

GRACE ACADEMY OF DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS
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www.graceacademy.ca

JANUARY 2018

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- many of our dancers will be taking part in examinations, our 2 dance companies have upcoming performances, and preparations for our year end performance have also begun !

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. Facebook updates are also posted regularly.

YEAR END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION -DATES: MAY 27th – JUNE 2ND 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.

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! Show week is the highlight of the dance year for everyone. It is a fabulous opportunity for your child to shine up on stage while learning about team work and dedication. The memories that it creates will last a life time 😊** This year we have alumni returning to join us in celebrating our 15th anniversary!!

Participation involves regular attendance at all classes in the 3rd term (these will become rehearsals) and **the cost of a costume – see details that follow - please note changes for this year!**

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

TECHNICAL REHEARSAL – MAY 27TH - AFTERNOON AND EVENING (NOT FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS –details to follow)

DRESS REHEARSALS – MAY 28th, MAY 29TH , (ONE FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS AND ONE FOR THE REST OF THE SCHOOL – 5:30PM)

**PERFORMANCES – MAY 30th, 31st and JUNE 1ST (EVENING),
JUNE 2ND (MATINEE AND EVENING)**

YOUNGER STUDENTS (NURSERY, PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY 1ST AND 2ND YEAR BALLET, GRADE 1 BALLET 1ST YEAR, PRIMARY MODERN, GRADE 1 MODERN, GRADE 2 MODERN AND PRIMARY TAP) WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ALL 5 SHOWS FOR EACH OF THEIR DANCES – DETAILS WILL FOLLOW WITH EXACT TIMES OF PARTICIPATION.

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)

COMMITMENT

Please look at your calendars carefully! Due to the large number of students involved, and the great amount of planning and organization that go into the year end performance, we are unable to accommodate individual family schedules and conflicts. DANCERS WHO CANNOT ATTEND ALL COMMITMENTS (REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES) DURING SHOW WEEK WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM IN THE SHOW. In the past we have had dancers ask to miss a day of performance/theatre rehearsal for any of the following: sporting events, school concerts, job training (senior girls), first communion, parties, and music concerts. Please look ahead and remember your commitment to the show when these events come up. Having a dancer pull out of a number once rehearsals have started is extremely difficult for everyone. Choreography must be re-worked and this can be very hard for the dancers.

Dancers should plan to attend EVERY CLASS in the 3rd term. Rehearsing a dance without all of the dancers present is confusing for everyone –dancers rely on the presence of others to work out their spacing and movements. If your dancer will be missing for any reason during the 3rd term please let us know ahead of time (ex. family holiday)so that we are well aware in advance and can plan our rehearsals accordingly. As always, please phone or email the Academy if your dancer needs to miss due to illness.

While this sounds like a lot, we would also like to encourage you!! IT IS A WONDERFUL AND EXCITING TIME!

PLEASE NOTE THAT CLASSES RUN AS USUAL ON THE MAY LONG WEEKEND (SINCE IT IS SO CLOSE TO SHOW TIME)

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 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. **FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN WITH US BEFORE, PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES!**

At this time we are asking for the following:

1. A **deposit of \$40 for each class that your dancer takes.** This deposit will be applied to the total cost of the costume.
2. A completed permission form and 'show contract'

PLEASE RETURN YOUR DEPOSIT/FORM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 5th.

This year, costumes will be handled in one of the following ways:

Catalogue Costumes:

Ready-made costumes are purchased from catalogues. Teachers will measure students in class to order the appropriate size. In some cases, alterations to these costumes are necessary as they are standard sizing and not made to each individual's size (eg - shortening a hem)

Alterations to ready-made costumes are the responsibility of each family, but we will provide a list of seamstress who are happy to help with this.

Costumes will be sewn by ESTA:

ESTA is a costume company that sews costumes for complete classes, specific to each dancer's measurements. Esta will come into the studio to measure dancers - days and times will be given out as soon as they are confirmed.

Costumes will be sewn by Erica Gilby, Carolyn Den Elzen or another Grace seamstress.

These seamstresses will be sewing for complete classes this year. They will measure dancers at the studio - days and times will be given out as soon as they are confirmed.

Each class will receive an email to confirm how their costume will be handled this year, as soon as decisions are final.

Costume Extras (shoes, socks, tights, ribbons etc)

Some classes will also need to purchase tights to go with their costumes. Ballet classes often dye their ballet shoes (with a leather shoe spray) to match their outfit. They are allowed to wear coloured shoes in class next year until they no longer fit. These details are all given out closer to the show.

