



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program
Volume 1 Number 1
September, 2007

Welcome to ODC's Dance Newsletter!

Welcome to the first edition of the 2007-2008 ODC Dance newsletter –the newsletter that keeps you informed. Look for future editions covering important information like dance calendar reminders, highlights of what your child is studying, dance program information, contact numbers, faculty/students profiles, dance performance information and dance history trivia! We hope you find this newsletter useful and informative. We want all the members of our dance family to learn about the many facets of dance education and will do our best to communicate with you.

Meet the dance faculty:

The ODC Dance Faculty from left to right:

Valerie Winborne, Karen Buchheim, Laura Wright, and Gwen Spear-Jones.



ODU Teacher Intern, Sharon Glass is in the middle.

In partnership with Old Dominion University, this is the 5th dance education teacher intern we have had in our dance program.

Stephanie Glass is a student teacher from Old Dominion University. She is a senior aspiring to graduate with a BA in Dance Education. Stephanie comes from a long ballet background including attending schools such as the Washington Ballet, the Rock School and the Virginia School of the Arts. She has been teaching for 7 years and hopes to open her own school in the future.

Next week: Feature story on Valerie Winborne - She reveals why tea and ice cream are important to her.

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Dance Word of the Week:

Relationship – How dancers move in connection with someone or something...example: over, under, beside, between, around, through...

Dance History Trivia:

1800 – 1910 was an important time period in dance history called the "Romantic Era." Point shoes for women were introduced during this time period.

THINGS TO KNOW...

Dance Calendar :

September 10: First day for ODC Dance students

Oct. 29 – November 2 - Parent visitation (more information to follow at a later date).

November 2 - End of First Grading Period.

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

Looking Ahead - ODC Dance Performance - April 20 at Plaza Middle School



PARENT INFORMATION

Beginning of the year information

1) Weekly packet: Please read the information each week in "Dance Matters", the ODC Dance Education weekly newsletter. Please sign the weekly packet each week so we know that you have received your newsletter and any other information that might be in your packet. Please do not sign "ahead" as this can be confusing for us to know what you have already received. Do not seal the weekly packet

2) Dress Code: We are very particular about the dress code outlined on the supply list. This allows the teachers to more easily see body alignment and muscle use to properly train the students. Give us a call if you need guidance in pur-

chasing dance clothes; we do have boys tights for sale here at ODC (children's sizes are \$8.10; adult sizes are \$10.15). We also ask the girls to put their hair into a secure bun. If it is too short, hair needs to be pinned securely away from the face and neck.

3) Attendance: Regular attendance is necessary to insure maximum benefit from the dance education program. Dance education is offered by our public school system because it can be a powerful enhancement to overall learning. It should be treated as an important part of your student's educational experience.

4) Return Forms - In this week's packet you will find many forms that need to be filled out, signed and returned next week. Please check both sides of these papers. We appreciate the time it takes to fill out these numerous forms and to go over the information with your child.

5) Homework: Students will be given brief homework assignments weekly. These assignments will also be posted on the TeacherWeb (www.teacherweb.com/VA/OldDonationcenter/MrsWright/).

CONTACTING US...

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

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS...

To make this newsletter more helpful and enjoyable? More pictures? Stories?

We'd love to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Send them to Mrs. Spear-Jones

Dance Legends

Marie Taglioni (April 23, 1804 – April 24, 1884) was a famous Italian ballerina of the Romantic ballet era, a central figure in the history of European dance.



"Dance Matters" has, of course, two meanings; items of information to help the year go well, and our commitment to your child and the pursuit of artistic excellence.

