



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program

Volume 1 Number 4

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Dance faculty: Meet Mrs. Wright...

Mrs. Wright has actually lived two different "lives" so far – and very different ones at that. She moved to New York City right after graduation from college and was soon invited to join the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. After touring the U.S., Europe & Asia for 11 years, she moved to Virginia Beach where she joined the ODC dance faculty and started a family. Here are some of the similarities and differences between these occupations:



New York City

I lived in a tiny apartment with one cat, a few plants and a fire escape where I could sit outside.

I could walk to work or take the subway where ever I wanted to go. I didn't even own a car!

We would have to be at the theater at about 1:00 for and 8:00 show. When we weren't traveling, rehearsals didn't start until 9:00 PM! I stayed up very late at night and sometimes didn't eat dinner until 2:00 AM.

I met many new friends and students teaching classes in the places we performed.

I didn't have much time to do anything except dance and read, although I did get to see many dance concerts.

I got to travel to all kinds of exotic places.

Virginia Beach

I live in a nice house with two dogs, a cat, lots of plants, a son and have a huge backyard where I can sit outside!

I have to drive to work and any place else I want to go. I did take the train to Washington D.C. once.

I get up early because ODC classes start at 8:05 AM; I'm a sleepy-head by 9:00 PM now.

I meet many new students every year at ODC.

I have time to enjoy my friends, swim, play tennis, canoe, and garden and I still get to see some good dance concerts here.

I mostly only travel to see family and friends in the U.S. – although I did get to go to the Arctic Ocean this summer with my dad!

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Dance Word of the Week:

Expression: a way of dancing that gives it real meaning or feeling.

Dance History Fact:

The **Romantic period** in ballet occurred in the early to mid 1800's, and roughly corresponds to Romanticism movements in art and literature. Like these movements, *'Romantic ballets'* focused on the conflict between man and nature, society and the supernatural.

Dance Video Resource: The dance students are starting to watch the ballet "Giselle" as part of their dance history unit. Students want to know where they can get this and other dance videos. The public library and video stores have some dance videos but one of the best places is www.dancehorizon.com. This site has a wide selection of wonderful dance videos.

Next Week — Meet Mrs. Spear-Jones...



PARENTS' INFORMATION CORNER

Thanks so much for returning all the forms so promptly. We have a few remaining forms to be received. Also turn in any fees that are due. Make sure to e-mail Mrs. Spear-Jones that you have received the beginning-of-the-year information.

SPECIAL NOTE to the Parents of the 8th Grade dance students

The dance department will be taking a field trip during the week of Oct. 22 – Oct.26. The 8th grade dance students, along with the 8th grade art students will be touring Salem Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts. We have sent home field trip permission forms for you to sign. If you have an 8th grade dance student and have not signed or seen this form, please check with your child to make sure the form is not buried in the bottom of his/her dance bag.

Parent Packets

Please sign the line that corresponds with the week printed at the top of the newsletter. If your child has missed a week due to illness, we will then know to give them the information they missed. Also please do not sign ahead.

Lunch Money

If you would like your child to have money in a lunch account, it needs to be put into

The Balancing Act between Two Schools

Balancing the work load between two schools can be quite a challenge for our dancers, however there are some things that we have found that could be helpful in trying to support your child. Here are some questions worth paying attention to early in the first grading period that will aid in keeping your child on track.

Is your child receiving missed work and homework from his/her home school?

An important way to help your child be successful in his/her home school is to make sure your child has a clear plan to get missed work and assignments from all teachers -- and that the plan is working. Your child should know when and where to get their make-up work and homework assignments as well as when the work is due. If the plan to receive assignments from home school teachers is not working, we hope you can be an advocate for your child to help encourage teachers to develop a new, more workable plan

Is your child organizing time well in order to complete necessary work?

If your child is not following through on completing work, help him/her come up with a reasonable schedule to head towards success.

a separate account here at ODC. We are not able to access money in an account at your child's home school. Please make sure your child has the money they need for lunch. Students who have free or reduced lunch at their home school receive the same here.

Homework Buddies

We do give a small amount of homework each week to keep the children thinking about their dance education classes. Most assignments should take only 15-20 minutes to complete. There are several ways to find the assignment if a child has misplaced the instructions or was absent. In building our sense of community, each child has chosen two "homework buddies"; one from his/her home school and one from another school. Both buddies are on your child's team. They have exchanged names and phone numbers. So if your child is either confused about the assignment or was absent, the ways to retrieve the homework assignment are either by calling their "buddies" or by checking the Teacher web site.

Is your child being marked absent from their classes?

Your child is in school on his/her dance education day and is not to be marked absent. Talk to the office staff or principal to clear up this issue if it should happen.

Is your child expected to stay at his/her home school for testing?

Yes, except for standardized test like SAT 10 and SOL, other tests should be rescheduled for a non-ODC day.

Remember that there are many resources in place at the home school to support your child. There are the Gifted Resource Teachers (GRT's) in each school who have been very helpful to our dance students. There are counselors at all home schools and here at ODC, who can help devise strategies for success. In addition, we think you will find that the teachers will work closely with students who show consistent effort towards their own academic success.

Please contact us if your child is facing difficulties so we can help. We also love to hear success stories from our many students who find they are able to keep their grades the same or higher than the previous year.

This is one balancing act that will not teeter.

Definition: Home School =The school your child

Dance Legends

Erick Hawkins (April 23, 1909 - November 23, 1994) was an American dancer and choreographer. In 1951 Hawkins, interested in the new field of kinesiology, opened his own school and developed his own technique ('Hawkins Technique'). His known style is a strong and commanding one and he believed that movement could be beautiful and enjoyable for its own sake. His movement choices are not bound but very free and flowing creating certain aesthetics only found in Hawkins Technique. The movement is also very organic and natural, building on Erick's belief of letting the movement take the body through three dimensional space. This style of Modern Dance is taught in the ODC Dance Education program.



Dance Calendar : Coming up...

Oct.29 – Nov.2: Parent Visitation Week

Parents are cordially invited to come and watch their child's classes on the day of attendance from 8:30 until 10:45 AM. Unfortunately, we do not have space in the cafeteria for parents to stay for lunch.

November 2 - End of First Grading Period.

November 5th - 6th – Staff Day - Parent conferences as needed.

And now, for the moment you have been waiting for - The answers to Mrs. B.'s quiz from last week...

There was only 1 false statement!
She does not like to watch team sports.
EVERYTHING else is true! What an amazing woman. She can do almost anything!
That's a big WOW!

