

JANUARY 2012

We hope that everyone is settling into the routine of the New Year and is feeling enthusiastic about the year ahead! This is the beginning of 'busy season' at Grace Academy – as many of our dancers prepare for examinations and preparations for our year end performance also begin! Please remember to read your newsletters carefully so that you are up to date on what is going on at the school. Newsletters are also regularly posted on our website and studio bulletin board.

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fun at this year's party. The musical theatre and acting students performed with enthusiasm and we all enjoyed a sing-song of carols. Thank you to the large number of you who sent in goodies for the party! There were lots and lots of different cookies and treats and everyone filled their plates. Thank you also to the small group of moms (and dads!) who set up the treats in the gym and helped with the clean up after the party. Your help was so appreciated!

### **PAJAMA DRIVE**

Thank you to all of you who so kindly brought in pajamas for our second annual pajama drive! This year, we once again combined efforts with Creating Space Yoga Studio to collect pajamas to be donated to the Halton Children's Aid Foundation, and provide a cozy Christmas to less fortunate children. Our studio collected 30 pairs of pjs but combined with Creating Space Yoga, the total number of pairs collected was close to 100! We hope to continue this drive next year!

### **KNOT GENIE DETANGLING HAIR BRUSH**

We had a fabulous response to our fundraiser this year! All funds raised will be used to purchase hair and make-supplies and activities to keep the children occupied backstage during our year end performance. Thank you to everyone who participated and a huge thank you to Lisa Ashman from WhoDaThunkIt Inc! Lisa is the Grace Academy mom who organized everything for us. If you missed the chance to order the amazing KNOT GENIE detangling hairbrush please contact Lisa at 1-800-730-8530 or visit [www.whodathunkit.ca](http://www.whodathunkit.ca). They have some amazing products!

### **1ST AND 2ND TERM RECEIPTS**

We will be emailing your receipts for fees paid in September and December of 2011. By the end of January, you should receive an email from [wandelfamily@sympatico.ca](mailto:wandelfamily@sympatico.ca) (Ronald Wandel) with your receipt attached. Please do not reply or send questions to this address. All questions/notes should be sent to [graceacademy@sympatico.ca](mailto:graceacademy@sympatico.ca)

### **YEAR END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION – DATES: MAY 27 – JUNE 2, 2012 INCLUSIVE**

Our year end performance seems very far away; however; it will be here before we know it! Plans for storyline, music and costumes are currently being made, therefore, at this time we are asking for a commitment from each student as to whether or not they will be participating.



THE PERFORMANCE WEEK WILL RUN FROM MAY 27<sup>th</sup> – JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> INCLUSIVE – PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR. WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING THE FOLLOWING:

**DRESS REHEARSALS – MAY 27<sup>th</sup>, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>** (ONE FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS AND TWO FOR THE REST OF THE SCHOOL – TO BE CONFIRMED)

**PERFORMANCES – MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>, MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> (EVENING), JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> (MATINEE AND EVENING)**

YOUNGER STUDENTS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ALL 5 SHOWS – DETAILS WILL FOLLOW WITH EXACT TIMES OF PARTICIPATION.

AT THIS TIME WE ASK THAT YOU MARK THE ENTIRE WEEK ON THE CALENDAR UNTIL FINAL DETAILS CAN BE CONFIRMED (please speak to Miss Knapp if you have questions regarding performance dates)

ALL students at Grace Academy are invited to take part in this production. **It will be a fun and exciting time for all of the dancers.** Participation involves regular attendance at all classes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term (these will become rehearsals) and **the cost and construction of a costume – see details below.** Costume design and cost are kept as low as possible while maintaining a high level of creativity and standard of appearance. Photo albums with pictures of costumes from previous years are available at the studio for you to see. Please ask one of the teachers if you would like to see them.

At this time we are asking for a **deposit of \$25 for each class that your dancer takes.** This deposit will be applied to the cost of fabric, bodysuits, tights, socks sequins etc – all items that the Academy purchases. If the total cost is less than \$25 a refund will be given, if it is more, a balance will need to be paid. In addition, all dancers will need to provide the Academy with measurements to ensure that the correct amount of fabric is purchased for each dancer. There will be a measuring tape at the studio if you would like to measure your dancer before or after class. **PLEASE RETURN YOUR DEPOSIT/FORM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>.**

### **COSTUME DETAILS**

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY. IT GIVES DETAILS OF THE COSTUME PROCESS FOLLOWED AT THE ACADEMY. THERE IS A LOT OF INFORMATION – IT IS NOT MEANT TO OVERWHELM YOU – BUT TO HELP YOU TO BE ORGANIZED AND INFORMED AHEAD OF TIME

All families are responsible for the cost and construction of their costumes. A list of recommended seamstresses is attached. If you would like to add your name (or the name of a friend) to the list please let us know. You may also choose to sew your own costume or to have a family member sew for you.

