



OLD DONATION
CENTER

Dance

DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program
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Looking through Mrs. Winborne's "Artistic Window"

During the past 7 weeks the dance teachers have been busy creating, teaching, editing and polishing dances for the students. Each teacher has one team per day that is her "team" - a team that she is in partnership with in creating and rehearsing dances. During the next four weeks you will be given a chance to see inside each dance teacher's "artistic window." This week Mrs. Winborne tells us about her dances and her creative process.

When asked to describe the dances she is choreographing for the ODC concert, Mrs. Winborne said,

My inspiration in creating dances for the ODC students comes from the teams themselves. Another source of inspiration comes from the rich images from our science and movement unit. My Monday students seem to be able to create well using unusual images so I am creating a dance for them about creatures coming to earth; creatures in search of something outside themselves. I added a prop to help enhance my choreographic images and also to help the dancers strengthen their technical skills while performing this dance. The dancers named the piece, "IGIS on Earth." The acronym stands for Intelligent Girls In Space."

On Tuesday I work with the Effort team. What catches my attention about that team is their sense of humor. It seems that they are always giggling and messing with their hair. So I created a dance inspired from this image. I titled the piece, "Dizzy" using Frank Zappa and the Mothers music. I am creating dizzy, off centered movement throughout the work.

"Action /Reaction is for my Thursday dancers. This is a team that would move back and forth emotionally with each other. One day the mood of the group would be one way, another day it would be something else sometimes it would shift from one to the other in one rehearsal time period. I tried some simple exercises to help the group move as one and this proved extremely difficult for them. Aha! The idea for my dance emerged - images of moving as an individual but always coming back to a group - always coming back to "home." This carries many layers of meaning both for me as a choreographer and for the group.

My Friday dance, "Stop, Kick, Turn, Swing" is for eighteen Time team dancers. I really wanted to choreograph something that would showcase the energy that comes easily to little girls especially when in large numbers.... so I created a high energy, intense partner dance. They did so well in the first unit when I taught them the waltz, I thought this swing partner work would suit them well. ...and it has!

"As a choreographer, if my choreographic choices and intent are clear, the truth of the piece will emerge and the dance work will take a life of its own. For me, it is that new life I work to see....to coin a phrase—it truly is the stuff by which dance is made."

In hearing the excitement and enthusiasm of the dancers in Mrs. Winborne's pieces, it is certain that all of her works have truly taken lives of their own and the dances are soaring.

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Tour Field Trip Permission Form is Coming Home Today

In your child's weekly packet you will find the permission forms for the "on tour" performances (See tour schedule on page 2.) Please note that for some of the days the students will need to bring bag lunches. Please, no glass! Your promptness in signing and returning the forms will be greatly appreciated.

Dance Supply List Is Also Coming Home Today

Please look for the supply list sent home today. It lists the make-up requirements for the boys and girls as well as the hair supplies for the girls. All of these supplies can be found at drug stores, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, etc. We do want the dancers to have a uniformed look, so please do not supply anything extra. For the school performances, "on tour", the dancers do not wear makeup, however, they are to wear their "Performance Hair."



PARENT INFORMATION

About "Performance Hair"

The hairstyle for the girls is a flat ballet bun placed at the crown of the head. The buns need to be netted and carefully pinned. All girls must also use gel and /or hair spray to control the wispsies (stray hair) and pull bangs securely back. Some teachers may ask for a "specialty concert hair-do," but the majority of hair styles are in the ballet bun. In these upcoming weeks, the teachers are asking the students to come to school with their hair in this performance style.



Models for "Performance Hair" are Alexia Rochester, Wednesday Effort team and Jessica Williams, Wednesday Time team.

Calendar News

- April 16th - 5th Grade Student/Parent Meeting 6:30
- April 19th - Dress Rehearsal 2:00 - 6:00 (parent volunteers arrive at 1:30) - Plaza Middle School
- April 20th - Performance - 2:00-5:30 - Plaza Middle School
- April 21 - Audition Preparation - (dance students do NOT attend)
- April 22 - Black Grace Performance
- April 23 - Black Grace Master Class
- April 24, 25, 28, 29 and 30 - Dance Auditions (regular dance students do NOT attend)
- May 1 - Alvin Ailey Master Class
- May 2 - Alvin Ailey Performance
- April 5, 6, 7, and 8 - Committee Review (dance students do NOT attend on these day)
- June 2- 6th - Last Week for Art and Dance classes

Parent Volunteers Are Still Needed for Dress Rehearsal

Please let Mrs. Spear-Jones know if you are interested in helping out at dress rehearsal. She sent out a mass e-mailing two weeks ago to the parents that had expressed interest in helping, however she is sure that she missed some folks. Please e-mail or call her if you are interested.

Dress Rehearsal - Saturday, April 19th -(Parent volunteers need to arrive at the theater by 1:30 and they need to stay until 6:00.)

Contact :Mrs. Spear-Jones at:
 gwen.spear-jones@vbschools.com or
 ODC 473-5043

Found

Two pairs of glasses in the studio - Please check and make sure if you wear glasses you still have them.



Tour Schedule

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 Straw-bridge 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

April 11th - Old Donation Center - 9:45

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/).