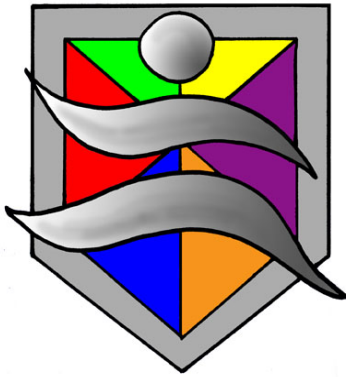


OLD DONATION
CENTER

Dance



DANCE MATTERS

Old Donation Dance Education Program
Volume 2 Number 9
November, 2008



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Parent Visitation Week - Busy and Oh So Special...

During the week of Oct.27th –Oct.31st, parents came to visit the ODC Dance classes. They observed their children in Technique classes (ballet, modern, jazz and/or fundamentals classes) and Dance Perspectives class (Students were showing their dance studies based on the four Principles of Design. See related story on page 2). It was wonderful matching parents with their children. Parents even did the “Brain Dance ” in the morning with their child.

There was a special moment when a parent came up and said, “It is so clear that these dance students do more than learn dance steps. They are learning life skills. I am so impressed. They are problem solving and working and creating with others.” Brenda Rand (mother of Wednesday student, Charlyn Rand)

Note to Parents: We love for you to visit. You do not have to wait for a special week to visit our dance classes. Just call us the day before you would like to visit and we will be on the look out for you.

We are thankful for our supportive parents!!!!



Tuesday dance parents watch students dancing in a Dance Perspectives class



Tuesday parents observe Tuesday dancers, Leah Smith, Macy Pniewski and Leilani Simmonds work on finding a solution to a creative dance problem.



The AHA Moment!



The solution - a series of wonderful jumps!! Hurrah!!!

Unit 1 Comes to an End and A New Schedule Begins

This week marks the beginning of the second grading period. ODC Dance evaluations will come home next week. There will be an explanation about them in next week's newsletter.

The schedules of teachers have changed so that all of the teachers have the opportunity to work with each student. We will move forward in technique and creative dance classes to cover new skills, new concepts and new vocabulary words.

In unit one, the dance students have been studying the four Principles of Design: repetition, contrast, variety and unity. Dancers viewed paintings by Picasso, Matisse and Degas as a "warm up" to train their eyes to recognize the principles. Students watched videos of Russian and Native American cultural dances to identify the Principles of Design evident in the choreography. We also discussed how these principles come together to communicate moods, feelings and ideas through dance. Students drew their own visual representation of these Principles of Design. Then the dancers translated these drawings into dances. The students displayed an understanding of these 4 Principles by at first recognizing them, then drawing them and finally dancing them. To culminate this unit of study, the students wrote a reflection paper describing their choreographic process.

Dance History Facts:

The "Age of Astonishment" was a period in dance history (1910-1930) when conventional views of dance came into question. Artists, composers and choreographers worked collaboratively during this time and many of these artists made astonishing changes in the arts.



Sticker Chart Prizes Needed

All dance students have sticker charts. Teachers give stickers for a variety of things: returning signed papers, excellent work in class, being a good team member, sweeping at lunch, to name a few. When the students accumulate 12 stickers for a unit, he/she receives a prize. We have given out small dance pictures but we are running low on these prizes. Could you help us? We need any small prize that the students would enjoy receiving; anything small that you would be willing to donate would be greatly appreciated.



ODC Dance Calendar - Upcoming Dates

November 11- Veteran's Day - No School

November 26 - Half Day - No ODC

November 27-28 - Holiday - No School

December 11 - City -Wide Information Night 6:30-7:30

December 17 - 21 The Winter Celebration

Parent/Teacher Communication:

1) ODC Phone Number 473-5043

2) Faculty e-mail addresses:

- Elizabeth Albarado

elizabeth.albarado@vbschools.com

- Gwen Spear-Jones

gwen.spear-jones@vbschools.com (parent volunteer coordinator)

- Valerie Winborne

valerie.winborne@vbschools.com

- Laura Wright
laura.wright@vbschools.com

3) TeacherWeb:
(www.teacherweb.com/VA/OldDonationcenter/MrsWright/) or go to the ODC home website- click "Dance" and click "Dance website"

Dance History Unit

In Dance Perspectives class, the second unit will be our dance history unit. We will be studying the dance period called the "Age of Astonishment." In "Dance Matters" there will be a new column starting this week called, "Dance History Facts." All the facts in this column will be from the history unit being studied in class. This unit of study will end with a festive winter celebration during the week of Dec. 15th - 19th.