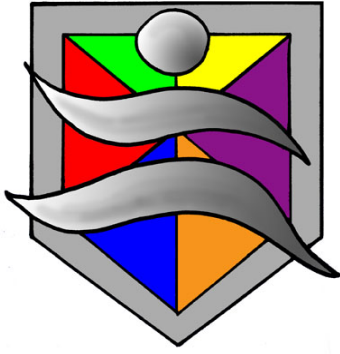


OLD DONATION  
CENTER

# Dance



# DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program  
Volume 1 Number 11  
November, 2007

## Stepping Ahead

If ODC dancers want to continue their dance education after 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the public school system, there are 2 school programs available to Virginia Beach students.

**The Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VPAA)** at Salem High School offers an interdisciplinary curriculum of differentiated academic and applied instruction in the arts. Students may focus on one art strand or they may choose two as a dual strand participant. During their four years in the program, students participate in 70 master classes. (*ODC's Valerie Winborne and Karen Buchheim will be giving master classes at VPAA during Nov., Dec., and Jan.*) Sessions range from topic seminars to workshops. In addition, job shadowing opportunities and senior year internships provide students with hands-on experience. Students are expected to participate in performances and exhibitions during their four years at the academy.

In the dance strand, students develop an awareness of the body as an instrument of expression. They refine their skills in dance technique and choreography, and increase their ability to move artistically. Exposure to great master dance works allow students to analyze the special characteristics of noted performers, choreographers, critics, as well as understand how these individuals have shaped the history of dance.

Many dancers from ODC audition and are accepted into the academy each year. All of these dancers feel they received excellent training at ODC that fully prepare them for the academy dance program at Salem High School. Students like that they felt included with the rest of the school and that they are able to participate in all school functions. Many of the dancers are school cheerleaders and belong to several clubs and organizations. The students also liked that they do not have to leave the school grounds to participate in dance.

Written applications are due to home school guidance counselors by Friday, February 1, 2008. Dance auditions are scheduled for February 26 - February 29, 2008. Information regarding requirements for the appropriate [audition](#)/portfolio are available from Salem High School. Download an [Academy application](#) in pdf format. A selection committee will review the applications of all qualified applicants; applicants will then be scheduled for auditions/portfolio review. Dance auditions include a dance class, solo performance, and an interview. Student notification will be mailed to applicants in the Spring. For more information go to <http://www.vbschools.com/curriculum/academyprog/index.asp>

Previous **ODC dancers** attending the academy are: Jasmine Crump, Shanay Glass, Mary Lukasiewicz, Lindsey Conner, Laura Sorady, Mini Evans, Chanae Joyner, Camisha Leak, Alex Payton, Robert Frazier, Kia Haley, Jessica Keesler, Alyssa Trower, Kenisha Washington, and Marlita Shaw-Brown. This year will be the first graduating class from the academy.

Some important dates for Salem are:

January 9 - Visual and Performing Arts Academy night at Salem HS. All interested in the academy should attend.

January 18 - 19 - Academy Showcase (all strands) at Salem HS.

Feb.1 - Applications deadline

Feb.25- 29 - VPAA auditions

May 2-3 - Dance Showcase

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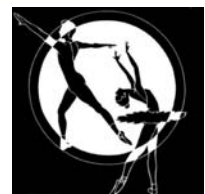
## Dance Word of the Week:

**Artistry**– the ability to perform with skill, creativity, style, flair, mastery, and talent.

## Dance History Fact:

When Fanny Elssler performed in the United States, a session of the U.S. Congress was dismissed so its members could attend the performance. Excited fans detached her carriage from its horses and pulled it through the streets.

Do you have ideas for stories or articles? Let Mrs. Spear-Jones know!



# PARENT INFORMATION

*Stepping Ahead...continued*

**The Governor's School** is a regional fine and performing arts high school serving the school divisions of Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Franklin and Southampton. Students are admitted by audition. There are programs in Dance, Theatre, Musical Theatre, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music and Visual Arts. Students in grades 8-11 are eligible to apply. Applications are available at the guidance departments of the public schools and auditions will take place on January 5, 12 and 25. Dance students are required to complete a class which includes ballet, modern dance, jazz and improvisation. The average enrollment in the department is sixty students. The department operates at the TRDance Center, located in the cultural center of downtown Norfolk.

Students major in either ballet or modern dance and perform in both traditional and non-traditional settings. Curriculum includes modern, ballet and jazz technique classes, pointe, Pas de Deux, the Pilates Method of Body Conditioning, tap, anatomy and kinesiology for dancers, rhythmic analysis, dance history, improvisation and choreography. Complete information is available on the web at [gsarts.net](http://gsarts.net).

Dance Department performances:

- January 11, 12, 2008 - Winter Concert - University Theatre
- Feb 28, 2008- Celebration of Black History Month- TRDance Center
- May 17, 2008 - 20th Anniversary Celebration Gala - Sandler Center

**Former ODC /Governor's School graduates include:**

Alison Zamorski- class Of 1999- Nashville Ballet; Rachel Buschert- class of 1999- NYU Tisch School of the Arts Graduate, Independent choreographer in NYC ; Chris Hutchins- class of 1999, Independent choreographer in NYC

**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.

**December 17 – 21 The Winter Celebration**

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 come help 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](mailto:gwen.spear-jones@vbschools.com). This is a wonderful time to celebrate our special dance community.

**January 5, 12, 25 - Governor School Auditions**

**February 1 - ODC Dance Applications deadline** (Current students do not need to re-apply). Applications are due

**February 1 - Visual and The Performing Arts applications deadline -**

**Feb. 25 –29 - VPAA auditions**

**Note: Parents, please sign your child's parent packet in the lower right side by "Report Cards- Unit 1." We want to make sure you received your child's evaluation.**

**Parent/Teacher communication:**

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

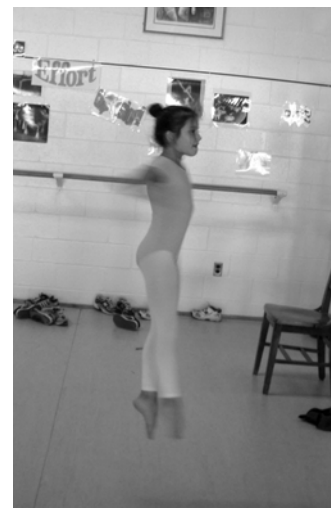
**Dance Legend: Jules Perrot**

(August 18, 1810 - August 18, 1892) was a



dancer and choreographer who later became Ballet master of the Imperial Ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia. He created some of the most famous ballets of the 19th century including Pas de Quatre, La Esmeralda, Ondine, and Giselle with Jean Coralli.

Perrot danced often with the great Romantic ballerina, Marie Taglioni but their partnership was short-lived. She eventually refused to dance with him fearing that he would outshine her.



**Picture of the Week**

Wednesday Dance student  
Megan Durkin