

Hi Dance Families,

Please print, read, and save this newsletter, as it has lots of varied information. From t-shirts to costumes, from the parade to an Irish dance concert, from our fundraiser results to Winter Break dates, from an FSU trip to a high school talent show - there is a LOT covered here!

1. Annual School T-SHIRTS arrive Wed 12/7. Monday and Tuesday students wishing to be in next Friday's parade should please drop by the School Wed or Thurs to claim their dancers' free shirt. Out-of-towners, contact Treasurer Julie Suggs and she will bring your shirt to the parade site. (Make sure your dancer is good and early, arriving to the WHS field site by 5:00, ready to go).

2. Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm City of Williston Christmas PARADE – some students are *Dancing Performers*, others are *Float Riders*. These were listed in a previous e-mail, but you can contact Julie or me for confirmation of which applies to your child. ALL students wear their NEW WSD shirt.

*Dancing Performers* must also wear **black** athletic/dance pants and **white** long sleeved shirt/jackets (for warmth) **under** their WSD tees. (I just bought a Wal-Mart ladies white turtleneck for less than 6 bucks.) No dance shoes – wear regular sneakers to keep your dance shoes from getting ruined. *Performing girls* –wear makeup, and long hair in a **slick ponytail**.

FORMS ARE REQUIRED FOR YOUR DANCER TO PARTICIPATE.

Forms can be turned in to Julie during banking hours or to me (Mrs. Sarah) at classes.

NO FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED THE DAY OF THE PARADE. THAT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR US TO GUARANTEE A SPOT ON OUR FLOAT OR FOR ME TO DESIGNATE YOUR PERFORMING MARCHER'S SPOT IN OUR LINEUP.

Certain classes dance certain sections of our routine. This means they have to be in a very particular place in relation to the other classes. For this reason, I have to carefully arrange in advance who marches where – a dancer showing up unexpectedly, or having a form brought that day, cannot expect to perform.

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK AND NEXT DETERMINES A DANCER'S READINESS TO PERFORM the routine. (This is stated in the previous parent parade form, too.)

Routines were taught before the Thanksgiving break, and we continue to work on them each day. They're designed to be as simple and repetitive as possible. That said, dancers missing a class this week or next should arrange to attend a MAKEUP CLASS so they can demonstrate to me their readiness to perform. Dancing in public is only enjoyable if you're confident in what you're doing.

Students struggling with the routine due to absences this week or next are welcome to ride on a float, or, (for teens) help distribute candy. I will contact any families should this situation occur. Thank you for your understanding that preparation in class directly determines performance opportunities. As with all dance studios, WSD performances outside of the annual recital are privileges and not a guaranteed right.

3. ADVANCED IRISH CLASS TO GUEST DANCE AT PUBLIC CONCERT on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>!

Famous Irish piper Cillian Vallely (of Ireland, now residing in NY) and guitarist Ryan McGiver perform a 7pm concert in Gainesville at Expressions Learning Arts Academy on SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

Tickets are \$16 at the door. Vallely is the piper in Lunasa, which The New York Times calls, "the hottest Irish acoustic band on the planet." Our Monday Advanced Class will guest perform! Please support these dancers and enjoy world-class Irish music touring through our area, in an intimate and family-friendly location.

4. WINTER BREAK - NO DANCE CLASSES for two weeks, December 19-30. We resume dance on MONDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>, when students get to see their costume in the catalog and hear their recital music! We will be "BROADWAY" BOUND!

5. "SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH" HIGH SCHOOL TALENT SHOW – auditions are Friday February 3rd. (This is the same weekend as our FSU trip – see below – but participants can do both!)

**High school Irish dancers, III and up – here is your time to shine.** "Spotlight on Youth" is an audition-only talent show in April at Santa Fe College's beautiful, brand new multi-million dollar theatre. There is no cost to participate, but our **APPLICATION IS DUE DEC. 13<sup>th</sup>**. An e-mail on this went out to high school Irish dancers in Level III and up over a month ago. Auditions aren't until February, but I am required to turn in all paperwork – including each dancer's name and contact - THIS MONTH for us to get an audition slot on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. I can re-send the information by request – thanks! Parents who have not already, please get back to me either way, so I can stop bothering you. © The number of middle schoolers who can participate depends on the exact number of high schoolers – high schoolers must make up over 50% of the group. **If you are the parent of a high school Irish dancer, other interested parents have been waiting to hear whether or not THEIR child gets to join in.** Please and thank you!

6. FSU/SUZANNE FARRELL "YOUNG DANCERS WORKSHOP", February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>:

Ballet dancers level IV and up, ages 10 and up, are eligible for this marvelous weekend dancing on the FSU campus. Master teachers include Suzanne Farrell, **the** most celebrated American ballerina of all time. (No exaggeration.) There are a couple additional classes in jazz, modern, and musical theatre dance, though ballet is the emphasis. Optional audition for FSU youth summer dance camp.

**FORMS ARE DUE TO ME DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>.** Cost is \$105 (to FSU) for two days (over 7 hours) of master, age-and level-specific instruction. (Hotel extra – we room together at the FSU Hampton Inn, and have a great time!) We have to register early, as each year the workshop fills, with dancers turned away. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for Ballet V and up (our twice a week students).

This workshop is a real value, a healthy challenge, and good bonding time for participants, who get a legitimate taste of the collegiate dance experience. *Makes a great Christmas gift!* We are lucky Tallahassee is relatively close to us – there are schools who bus up to this all the way from Miami. Parents who haven't already, please let me know either way.

7. RECITAL COSTUMES AND MEASUREMENTS:

Dancers are being measured for costumes in class (we allow room for growth between now and May.) Costumes are ordered over the Winter Break unless we do not receive your full costume payments. All the costume companies require advance payment, and the School cannot spend money it doesn't have. So please get those costume balances in, as we look forward to an AWESOME 35<sup>TH</sup> RECITAL YEAR!

The 2012 WSD recital will be "On Broadway!". All classes perform a stage routine to a full house. We will have our recital date (always a Saturday in May) ready to announce in early 2012. We begin learning recital routines in January. Costume catalog photos will be shown to students and parents when we return from Winter Break.

8. FUNDRAISER SUCCESS: Thanks to all who participated in our Thirty One fundraiser, and to WSD dance mom Daphne Kiernan for making it all happen. Daphne and I congratulate and thank our top sellers: Janna Thorrington (ballet, Irish, tap/jazz, hip-hop) Whitlea Woodford (Dress Up and Dance), and Alexis Dawdy (KinderBallet/Tap)! Go, Janna, Whitlea, and Alexis!

Daphne says that for any of us who book a party between January and March, 50% of her commission from the party will be donated to WSD! Call Daphne at 352-219-4363.

Thank you, and holiday blessings to you and yours! Come stop in our studio to get a peek at our all-dance Christmas tree.

Mrs. Sarah