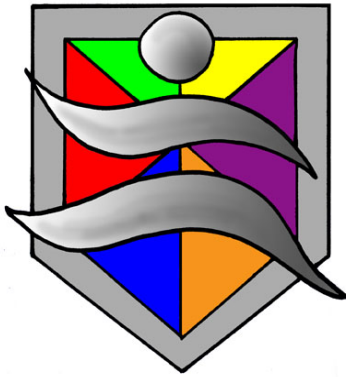


OLD DONATION
CENTER

Dance



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program

Volume 1 Number 10

November, 2007

We are Thankful for Our Parents and Students

Parent Visitation Week was busy and special...

During the week of Oct.29th – Nov.2nd, parents came to visit the ODC Dance classes. They observed their children in technique classes (ballet, modern, jazz and/or fundamentals classes) and Dance Perspectives class (students were researching the Romantic Ballet period.) It was wonderful matching parents with their children.

There was a special moment when a parent came up and said,

“I was a student in this program about 15 years ago. I attended ODC when I was in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. I remembered Mrs. B. And now my daughter is a student here as a 3rd grader.”

That is a big WOW! - Mother and daughter sharing their ODC dance experiences from a very unique perspective.

(At Left - Mother /Daughter Suhmeka and Ahnri Walker)

Other Parent comments:

Mrs. Wall (mother of Haley – a Wednesday student and Amanda – a Thursday student) said - “By taking dance at ODC ,both my daughters have a stronger dance technique – plus they enjoy being here.”

Mrs. Hansen (mother of Chelsea – a Wednesday student) said , “I had no idea that GRT’s were these students’ advocates. You mean they can help ODC students find strategies to juggle the work load between the 2 schools? This will be particularly helpful for my daughter.”

We are thankful for our supportive parents!!!!

8th Graders are thankful to be in the ODC Dance program because:

- It has prepared me for life and has taught me so much : how to cooperate with others, work as a team, and just juggle everything. *Kate Cashwell -Tuesday*
- I love to dance and here is where I can do it! *Kady Munden - Friday*
- I am grateful that I am in the ODC Dance program because not everybody gets to dance here. I have dance instructors that have experience and really help me to learn all these dance techniques. *Lauren Riley - Tuesday*
- I was chosen from a large amount of people. I am able to practice different forms of dance all in one day. *Melissa Baka - Wednesday*
- It gives me a chance to express myself and work on my technique. *Khari Johnson - Monday*
- I get a chance to learn about the history of dance and get to experience all kinds of dances. I get to learn new techniques. *Allison Marshall - Tuesday*
- I get to dance for almost a full school day and I learn new things. *Beth Turner - Thursday*
- Attending ODC and my other dance studio helps me build up technique. This prepares me for Governor’s School - *Jasmine Ambrosio - Monday*

We are thankful for our wonderful students!!!!



Inside this issue:

We are Thankful	1
Calendar	2
Parent Information	2
Dance Evaluations	2
Dance Fashion Bureau	2

Dance Word of the Week:

Skills: technical abilities, specific movement or combinations of movements

Dance History Fact:

During the Romantic Ballet era, women were not credited as choreographers on printed programs, although some did fill these roles. Being credited as a choreographer was a 20th century breakthrough for women.



Happy Thanksgiving from the Dancing Turkey!

http://www.xmission.com/~dk/images/misc/turkey_dancing.gif

PARENT INFORMATION

Dance Evaluations Coming Home this Week

Today your child received his/her dance program evaluation for the first grading period. This evaluation format aligns with our program goals highlighting areas that are fundamental to our curriculum. The numbers on the evaluation represent a **marking code**, not letter grade. To receive a "3" means that your child is doing exactly as we had hoped: improving steadily in the skills and concepts taught during the unit. A "2" means that this is an area of concern to which we will be paying special attention. A "4" means that the student has performed above our expectations and a "5" means that the student has consistently performed above our expectations and has mastered more of the difficult skills. Very few "5's" are given out. The initial in the upper right side of the boxes represents the teacher that taught the class. If you have any questions, please contact any one of the dance teachers.

The Winter Celebration: December 17 – 21

This is a time that students, teachers, and parents come together to celebrate the conclusion of the dance history unit. Parents are invited to come to studio 1 from 12:00 until 1:30 on the day your child attends. Students and parents are invited to bring food and drink for our "reception." Mrs. Spear-Jones will be calling parent volunteers from each day to help come and set up the tables and serve food. If you turned in a blue volunteer sheet at the beginning of the year, she has your number. If you would like to volunteer and you did not turn in a blue sheet, please call her at 473-5043 or e-mail her at gwen.spear-jones@vbschools.com. This is a wonderful time to celebrate our special dance community.

And Now A Word From the Dance Fashion Bureau...

HELPIII - Dance Hair Bun Explosions in Dance Studios!!

There are many hair buns that are not making it through the day. They "explode" into either pony tails or roll all the way down. Parents, please help your daughter fix her hair into a secure bun before she comes to ODC dance. The bun should be so secure that it would survive your daughter jumping up and down many, many times and stay absolutely still. It should also be placed on her head so she can lie on the floor and the bun will not hamper any movement. Check the student hand book for a guide as to how to do a correct ballet bun. We do want our students to be able to do their own hair, but for the younger students they still might need a little help.



Let's reduce this amazing exploding bun phenomenon.

Holey tights - Not to be confused with holy tights.

It seems that there are quite a few dancers that are dancing so hard, they are putting holes in their tights in all kinds of places. Please check your child's tights and make sure all tights are whole!

A Shoeless Ballet Dancer??!!

All dancers **Need** to have ballet shoes. Ballet shoes are a must! If there is a question about these shoes, please do not hesitate to call a dance teacher.

Dance Calendar: *Dates to remember*

- **December 6** -City -wide information night
A city-wide information meeting will be held with the Dance Education and the Visual Arts faculty members. The faculty will describe, explain and answer any questions about these two programs. This meeting is for parents and students interested in applying to either of these programs for next year. Deadline for dance and art applications is Friday, February 1. Current students do not need to re-apply.
- **December 17 – 21** Winter Celebration - The culmination of our dance history unit. Detailed information in this edition of "Dance Matters."

Parent/Teacher communication:

- 1) MYSCHOOL mail
- 2) ODC phone number 473-5043
- 3) Faculty e-mail addresses
Karen Buchheim - karen.buchheim@vbschools.com
Gwen Spear-Jones – gwen.spear-jones@vbschools.com
Valerie Winborne - valerie.winborne@vbschools.com
Laura Wright - laura.wright@vbschools.com
- 4) TeacherWeb(www.teacherweb.com/VA/OldDonationcenter/MrsWright/).

Dance Legend:

Fanny Cerrito, (May 11, 1817 – May 6, 1909), was an Italian ballet dancer and choreographer. Born in Naples, she studied under Carlo Blasis and the French choreographers Jules Perrot and Arthur Saint-Léon, to the latter of whom she was married from 1845 – 1851. Notable roles included Ondine and Pas de Quatre (1845).



"We dance for laughter, we dance for tears, we dance for madness, we dance for fears, we dance for hopes, we dance for screams, we are the dancers, we create the dreams."
(Author unknown)