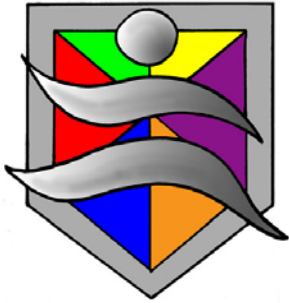


OLD DONATION
CENTER

Dance



DANCE MATTERS



Old Donation Dance Education Program
Volume 2 Number 18
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The Value of Arts Education

The Arts are an essential part of public education. From dance and music to theatre and the visual arts, the arts give children a unique means of expression, capturing their passions and emotions, and allowing them to explore new ideas, subject matter, and cultures. They bring us joy in every aspect of our lives.

Arts education not only enhances students' understanding of the world around them, but it also broadens their perspective on traditional academics. The arts give us the creativity to express ourselves, while challenging our intellect. The arts integrate life and learning for all students and are integral in the development of the whole person.

The Arts communicate and speak to us in ways that teach literacy and enhance our lives. We must continue to find a place for arts programs and partnerships not only for what it teaches students about art, but for what it teaches us all about the world we live in.

--Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State, November 2001

Editor's Note: Only 7% of the nation's public schools have dance education and the Virginia Beach Public School system is part of that 7%. WOW!!! How wonderful it is to have a school system that truly values the arts and values the powerful effect it has on students' life long learning.

Dance Calendar

February 21-March 7

VPAA auditions 4:00-8:00 pm - Salem High School

April 20—April 30 ODC

Dancers on Tour

May 2nd Mandatory Dress Rehearsal - 2:00pm- 6:00pm
Plaza Middle School

May 3rd Concerts -2:00pm and 5:00pm -Students arrive at 1:00 and stay until 7:15 — Plaza Middle School

May 4th - No dance students

May 5th, May 7th, May 11, May 12, May 13th, May 15th, May 19th—May 22—
Dance Screening - Regular ODC dance students do not attend on these days

June 12—Last day for ODC dancers

PAPERS, FORMS Coming your way

This is a very busy time in the dance program and a lot of information will be coming home.

Last week you should have received your child's report card and field trip permission form. You may keep the report card but please sign the lower right hand side of the parent packet so we know you received it. On April 20th—April 30, the dancers will be performing in different Virginia Beach public schools. We need your signature on this field trip permission form to allow your child to go. (Mrs. Spear-Jones needs two parents per day to accompany these students on tour. Please contact her if you can do this.)



This week a performance commitment letter will be coming home. Please look over the letter and sign the form and give it to your child to sign and return next week. There are so many rehearsal/performance details, we want to make sure you have all the information.

Thank you in advance for your patience in signing and returning forms.



Sometimes it is nice to get a little "hair" help



Tuesday student Gabby Huezco helping Leah Smith

Odds and Ends

- 1) Students are encouraged to bring to ODC a blank CD or blank cassette tape so the dance teachers can record the performance music for them.
- 2) We need parent volunteers to come in on Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 or from 11:35—12:25 to video tape the rehearsals in progress. Please call or e-mail Mrs. Spear-Jones prior to coming so she can confirm the time and place with you.
- 3) Mrs. Spear-Jones has sent out an e-mail asking for parent volunteers to help with the dress rehearsal and the performances. If you were not contacted and you want to help, please call or e-mail Mrs. Spear-Jones.

I have

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created

by

Emily Parker

Thursday

Energy

Team