Costume Invoices

You will receive an invoice for costume costs in early May. ALL PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE TO GRACE ACADEMY AND ALL COSTUMES MUST BE PAID IN FULL IN ORDER TO DANCE ON STAGE.

Costume costs can range from approximately \$85 - \$165 depending on the complexity and materials used in construction (costumes with a bodysuit are often a little more costly). Grace Academy works very hard to keep costs as low as possible, while still maintaining a high standard of quality and creativity. All supplier discounts are given directly back to the families and no extra fee is charged for the work involved in planning, sourcing materials or purchasing/ designing patterns.

A costume check will happen for each class, closer to the show, to double check for consistency and good fit.

Parent Volunteers

We are always very grateful for the help of our parent volunteers during show time - in fact, we couldn't do this without you!

Further details of how our show week will run and how you can help during that week will come at a later date 😊

ADDITIONAL GRACE ACADEMY NEWS!

DATES TO NOTE

January 29th- February 3rd - CREATIVE BUN WEEK! (see below)

February 5th – COSTUME DEPOSITS DUE

February 11th - Pure Grace joins Spurrell Singing Studio for a Cabaret at the Black Box Theatre at the QEP Recreation Centre (tickets will be limited, but we hope that some of you will join us! Ticket info to follow on Facebook and on the studio notice board)

February 10th- 16th – LOONIE FOR LOVE WEEK! (see below)

February 17th -19th - FAMILY DAY WEEKEND - NO CLASSES are held at the studio.

March 4th -Pure Grace performs a concert at Film.Ca cinemas - details to follow

March 10th – 18TH inclusive – March Break

March 19h - 1st day of 3rd term and show rehearsals begin in class

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party was a huge success! Everyone had a wonderful afternoon of fun together 😊 The musical theatre and acting students and Pure Grace 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 and to everyone who helped to set up and clean up!

PAJAMA DRIVE and TOONIES FOR TOYS

Thank you to all of you who so kindly brought in pajamas for our 8th 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. We hope to continue this drive next year!

In addition, thank you to everyone who participated in our Toonies for Toys campaign. Grace Academy matched the donations of our dancers and we were able to purchase \$300 worth of toys and gift cards. These items were donated to the Salvation Army and were distributed to families in need. Thank you for helping to provide a happy Christmas to so many!

KINDNESS AND JOY BOX!

We are excited to announce a fun initiative to spread kindness and joy around the studio! Dancers will be given the chance to fill out a "happiness card" all month. This card can have a positive and kind message to another dancer at the studio, a comment of gratitude for something they are thankful for, or can simply be stating something that made them happy that day! At the end of each month, we will draw 3 cards randomly and these dancers will receive a special prize! We will keep this going until the end of the year! Join us in spreading JOY in our 15th year!

CREATIVE BUN WEEK!

During the week of January 29th -February 3rd we will be having a fun contest at the studio for the most creative bun/hairstyle! See the pictures posted on our Facebook page for ideas to get your creative juices flowing! At the end of the week a prize will be awarded for the most creative style! Dancers should come to class with their hair done in their most original way they can think of! Looking forward to a fun week!

LOONIE FOR LOVE!

During the week of February 10th -16th inclusive, dancers are encouraged to bring a loonie to class and to wear red, white or pink for Valentine's Day! All loonies collected will be donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation 😊

SUMMER CAMP 2018

Information and registration forms for our week long summer camps will be available at the beginning of February.

DANCE CAMPS ARE A WONDERFUL WAY TO TRY A NEW STYLE OF DANCE/MUSICAL THEATRE, TO INCREASE SKILL LEVEL AND DEVELOP CREATIVITY AND TO MEET NEW FRIENDS!

Dates will be confirmed asap, but camps will be held in mid-late July. CAMPS ARE OFFERED FOR AGES 4-15. STRETCH AND STRENGTH CLASSES FOR SENIORS STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE HELD IN LATE AUGUST

STORMY WEATHER

Please remember that a message will play on the school's answering machine if classes need to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Please phone the school after 2pm on stormy days to see if classes will run. (after 8am on Saturdays or Thursday mornings) . **OUR FACEBOOK PAGE WILL ALSO BE UPDATED AS SOON AS ANY CANCELLATION DECISIONS ARE MADE – CHECK THERE FOR FIRST UPDATES.** Please also check your email as we will attempt to email the families that are affected by cancellations.

Have a great term 😊

Costume Deposit Form
Due Date: February 5th

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

PERFORMING IN THE SHOW [] YES [] NO

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (\$40 per class)
 [] cash
 [] cheque

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, choreography and music choice will be the decision of Grace Academy. I agree to pay all costume costs prior to the performance dates and have read the information provided on costs/construction.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT

