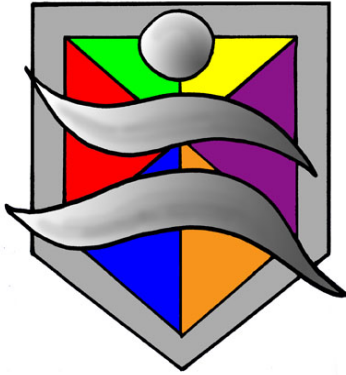


OLD DONATION  
CENTER

Dance



# DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program  
Volume 2 Number 7  
October, 2008



## ODC Dancers and Visual Artists Coming Together Seeing Eye to Eye , Moving Foot to Foot



### Inside this issue:

Dance and Visual Art Students Coming Together	1
Parent Visitation Week	2
No Hogs, No Logs, No Bogs	2
Shoeless Ballet Dancers???	2
Signing the Parent Packet	2

Under the guidance of dance teacher Gwen Spear-Jones and visual art teacher Tricia Caskey, Time Team Creative Dance students and Level 1 Visual Art students collaborated recently on an interesting art/dance project. The art students went to the dance studio to better understand how movement takes place in the dance students' classroom. Dance students were studying shapes and repetition through movement and body form. Art students collaborated by moving with the dancers in order to feel the process of creating shapes and movement. The art students then sat down around the sides of the room, got out their drawing tools and began to observe and sketch as the dancers performed a variety of individual and group shapes. The photographs and art work that came from these sessions are on display outside dance studio 29. If you come to visit on Parent Week, please stop by and look at the fruits of this wonderful collaboration.



## 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.



## 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.

**"Mom, Dad...I don't think the dance teachers like me! It seems like they are ALWAYS correcting me."**

All students need frequent reminders from their teachers as they learn to control their bodies. Dance teachers use corrections as a way to help the student refine their skills throughout the year. Corrections should never be taken in a negative or personal way. If a teacher should say, "Susie, straighten your leg and extend your foot when you do a tendu to the side." This doesn't mean that the teacher doesn't like Susie or her leg or foot, it just means that the teacher is showing Susie a way to strengthen her legs and to achieve the proper form. A dance teacher giving corrections to a dancer is like a gardener giving water to a plant. The dancer needs corrections and the plant needs water in order to grow and thrive.

After being exposed to new skills through out the year, students enter a practice phase in which they learn to self-correct their skills. They also learn to observe their peers and give positive feedback in the form of compliments and "stretches", or goals to achieve. Students often learn better from each other than from the dance teachers!

## Dance Calendar

### Oct. 27–Oct.31: 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. We look forward to seeing you.

Oct.31: End of First Grading Period

November 3 - 4: Staff Day - Parent conferences as needed

## Shoeless Ballet Dancers? No Way



To have ballet shoes in a ballet class is like having a pen and paper for a writing assignment. Both are essential for the task at hand. In ballet class, ballet shoes allow the dancer to work the foot in a way that is very different from dancing barefoot or in socks. It is also part of the etiquette for this class. So if a student forgets ballet shoes for ballet class, he or she will not be allowed to physically participate in class. He or she will be given a written assignment pertaining to the content material of the class.

### Parent/Teacher Communication:

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