



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program
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Concert Preparation In Full Swing

It is hard to believe that the rehearsal time is passing so quickly. Dance teachers have been working hard to choreograph dances that will showcase the dancers' talent and also challenge them to climb to new levels of artistry. This does not come easily. There is a lot of sweating by both teachers and students alike. In one studio you might find Mrs. Wright rehearsing a dance that she is creating based on the concept of balance and off balance. In another studio, Mrs. Winborne is working on a 40's swing dance piece. Mrs. Buchheim might be found rehearsing her dancers in an avante-garde tap work. And Mrs. Spear-Jones is off in the "animal den" working to transform some of her dancers into bees and bears. Needless to say there is never a dull moment in these dance studios and this is just one of the five days of dance!!

The students are not only rehearsing their "teacher" dances but they are putting the finishing touches on their creative dances. Each team has chosen a topic based on a scientific concept, like gravity, balance/off balance or momentum. In these past 4 weeks, the teams have worked to create dances that interpret these chosen themes. The members of each team has had to share ideas, listen to others and compromise while creating their dance. They have had to keep in mind and appropriately use the "creative dance tools" they have been working on since the beginning of the year. Over the next two weeks each team's creative dance will be presented to the panel of dance teachers and to their peers. The teachers will see the creative dances and give the students feedback. The students will then have time, using the feedback, to make choreographic revisions and show their work for a second time. At this time the teachers chooses the dances that best interpret the movement topic. The members of the teams must also have work well together during this process. Many teams have found that this is not an easy task. There might be a team that presents a wonderful dance but the members just could not get along during the choreographic process. This dance would not get into the concert. One team might have members that worked beautifully together but the dance is weak. The topic is not clearly defined in movement. This dance would not be chosen. The criteria matches the skill level of the team. The "Time" team would be judged differently than the "Effort" team. This is an exciting and sometimes tough learning time for our students.

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Mrs. Buchheim, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Winborne take notes on the first creative dance showing of the Monday Shape Team's creative dance about momentum.

Reminder: Plaza MS
Dress Rehearsal -
April 19th- Saturday
2:00 - 6:00
Performance -
April 20th - Sunday
2:00 - 5:30

PARENT INFORMATION

Tour Schedule Announced

For two weeks, our dancers go to different Virginia Beach Public Schools to perform their concert dancers. This is a wonderful time for our students to strengthen their performance skills. Parents are invited to any of these performances.

Monday Dance Students
 April 7th - Alanton ES - 10:00 and College Park ES - 12:10
 April 14th - Landstown ES - 10:00

Tuesday Dance Students
 April 8th - North Landing ES - 10:00 and Linkhorn Park ES - 12:00
 April 15th - Thalia ES - 10:00

Wednesday Dance Students
 April 9th - Creeds ES - 10:00 and Ocean Lakes ES - 12:00
 April 16th - Rosemont ES - 10:00

Thursday Dance Students
 April 10th - Pembroke Meadows ES - 10:00 and Strawbridge ES - 12:00
 April 17th - Princess Anne ES - 10:00

Friday Dance Students
 April 4th - Three Oaks ES - 2 performances - 10:00 and 12:00

Parent Volunteers Are Needed for Dress Rehearsal

Mrs. Spear-Jones is currently in the process of e-mailing parents that have indicated at the beginning of the year they were interested in volunteering to help at dress rehearsal. If circumstances have changed and you find that you can volunteer, please e-mail or call Mrs. Spear-Jones to let her know that you are available. She particularly needs two to four fathers to help monitor the boys' dressing room area.

Dress Rehearsal - Saturday, April 19th - 1:30-6:00, at Plaza Middle School

We can't do this without your help.

It truly does take a village to have a successful concert.

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/).

Calendar Notes : A Meeting for Rising Middle School Students

April 16th - Wednesday - 6:30 - The big dance studio

Yes, you can stay in the ODC Dance Program and be a successful middle school student!!!

This meeting will be for all fifth grade students and their parents. The meeting is designed to help these rising middle school students understand that there is a wonderful support system in place to help middle school students successfully balance their middle school studies and ODC Dance .


**Dancers on Dancing
 Gosh! Those Darn Holey Tights**
 by Ka'Vion Fleming

Attention all girls!!! Holey tights are a big problem at ODC. Here are some tips to help solve this problem.

- 1) If your tights have runs in them, try putting clear finger nail polish directly on the run to prevent the run from getting bigger.
- 2) If your tights have holes, buy a new pair. They have them at Wal-Mart for \$5 or \$6 . You can also buy a pair from a dance supply store. (These tights usually last longer.) Just ask any dance teacher to give you the name of a dance store.
- 3) Don't leave your tights just laying around. Put them in a place where you know you can find them later.

Take the "Holey Tights" oath.

"Holey Tights Oath"
 On behalf of Old Donation Dance Education Program, I (fill in your name) pledge never to wear or dance in holey tights while I am here at ODC .


 Ka'Vion Fleming
 Thursday Dance Student
 Bayside Middle School

**Do you ever need advice?
 Do you ever feel like you cannot manage your make up work form your regular school? Are you having trouble getting along with someone in your team?**



Hey guys, I am Britni and I have been in the ODC dance program for 4 years. I am Macy and I have been at ODC for 2 years. Together we make B&M and we are your ODC 's dance advice columnists. We are here to answer your questions, so start writing us!! One to two of your questions will be published in the dance newsletter. Just send them to Mrs. Spear-Jones either by e-mail or in person and she will make sure they get to us.



Kisses,
 B&M -
 Friday Dance Students