



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program
 Volume 1 Number 18
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“It Takes a Village “ to Have a Successful Performance by Mrs. Spear-Jones

“It all comes together in one finite moment - The rehearsals, the tears, the struggles, the triumphs, the hours perfecting one moment, the endless repetition for 8 counts of choreography— and then it happens - the Performance. As a student I actually loved the rehearsals, maybe even better than the performance. The performance was over so quickly but in rehearsal, you could really push yourself and dig into the choreography, all within the safety of the dance studio walls. Our students are now in that rehearsal mode and the teachers are trying to find just the right match for dancer and movement, the right match for dancer and music, the right match for dancer and interpretation. This is an exciting, exhausting and rewarding time. The dancers’ bodies truly are their instruments of expression.

Parents, this is where we need your help. Please help to remind your child that eating healthy foods and getting a good night’s sleep before coming to ODC positively impacts the ability to perform well in rehearsal. We only have 8 weeks before the performance. That sounds like a lot but when you think about it, we only see your child once a week and that adds up to 8 rehearsals. So it is important students are in regular attendance and they eat and sleep well. All students will be in 2 parts of the performance. Their teacher choreographs a dance for your child’s team and there is a special curtain call at the end of the show that includes all students. The students also have a chance to perform in a third dance that they create themselves. Next week there will be more details about this part.

Because “It Takes a Village “to have a successful performance, we are asking you to help us in another way.

We want to make sure that your child has transportation to the theater for both the dress rehearsal and the performance. A parent performance contract will be coming home this week. You need to check the dates, sign and place the contract in your child’s parent packet. This will let us know that you are aware of the different times you need to have your child at Plaza Middle School.

The village is the students, the teachers and YOU! Thanks you so much for supporting your child especially during this time.

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Dance Word of the Week:

Stamina - the strength and determination it takes to perform a certain task

Dance Legend:

Urban Bush Women

Urban Bush Women is a Brooklyn, New York based non-profit dance company that was founded in 1984 by Jawole Jo Zollar. It is an ensemble of seven women who perform very diverse pieces choreographed by Jawole as well as many other reputable choreographers. The UBW performances are dedicated to exploring the cultural influences of the African Diaspora and are very strong works based on women’s experiences. Our own Mrs. Winborne was a member of this company.

(Picture on page 2)

Our Spring Dance concert will be at Plaza Middle School.
April 19th - Dress rehearsal (mandatory) 2:00 – 6:00
Parent Volunteers arrive at 1:30
April 20th - Performance 2:00 - 5:30 - Concert begins at 3:00

PARENT INFORMATION

Report Cards Coming Home

The second unit report cards will be coming home this week. Please keep in mind the score of "3" means that your child is right on track, improving steadily in the skills and concepts taught during the unit. The number score of "2" means that this is an area of concern to which we will be paying special attention. A "4" means that the child has risen above our expectations, and a "5" means that the student has not only risen above our expectations, but has mastered more difficult concepts and skills. Please note that very few "5's" are given out.

Please sign the bottom right of the parent packet -"Report Card—Unit 2." You may keep the evaluation. Thank you in advance.

Parent Volunteers will be needed for the April 19th Dress Rehearsal

In the next several weeks, Mrs. Spear-Jones will be contacting many of you who indicated that you could help with this performance. At the beginning of the year you signed a blue volunteer form. If you would like to volunteer and you didn't fill out a blue form, please let her know. The date is Saturday, April 19th and the time is 1:30-6:00.

Virginia Arts Festival's Dance Performances

Tickets available through Ticketmaster or the Virginia Arts Festival – (757 282-2822)

Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater

Fri, May 2 and Sat, May 3, 8:00 pm
Sun, May 4, 2:00 pm
Chrysler Hall, Norfolk

Black Grace

Tue, April 22, 7:30 pm
TCC Roper PAC, Norfolk

Martha Graham Dance Company

Fri, May 23, 8:00 pm
Phi Beta Kappa Hall, Williamsburg

Noche Flamenca

Sat, May 17, 8:00 pm
Ferguson Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Newport News



Urban Bush Women

Clarification on signing parent packet

FYI - There was one week that "Dance Matters" did not come out. Parents, please make sure to sign the parent packet to align with the number of the "Dance Matters" edition. The line for this week is 18. Sorry for the confusion.

Dancers on Dancing

A new feature in "Dance Matters"

Dancers will submit articles for review, and if chosen for publication, their thoughts and ideas will begin to appear in "Dance Matters." This week's edition features a "Dance Student Advice Column." This column is written by Britni Birt and Macy Pniewski (Friday dance students.) They would like ODC dance students to send in any questions, concerns or thoughts they might have about dance. They will do their best to answer them.

Students - Use Mrs. Spear-Jones's e-mail address and she will make sure the information gets to Britni and Macy.

Send e-mails to: gwen.spear_jones@vbschools.com.

Dear Britni and Macy,

Every time we are split into groups for our Creative Dance class, I always try to take over. My mom calls it trying to be a leader, but my friends think I am trying to be bossy! I want to use all of my ideas. I really am not trying to be "a hog." I guess I just have a controlling nature. Help!

—leader in creative

Dear Leader in creative,

Working in groups can be hard sometimes! You have to learn how to collaborate with everyone else. Step aside and elect someone else as official leader of the group and they can help to keep everyone on task and you will not be able to take control. Sometimes you have to do something even if you don't like it. Make sure there is at least one movement in your dance from everybody. Everybody gets to include movement they created. You might find if you let your friends contribute, they might have really cool ideas! Also, see if you can find a mix. Is there a movement that incorporates all of your ideas? By stepping aside and letting others help you, you might find it take the pressure off you!



—Britni and Macy

Bragging Rights...



"Dance Matters" has won the honor to display the Gold Exemplary Publication Seal. Thirty-two newsletters were evaluated by a panel of graphic artists, publishers and editors. The newsletters were judged on the basis of layout/overall quality, content, timeliness, accuracy, marketing, organization and graphics/photos. Depending on the scoring level attained, each publication earned a gold, silver or bronze seal. The gold seal will be proudly displayed on all future editions of "Dance Matters." Bravo, "Dance Matters!"

