

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

JANUARY 2017

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 ! Pure Grace will also begin rehearsals to be a part of a parade and to perform at Walt Disney World this summer!

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 28th – JUNE 3rd 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 😊**

Participation involves regular attendance at all classes in the 3rd term (these will become rehearsals) and **the cost and construction of a costume – see details that follow**. Costume design and cost are kept as simple/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.

THE PERFORMANCE WEEK WILL RUN FROM MAY 28TH – JUNE 3rd INCLUSIVE – PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR. WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING THE FOLLOWING:

TECHNICAL REHEARSAL – MAY 28TH - AFTERNOON AND EVENING (NOT FOR THE YOUNGER STUDENTS –details to follow)

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

**PERFORMANCES – MAY, 31ST, JUNE 1ST, JUNE 2ND (EVENING),
JUNE 3RD (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. 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

At this time we are asking for the following:

1. A **deposit of \$30 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.

2. A completed permission form/measurement sheet. This will 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.

3. Each family should secure a seamstress to sew for them (see attached list as well as details that follow)

PLEASE RETURN YOUR DEPOSIT/FORM NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 4th.

Miss Knapp and Mrs. Van Dunk will design all costumes. Final costume costs usually range from \$85-\$150 per costume – depending on the age of your dancer and complexity of the costume. All families are responsible for the cost and construction/purchase of their costumes.

Catalogue Costumes:

In some cases, ready-made costumes are purchased. **Alterations to ready-made costumes are the responsibility of each family and thus, we recommend that you book a seamstress now in case alterations are needed.**

Costumes made by ESTA:

ESTA is a costume company that sews costumes for complete classes. When this is the case you are sent an email in late February/early March to confirm details. In this case, you may only need your seamstress to sew on name labels or to assist with very small alterations. Once it has been confirmed that ESTA is sewing for your dancer's class, you are asked to inform your seamstress right away.

Nursery Ballet Costumes (Tuesday 4pm and Saturday 11:15am)

This year, Erica Gilby, our head seamstress will be sewing for our little ones. We still need you to return your permission/measurement form and \$30 deposit, but you will not be required to book a seamstress

Pre-Primary Ballet Costumes (Monday 4:15pm /Saturday 10am)

Erica Gilby, our head seamstress will also be sewing for these classes. We still need you to return your permission/measurement form and \$30 deposit but you will not be required to book a seamstress

Primary 1st Year Ballet Costumes (Wednesday 4:15pm and Saturday 10:45am)

Erica Gilby, our head seamstress will also be sewing for these classes. We still need you to return your permission/measurement form and \$30 deposit but you will not be required to book a seamstress

Primary Modern (Thursday 4:30pm and Saturday 3:30pm)

Erica Gilby, our head seamstress will also be sewing for these classes. We still need you to return your permission/measurement form and \$30 deposit but you will not be required to book a seamstress

Costumes made by Seamstresses and Parents:

The Studio will design costumes, purchase fabric, patterns, bodysuits, sequins, socks, hats, ribbons etc. Our head seamstress, Erica Gilby will then make **prototypes** of each costume along with instructions on how the costume should come together. Fabric and sewing instructions will be handed out to seamstresses at a time arranged by the studio. We strongly recommend that you book one of our seamstresses to sew your costume, but you may also choose to sew for yourself or have a family member sew for you. Please make arrangements immediately and inform the studio of who will be sewing for you by returning the attached form. This helps us with the planning and purchasing of fabric and patterns. (See Booking a Seamstress below). A list of available seamstresses is found at the end of this newsletter.

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. This invoice will be for all items paid for by the Academy (including costumes sewn by ESTA and Erica Gilby). It will include costs for fabric, patterns, bodysuits, shoes and accessories. **It will NOT include sewing costs by the seamstress of your choosing. This will be paid for separately by you. ALL COSTUMES MUST BE PAID FOR IN ORDER TO DANCE ON STAGE.**

Parent Volunteers

We are always very grateful for the help of our parent volunteers during show time. If you are willing to share your time/skills, would you kindly indicate this on the attached form. Further details of how our show week will run and how you can help during that week will come at a later date 😊

When BOOKING YOUR SEAMSTRESS you should discuss at least the following:

1. **Typical costs** – We have found in the past that costume sewing costs range from \$45 - \$100 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
2. **Which class(es) your child attends – be sure you know the day, time and class name (ie. grade 2 modern, Tuesday 5:30pm)**
3. **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 (in addition to the measurement sheet that you send it to the studio)**
5. **Finished product pick up** -We have a costume check at the studio from MAY 18TH to MAY 24th 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 – details to follow.**

ADDITIONAL GRACE ACADEMY NEWS!

DATES TO NOTE

January 30th- February 4th - CREATIVE BUN WEEK! (see below)

February 4th – COSTUME DEPOSITS DUE

February 12th - Pure Grace joins Spurrell Singing Studio for a Cabaret at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre - seats will be limited, but we hope you will join us!

February 11th-17th – LOONIE FOR LOVE WEEK! (see below)

February 18th -20th - FAMILY DAY WEEKEND - NO CLASSES are held at the studio.

March 5th -Pure Grace performs a concert at Film.Ca cinemas - details to follow

March 11th – 19TH inclusive – March Break

March 20th - 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 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!

Thank you also to all of our dancers who helped to decorate the studio with your beautiful art work for the holidays!

PAJAMA DRIVE and TOONIES FOR TOYS

Thank you to all of you who so kindly brought in pajamas for our 7th 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!

2016 RECEIPTS

We will be emailing your receipts for fees paid in 2016. You will receive an email from robinwandel@hotmail.com with your receipt attached. (please make note of this address so that it does not go to your junk file). Please do not reply or send questions to this address. All questions/notes should be sent to graceacademy@sympatico.ca
All receipts will be emailed out by the end of February.
Summer camp receipts are only emailed upon request.

CREATIVE BUN WEEK!

During the week of January 30th -February 4th 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 11th -17th 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 😊

BUN BOUQUETS

What has become Grace Academy's signature hairpiece, "bun bouquets", are still available for purchase. These beautifully decorated ribbons have been lovingly created by Zara and Chloe Buren. Each one costs \$6 and a portion of this is donated to the Oakville Humane Society by the girls! Speak to one of the teachers if you would like to see them!

SUMMER CAMP 2017

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 😊

LIST OF AVAILABLE SEAMSTRESSES AND THE AREA THAT THEY LIVE

Cheril Holloway (416) 409-5606 OR (289) 291 -1401 or email apparelexpressions@gmail.com (SPEERS ROAD)

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

Andrea Machry (905) 335-1083 or (289)208-3375 or email dmachry@cogeco.ca (WEST BURLINGTON)

Maxine Wright (905) 469-0319 or email maxinewright@cogeco.ca (SPEERS/3RD LINE)

Sandra Thwaites email sandramthwaites@gmail.com

Carolyn Den Elzen -**limited spaces** (416) 885-9815 or email cde@carolynsangdesigns.com

Chris Campeau (905) 681-8312 or email ccampeau@live.com (BURLINGTON –WALKERS/LAKESHORE) -**limited spaces**

Erica Gilby - will sew for past long time clients - email erica.gilby@gmail.com