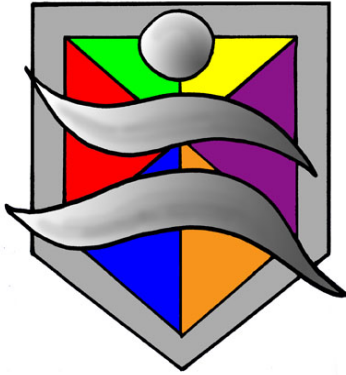


OLD DONATION  
CENTER

# Dance



# DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program

Volume 1 Number 8

October-November, 2007

## One in Dance/One in Music by Laura Wright

The Tempo & Space teams have been studying the relationship of dance to the elements of music in their creative dance classes. The rhythmic skills can be tricky to learn! First, we paid close attention to the beat and practiced performing movements/actions that took 8, 4, or 2 counts. So often, young dancers want to dance fast and do something on each beat. However, a choreographer learns to create interesting movement rhythms by changing the length of



time, or duration, of the movements. The students have learned to read and create a rhythmic score that is based on the way rhythms are notated in Language of Dance.

Next we paid close attention to the speed of the beat, or the tempo. We found that the tempo can have a lot to do with the mood or feeling of a piece of music or a dance. Dances performed at a different tempo than originally planned can express very different ideas (and be hard to do!)

Now we are using instruments that create sounds that last for several beats to match the longer movements. Some of the favorite instruments we've used are electric pianos, thunder sticks and rain sticks. The dancers have learned to play rhythms on the various instruments, even while they're dancing – not a simple task! Their final dances will combine all of the elements of music that they have learned (the beat, tempo and duration) with the elements of dance we have studied (action, direction and traveling).

I have always loved both music and dance. I studied the piano and the flute as a child and I actually received two degrees from my college – one in dance and one in music! The Erick Hawkins Dance Company always traveled with our own orchestra, so I always got to perform to live music. What a treat! Learning to understand music and really listen to it is an important part of dance training that is often overlooked or taken for granted. These teams have done a great job learning to be musicians and choreographers during this unit.

*/Photos of Mrs. Wright with Tuesday Space team/*



### Inside this issue:

One in Dance	1
Calendar	2
Parent Information	2
Teamwork	2
Dance Legend	2

### Dance Word of the Week:

**Technique** - A procedure or method for accomplishing a complicated task. In dance, technique refers to the development of the dancer's physical and artistic skills.

### Dance History Fact:

The **Romantic era** marked the rise of the ballerina as a central part of ballet, where previously men had dominated performances.

### Dance Video Resource:

The dance students are continuing 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](http://www.dancehorizon.com). This site has a wide selection of wonderful dance videos.



# PARENT INFORMATION

## No Hogs, No Logs, No Bogs

“Just work together.”, “There’s no “I” in teamwork.”, “Everybody must share ideas and listen to each other.” All these statements are wonderful and worthy concepts yet extremely difficult to achieve. Understanding how to be a successful team member is an important part of your child’s education in the dance program. Students are learning the value of creating movement collaboratively and also the special challenges that come from this type of work. In creative dance class, students work in small groups to create short dance studies. They are taught that all must try to share and respect each other’s ideas, all must try to listen and really hear what is being said and finally, and possibly the hardest, they must try to understand how to compromise. (Compromise is a concept world leaders have been working on for centuries.) This last one can be particularly difficult, especially if there is an emotional investment in a particular idea. Sometimes that “great idea” does not fit into an overall dance theme, and changes and even cuts must be made. Accepting that this is part of the collaborative process is a big step in understanding the role of being a good team member. For the past two weeks, students have been exploring various team members’ roles. Just ask your child what the phrase, “no hogs, no logs, no bogs” means. It could make an interesting dinner table conversation.



### Dance Calendar : *Dates to know!*

- **November 2** - End of First Grading Period.
- **November 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** – Staff Day -Parent conferences as needed. Please call the ODC office if you would like to schedule a conference with the dance teachers. (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.  
 ▪ More information to follow.

**Do you have ideas for stories or articles? Let Mrs. Spear-Jones know!**

## Dance Legends

**Carlotta Grisi** was an Italian ballet dancer. She was born on June 28, 1819 and died on May 20, 1899. She trained with dancer/ballet master Jules Perrot. Through Perrot’s contacts, the pair worked in Paris, London, Vienna, Munich, and Milan where she sang and danced. Of her two talents, it was her dancing that was acclaimed. By dancing Perrot’s choreography, which at that time was receiving great attention, she gained notable attention of both the public and the critics. Her greatest role however was that of “Giselle.”



### A Thought :

Encouragement is basically a dose of hope. People need hope to feel safe. . . . from Conscious Discipline by Dr. Becky Bailey

Everything in the universe has rhythm. Everything dances.  
 Maya Angelou

### Parent/Teacher communication:

- 1) MYSCHOOL mail
- 2) ODC phone number 473-5043
- 3) Faculty e-mail addresses  
 Karen Buchheim - [karen.buchheim@vbschools.com](mailto:karen.buchheim@vbschools.com)  
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- 4) TeacherWeb([www.teacherweb.com/VA/OldDonationcenter/MrsWright/](http://www.teacherweb.com/VA/OldDonationcenter/MrsWright/)).



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