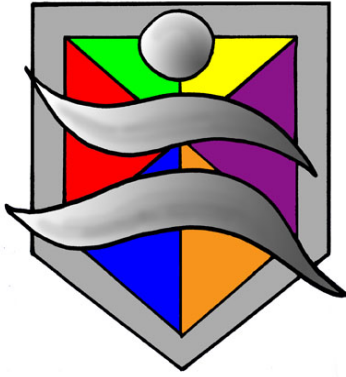


OLD DONATION
CENTER

Dance



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program

Volume 1 Number 7

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“LOD” means Language of Dance by Karen Buchheim

The Language of Dance® also known as Motif Notation (developed by Ann Hutchinson Guest) is a system for graphically representing and recording movement. It is closely related to Labanotation, a system for accurately recording choreography in a precise and detailed manner for use in reconstruction of great works of dance.



Motif notation is used in a freer, more exploratory way for teaching the prime movement actions universal to all movement forms. It provides an accessible link to movement for participants of all ages and skill levels, as well as an easy introduction to dance literacy through the visual symbols and clear movement vocabulary.



We use the Language of Dance Movement Alphabet as a support and aide to understanding of movement concepts in various technique and creative dance classes. Just as music students read a musical score, so dance students can read and write dance using this method. The use of this method supports the relationship of movement to music in terms of rhythm and dynamics.



Ask your child to give you an example of how the movement alphabet has been used in their classes this unit.

I am always amazed at how quickly the students pick up this unique symbol language. I have been video taping the level III/IV creative dance class exercises recently, and I enjoy the connections the students make from LOD work to their other dance classes. Today, for example, the student's dance score called for them to execute a two beat turn led by the right shoulder followed by a two beat turn led by the left shoulder. "Wow!" said one of the students. "We're doing a Tassel Turn!" (a movement they had been working on in Mrs. Wright's modern dance class.) I love it when they find those cross-over connections. It gives real meaning to the work.

(Editor's note: Mrs. Buchheim is in her final stages of work before she receives her full certification in the Language of Dance)



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Dance Word of the Week:

Choreographer— **Choreography** is the art of making dances, and the person who does this is called a **choreographer**. Choreography (literally "dance-writing", also known as "dance composition"), is the art of making structures in which movement occurs. The term composition may also refer to the navigation or connection of these movement structures. The resulting movement structure may also be referred to as the choreography.

Dance History Fact:

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



PARENT INFORMATION

Just Sign Right Here - On the Parent Packet

We thank you for regularly signing your child's dance parent packet. By seeing your signature, we know that our dance information is getting to you. To clarify which line to sign, look at the front page of the newsletter and check the number. The number on the newsletter should correspond to the line that you sign. Example: This week's newsletter is No. 7, so please sign line 7.



Cold Weather Finally Here - Maybe?

With the temperatures starting to go down, we ask you to help your child remember to bring a tight-fitting, long-sleeved, solid colored shirt or dance sweater to ODC. They can use these sweaters/shirts in their technique classes, but the shirts must be tight fitting. We need to see the dancer's body clearly in order to help them improve their alignment and muscle usage, but we also want them to be warm if the studio is chilly. As modeled by Wednesday dance students, Jessica (at left) is wearing an appropriate tight fitting shirt, and Meredith (lower left) and Colette (at right) are wearing wrap dance sweaters also appropriate for class. The boys may wear a long sleeved, solid color shirt.



Models: Jessica Morgan, Colette Williams, Meredith Alwine



Dance Calendar : *Coming soon!*

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. Please call the ODC office if you would like to schedule a conference with the dance faculty (473-5043)

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. Deadline for dance and art applications is Friday, February 1. Current students do not need to re-apply.

December 17 – 21 Winter Celebration - The culmination of our dance history unit.

A Thought....“When children are upset, offer empathy or positive intent first, then ask questions and facilitate problem solving.” from Conscious Discipline, by Dr. Becky Bailey

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/).

Dance Legends

Alvin Ailey, dancer and choreographer was born January 5, 1931 in Rogers, Texas. After training in New York City with Martha Graham and others, he founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1958, which was a hugely popular, multi-racial modern dance ensemble. The company popularized modern dance around the world thanks to tours sponsored by the U.S. State Department. His most famous dance, *Revelations*, is based on Ailey's own experience of growing up African American in the rural South and is a celebratory study of religious spirit. He retired from the stage in 1965 to devote himself to his company. Ailey received the Kennedy Center Honors in 1988 and died a year later.

