy mom -has very kindly offered to find a new home for any of the old costumes that may be cluttering your closets. She will deliver costumes to less fortunate girls who would love to have them. Monique has been washing and delivering our lost and found items to the Jane and Finch Community Centre where they can be distributed to those in need.

You may bring your costumes to the studio on any of our registration dates – or – contact Monique at (905) 469- 4146. We are very grateful for her kindness!

LOST AND FOUND items from our 2010/2011 season and performance can be looked through at any of our registration dates listed on the first page of this letter. After September 8th , all items will be donated to others in need through Monique.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

We are always grateful for the help of our older students in the little ones' classes each year. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help in the 2011/2012 season. As class lists become set you will be contacted to discuss your availability.



ABSENCES

When possible, would parents please phone the Academy if their child is to be absent from class for any reason. This will help with planning the material to be taught, particularly in the smaller classes. Please remember that regular attendance is extremely beneficial to all dancers, allowing them to feel comfortable and perform at their highest level.

NUTS

Grace Academy strives to be a nut free environment. Please note that we do have dancers with severe nut allergies. When sending snacks with dancers who have 2 classes in a row please do not send nut products.

EXAMINATIONS

Students will be encouraged to take examinations with The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing in their course of study. This will occur at the discretion of the director, and only when it is felt to be beneficial to the student. These examinations act as a method of measuring progress and maintaining a standard that is recognized internationally. They provide the dancer with the opportunity to work towards a goal and develop self confidence and presentation. Further details will be made available to the parents as the year progresses.

YEAR END PERFORMANCE

All students at Grace Academy will be invited to participate in a year-end production at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts.

WE ARE CURRENTLY WAITING FOR OUR YEAR END PERFORMANCE DATES TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE OAKVILLE CENTRE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT OUR PERFORMANCE WILL BE HELD IN THE LAST WEEK OF MAY/FIRST WEEK OF JUNE. DATES WILL BE SENT HOME AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

Further details regarding our performance will be sent home throughout the year.

Our 2011 production "Follow Your Heart" was an original musical, specially written for Grace Academy and was enjoyed by all – participants and audience members alike.

DVD production of this performance will be completed shortly. Families who have placed an order may stop by the studio at one of our registration dates to pick up their copy (from August 24th on)

Photos of the production can still be ordered on the website www.davis-freeman.ca

Please check with the academy for the correct user name and password. This is only being given out to families in the school.

Grace Academy would also like to provide opportunities for students to perform throughout the year in the community. If such an occasion arises, parents will be consulted and details provided.



RESPONSIBILITY

Grace Academy would like to ask parents to remind their children of the need to be respectful of the property at Grace Academy. **Teachers are not responsible for the students at times when they are not in class.**

Please remember that the change room should be kept tidy at all times and ALL shoes should be removed inside the front entranceway. Please be sure to place shoes neatly on the mats and shelves provided!

Kindly remember that excess noise in the change room can be distracting to the dancers.

Please note that space is limited in the changeroom and waiting areas! When possible, we ask that parents and siblings leave the studio while dancers are in class and return for pick up.

We also ask that all parents please remind their dancer that they should stay inside while waiting to be picked up after class. No students should be outside or in the parking lot. Teachers cannot be responsible for students outside of class times. Dancers are welcome to watch the next class if you need to be late for any reason. The safety of all of our students is very important to us. Thank you for your co-operation.

Grace Academy is proud to have had students who have shown kindness and respect for others at all times and is confident that this will continue in the coming year.

COMMUNICATION

Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy at any time with any questions or concerns that you may have. Good communication between Grace Academy and all of our dancing families is extremely important to us. Newsletters will be sent home on a regular basis to keep everyone up to date – please take the time to read these carefully. Newsletters will also be posted regularly on our website www.graceacademy.ca as well as on the studio notice board.

During class time Miss Knapp carries her cell phone with her so that she may contact parents if a child is ill. If you need to reach your dancer (or their teacher) in an emergency you may call this number (905) 301- 9409. Please do not use it to contact the school on a regular basis as it will interrupt class time. Messages can be left at the Academy's regular number (905) 338 – 0210.

WE WELCOME YOU TO A WONDERFUL YEAR AHEAD!