Miss Knapp and Mrs. Van Dunk will design costumes and purchase fabric, patterns, bodysuits, sequins, socks, hats etc. Volunteer moms (can you help?) will then help us put together prototypes of each costume along with instructions on how the costume should come together. Fabric and sewing instructions will be sent home with students for you to have sewn. Costs for fabric typically range from \$15 - \$70 – depending on the type and amount of fabric that is needed. A great deal of time is spent searching for fabrics that can be purchased for a reasonable rate. Some classes will also need to purchase tights to go with their costume. Younger ballet classes often dye their ballet shoes (with a leather shoe spray) to match their outfit. They are allowed to wear their coloured shoes in class next year until they no longer fit.



In some cases, ready-made costumes are purchased. We also make use of the company ESTA to sew for complete classes when possible. We do recommend that you still have a seamstress booked in these situations, in case alterations are needed.

If you are not sewing for yourself, we ask that you call to book your seamstress immediately. When returning the attached participation form there is a space to include your own name or the name of the seamstress who you have booked. You do not need to use a name from our list – and may choose to sew for yourself – however – we ask that you let us know NOW who will be sewing for you. This will help us in planning and purchasing of fabric and patterns. All seamstresses are aware that some costumes will be purchased or sewn by ESTA.

When booking your seamstress you should discuss at least the following:

**Typical Costs** – We have found in the past that costume sewing costs range from \$35 - \$70 each. The higher amount is typically for the costumes for older dancers that are more complicated or involve more than one piece. Your seamstress will most likely not be able to give you the exact cost until they know what they are making but should be able to give you an approximate idea. Please discuss when they would like to receive their payment.

**Notions – Zippers, Velcro, Thread, Elastic** – Does your seamstress purchase these for you or do they want you to pick them up before bringing them your fabric, pattern and instructions? A list of everything needed to complete the costume will be given out with the fabric.

**Fittings** – When will they need to see your dancer for measuring and fitting of the costume? Do they want to do this at their home – or at the studio? Please make sure that your seamstress measures your child themselves.

**Finished Product Pickup** – We have a costume check at the studio from MAY 17TH to MAY 23RD and you should have picked up your costume prior to this. Once costume check is complete you may need to return to your seamstress to finish hem lines and/or final details. AN ADULT MUST BE PRESENT WITH YOUR DANCER AT COSTUME CHECK.

## **PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY OFFERED TO HELP WITH THE SHOW. If there are any other parents who are willing to share their skills, would you kindly mark the attached form with the area that suits you most appropriately. We are very grateful for the help of all volunteers! Further details of how our show week will run and how you can help will come at a later date ÷

## **LIST OF AVAILABLE SEAMSTRESSES**

Carolyn den Elzen (416) 885-9815 or email [cde@carolynsangdesigns.com](mailto:cde@carolynsangdesigns.com)

Belva Jenkins (905) 469-8889 (easiest to reach after 4pm)

Anni Banfield (905) 844-8973 – away until January 30th

Heather Coppertwaite (905) 315-7586 or email [hdc818@hotmail.com](mailto:hdc818@hotmail.com)

Cheril Holloway (416) 409-5606

Chris Campeau (905) 681-8312 or email [ccampeau@cogeco.ca](mailto:ccampeau@cogeco.ca)

Andrea Machry (905) 335-1083

Jean Kalbun (416) 620-8029 or email [jkalbun@deanevalley.com](mailto:jkalbun@deanevalley.com)

**PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE!! WE KNOW THAT YOUR DANCERS WILL ENJOY THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE THAT SHOWTIME CREATES FOR THEM.**



**COSTUME DEPOSIT/MEASUREMENT FORM ( DUE FEBRUARY 11TH! )**

NAME OF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] CASH [ ] CHEQUE (\$25 per class)

PERFORMING IN THE SHOW [ ] YES [ ] NO

I understand that commitment to the show involves attendance at all classes in 3rd term as well as participation in all rehearsals/performances during show week. Costume and music choice will be the decision of Grace Academy. I agree to pay all costume costs prior to the performance dates.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SEAMSTRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include your name if you are sewing for yourself)

PLEASE PROVIDE ALL MEASUREMENTS IN INCHES

CHEST:

WAIST:

HIPS:

OUTSIDE LEG (WAIST TO FLOOR):

INSEAM:

BACK – NAPE OF NECK TO WAIST:

UNDERARM TO WAIST:

UNDERARM TO WRIST:

KNEELING – WAIST TO FLOOR:

WAIST TO MID-CALF:

WAIST TO 1 INCH BELOW BUM:

REGULAR CLOTHING SIZE:



**VOLUNTEER FORM**

NAME OF PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I AM WILLING TO HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING AREA(S)

TELEPHONE CALLS

FABRIC CUTTING /BAGGING

SHOPPING FOR ACCESSORIES

SEWING A SAMPLE COSTUME/ WRITING DIRECTIONS