



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program
 Volume 1 Number 6
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More of the First Weeks at ODC Dance In Pictures



Wednesday "Dance Perspectives"



Thursday Creative Dance



Thursday Ballet Class



Friday Jazz Class

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Dance Word of the Week:
Plie — This French word means to bend. This step is used in all dance technique classes and is probably one of the most important movements a dance student learns.

Dance History Fact:
 The word **Ballet** is derived from the Italian word, **Ballare**, meaning to dance, and **Ballo**, which refers to dances performed in the ballroom.



Next Week - What is LOD? Is it a new high definition TV? Is it a new text message abbreviation? Hint - All the dance students are experiencing LOD in their classes. Find out what it is in next week's "Dance Matters."



Parent Information

Dance Perspectives – My Point of View, Your Point of View –WOW! They Are BOTH “Cool” Points of View

In the Dance Education program we investigate dance from many perspectives or points of view - from the point of view of a dancer, choreographer, historian, dance critic and anthropologist. For the past several weeks in the dance perspectives class, we have watched a video of the famous classical ballet, **Giselle**, from those points of view. Analyzing sections of this ballet, we found that the ballet told a story in movement and had elements of realism and fantasy. Comparisons were made to a dance style from India called the **Kathakali** and a hula from Hawaii. Like Giselle, these dances told a story in movement and gesture.

Teaching our young dancers to look at dance from these many perspectives, we deepen their understanding of the world around them and how dance reflects the attitudes of the people in various societies and cultures. This unit of study bridges us into an investigation of the Romantic Ballet period - the 19th century. Our students will be looking up facts, watching videos and discussing this important time frame in ballet history. Be sure to ask them to tell you something about the Romantic Ballet period from their perspective.

Dance Vocabulary

Your child has growing lists of many dance vocabulary words from their technique classes, creative dance class and perspectives class. These words help the dancers understand their movements and their bodies more fully. These words also act as tools, giving dancers a way of talking about and describing dance in an insightful and more thorough way. Take a look at their vocabulary lists to see how far your child has come in his or her knowledge of dance since the beginning of the year. Many of these lists are posted on the TeacherWeb site at:

www.teacherweb.com/VA/OldDonationCenter/MrsWright/

Oh No! I left my Binder in the Dressing Room

Fortunately we are not hearing that statement too often. We have a small room where the dancers store their backpacks, outer layers of clothing and any thing they don't need for their dance day. As part of being responsible students, we ask that they are prepared when they leave that room. This means they have an extra article of clothing to wear to the cafeteria, binder, parent packet, home work and ballet shoes. We have given the students four weeks to get into the habit of leaving the dressing area prepared and gently, or sometimes not so gently, reminding them to have everything.

We are now locking this room and not letting students back in after the start of the day. Hopefully all students will be prepared when they come out of the dressing room and ready to dance, dance, dance!

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.

December 6 City –wide information night Old Donation Center - 6:30 p.m.

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.

The deadline for dance and art applications is Friday,

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/).

Attention to the 8th Grade

Dance students and parents

The Salem Performing Arts Academy Field Trip has been cancelled. The trip will be rescheduled for another time.

Dance Legends

Martha Graham (May 11, 1894 - April 1, 1991)

She was born in Pennsylvania, lived in California and from there began studying dance. She taught dance and became one of the 20th century's best known choreographers as a pioneer of modern dance. Her dances were rooted in muscle tension and relaxation; to some, this looked more awkward than the classical-rooted movement of Isadora Duncan.

