

FUSION DANCE



January 2012

Thank You

Thank you for the cards, treats and gifts you brought for us and for the studio during the holiday season. We appreciate your kindness!



It's not the lessons you take, but the ones that you don't miss that make you a ballerina.

~ anonymous

Remember to Check the Lost and Found

The Lost and Found Box is located near the coat hooks in the back of the studio. The Lost and Found Box grows at a tremendous rate! Please remember to check it often—you will find shoes, shorts, tops, coats, tennis shoes, food containers, water bottles, etc. Thank you for looking for your lost items!

Turning Toward Annual Performance

January is the time of year dance classes start turning toward the students' annual performance. During the first part of the year, students were learning new dance steps and putting those step together into either holiday song routines or small classroom combinations. Now they will continue to work on dance steps but will be combining their technique into routines for the performance.

You will begin to see more activity in the costume room. Costumes for showcase and competition students are being worked on to add sparkle and shine. Costumes for combination and technical classes have been ordered and they will be received in April through May. We then custom alter them to fit each student. Sometimes we also add embellishments (such as sparkly studs) or make headpieces. Please let the front desk staff or Mary know if you wish to help with costumes! We can always use help in the costume room.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the annual student performance. There is so much to put together in these next few months.

Watch for sign-up sheets late April or early May looking for help. A dance performance can not take place without a lot of help from volunteers. We need people to help transport items to the high school, decorate the auditorium, chaperone students during the performance, security persons, ushers, ticket salespeople, cleanup crew, and other duties.

Thanks to all of the parents for their involvement — our performance is truly a gala event that everyone enjoys!



Upcoming Events:

Jan. Payments Due	Jan. 1
WCDE Convention Minneapolis, MN	Jan. 14-15
NUVO Convention Registration Due	Jan. 19
Showcase/Competition Team Rehearsals	Jan. 21
Showcase/Competition Team Rehearsals	Jan. 28
Feb. Payments Due	Feb. 1
Showcase/Competition Team Rehearsals	Feb. 11
Showcase/Competition Team Rehearsals	Feb. 18
NUVO Convention Hyatt Regency Minneapolis	Feb. 24-26
March Payment Due	Mar. 1
Showcase/Competition Team Rehearsals	Mar. 3
Showcase/Competition Dress Rehearsal	Mar. 4
Masquerade Dance Competition	Mar. 9-11

NUVO Dance Convention

Students interested in attending the NUVO Dance Convention on February 24-26 must register by January 19. Parents need to complete a Participant Waiver which is available at the front desk. The cost of the convention is \$195 for dancers 12 and under and \$220 for dancers 13 and over. Payment is due at the time of registration.

Educating Parents

The following is an excerpt from Rhee Gold's "Intensive Dancer Handbook" from "The Dance School Management Series." It was written to help parents with their child's dance education.

We're In This Together

Parents and teachers may look at a child's learning from different perspectives. However, they share a common goal: to assure that every child receives the best possible training, both physically and mentally. Mutual respect between our faculty and our dancers' parents provides the children with the ultimate care and education.

Helping Your Child Get the Most Out of Their Dance Lessons

- Encourage your child and express your pride in their efforts and accomplishments.
- Make sure your child arrives ten minutes prior to the start of his/her class and that he/she attends all scheduled lessons and/or rehearsals. Missing class can be discouraging when the child returns to class; often children have a hard time catching up, especially with choreography. They can become frustrated and anxious when they can't keep up.
- Encourage your child to practice at home, especially when it comes to choreography or new material. A student who retains the choreography or movement from week to week is more confident and enjoys the dance experience more.
- Talk with your child about what they learned at dance class; encourage them to show you the new things they were taught that day.
- Show respect for your child's dance teacher, especially when it comes to disciplinary action. Feel free to call the school for a parent-teacher meeting any time you have a question concerning discipline.
- Avoid judgmental statements concerning other parents and students at the school.
- Be proud to be a non-gossiping parent; spreading gossip or rumors creates a downbeat atmosphere and is a negative influence on productivity both in and out of the classroom.
- Promptness with tuition, costume deposits and other funds is essential; payment should be made on or prior to the due dates.
- Be proud that your child has a healthy body and is focused on one of the greatest art forms of them all ... the art of dance!



Understanding Dance Education

As a parent, the financial support of your student is important, but of equal—perhaps even greater—value is your emotional support. Encourage your child to be the best that he or she can be without regard to what others may achieve. Dance is an individual art form; each child needs to achieve at a pace that's comfortable for him or her. No two students will progress at the same rate, even if they experience the exact same training. It's important to encourage the children to focus on themselves, give their all, and be satisfied with their own accomplishments.

Dance education encompasses far more than technique or the steps your children will learn. We believe the discipline of dance training gives young people a better understanding of commitment by offering them the chance to learn, experience the spirit of teamwork, and understand what hard work can accomplish. Our goal is to educate the minds, bodies, and souls of our students, and to teach them the skills needed for a successful life, whether or not they stay involved in dance.

Rhee Gold grew up in dance studios and later operated his own, performed and choreographed professionally, owned a leading dance competition, presided over national dance teaching organizations, and founded Project Motivate to reinvigorate dance teachers for the long run. His recent book, "The Complete Guide to Teaching Dance", is currently in its second printing.