

## May Newsletter

**Please read carefully, this newsletter contains important recital information. Keep it handy for reference.**

This is the last month for tuition. I will be sending bills out if your account is past due. Along with your tuition this month, a Performance Fee of \$25.00 is due. This is to cover the cost to rent the building for the recital and gym meet. This fee is for \$25.00 per family, so if you have several children taking there is only one fee due. Please understand that this fee is due before May 15<sup>th</sup>. I do the fee so that we don't have to sell tickets or limit the number of guest that attend these shows. All balances must to be paid before performances or the students will not perform.

As the recital draws near, I always find myself needing extra help backstage. It would not be possible to have a show if it were not for the backstage helpers. This year I am asking if anyone would like to help, there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Since the show is split, I am not asking you to help with your child's show, but with the other. I want you to see your child on stage. This will be for Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. This will mean that you would come early or later depending on which show your child is in. This would be greatly appreciated.

Shoes: Please check your child's ballet, tap and jazz shoes and make sure they still fit. Before you buy a new pair, check the shoe exchange box. If you have used shoes out of the box and your child has outgrown them, please return them so others may use them. Make sure you put your child's name on their shoes. If you buy a new pair of tap shoes, let your child wear them to scuff up the taps before recital. Some classes will be running on stage and the scuffed taps will help prevent them from falling. **Everyone must have the proper shoes for their dance routine now!** It would be a good idea for the next couple of weeks for the children to wear their shoes to come to class, so they can practice in their shoes.

Costume Information: Costumes will be given out starting the first week of May. Make sure your child's name is in each piece of their costume, headpiece, shoes, gloves, bag, etc. This is extremely important. Do not let your child play with their costume. If pieces are lost or damaged, they can not be replaced. Hang the costume up so the wrinkles will fall out. It is a good idea to have two pair of hose in their bag in case one gets damaged. Again, make sure their name is on the extra pair. Panties should not be worn under leotards. No panty hose with thigh lines (use sheer to the waist). Wear strapless bra or bra with clear straps if necessary for your costume. Use clear deo (not the white, obvious kind). A little baby powder can be used to help prevent scratching from sequins. Don't pull the string on the bottom of fringe skirts until dress rehearsal. Check suit straps. Some may need to be re-pinned and or may need a re-enforcement stitch at the bodice. Be very careful putting the suits on. Ease the straps up so that they don't pull a stitch or stretch the material.

Tap Shoe Ties: If your child is performing a tap routine, there will be ribbons in the costume bags to match the costume. Remove their shoe ties and replace them with the ribbon ties. If your child has the Velcro-type straps, the ties can be tied around the straps. This should be done prior to dress rehearsal. Do not place dirty shoes in the same bag with your child's costume.

Recital Week: We will be closed Memorial Day (Monday). We will be setting up make up times for certain classes during that week. Thursday gymnastics classes will not meet at the studio but we may do a extra practice at the Middle School gym on that afternoon. The Saturday morning classes will not meet.

The Gym Meet will be Thursday, June 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Byron Middle School Gym. Girl gym students will need to wear there class leotard and a pair of black shorts (cotton or soccer type). Boy gym students will need to order a recital t-shirt (which will be black with date of program) and wear black shorts (cotton or soccer type). They will not need anything on feet. The Dance programs are held in Macon at Wesleyan College on Forsyth Rd. The dance Dress Rehearsal is Friday, June 4th starting at 6:00 p.m. for the First Show and 8:00 for the second show. They need to **come dressed** and ready to go. The Recital is June 5th starting at 1:00 p.m. for first show and 3:00 p.m. for the second show.

**1<sup>st</sup> Show – Dress Rehearsal starts at 6:00 p.m. – Recital starts at 1:00 p.m.**

Mon 4:00 – Jazz

Mon 4:45 – Jazz

Mon 5:45 – B/T

Mon 6:45 – B/T

Tues 4:30 – Baby 1

Wed 6:00 – Baby 1

Wed 6:00 – Baby II  
Sat 9:30 – Baby 1  
Sat 10:45 – 2 ½ yr  
Sat 10:45 – Baby II  
Monday 6:15 Jazz  
Monday 7:00 Older Dance

**2<sup>nd</sup> Show – Dress Rehearsal starts at 8:00 p.m. – Recital starts at 3:00 p.m.**

Mon 5:30 – Jazz  
Mon 6:15 – Jazz  
Mon 7:00 – B/P  
Tues 4:45 – Baby II  
Tues 5:15 – B/T  
Tues 5:45 – 2 1/2 yr  
Tues 6:15 – Jazz  
Tues 6:30 – Baby II  
Wed 6:00 – 2 ½ yr  
Thur 5:00 – Jazz  
Thur 5:45 – B/T  
Thur 6:00 – Baby 1  
Thur 6:45 – B/T

**Students should go to the restroom before they enter the dressing room – once the show starts there will not be time for them to go.** Keep this in mind before letting them drink a lot before the performance. Makeup is a good idea for the performers on stage. The lights will make them look really pale. You can do as little or as much as you prefer. Let Friday night be a test, if they need more, Saturday you can apply more. **No makeup of any kind is to be backstage. This is to prevent an accident and some ones costume being ruined.** Hair should be neat and away from the face. It can be worn in any style; however, for the gym meet check to make sure what your child will be doing. If they will be doing a roll or headstand, their hair should not be on top of their head. Keep this in mind when picking a style. There will be hairpins in the dressing rooms for emergencies; however, please have your child dressed, their hair arranged and make up applied before they arrive. There is not time nor room for this backstage. They must be dressed and ready to perform. Some of the classes are using props, which will be in the dressing room. These items belong to the studio and should not go home with them after the recital.

Performers should be dressed and ready to go. **We will start on time for both shows.** Please remember this and be on time. Students for the first show should go straight to their dressing rooms and stay in these rooms until they are dismissed after the show. If your child is in the second show, they will have to wait until everyone is dismissed from the first show to enter backstage. Please be aware that there are two shows, if your child is in the first show and you are not staying to watch the second show, exit just as soon as you can so that the guests for the second show can enter and find a seat. There will be a finale for both shows. After each finale the students will go back to dressing room to be dismissed.

Backstage Rules: Parents should take their child to their dressing room. Sign them in and you will sign them out when you pick them up. Parents, please drop them off and leave as soon as possible. No friends will be allowed to remain backstage with the children. Parents and other family and friends should return to the auditorium and enjoy the show. We have great back stage helpers for each group. There are some rules to help things go smoothly backstage. Please make sure that your child has nothing extra in their bag (no gum, toys, makeup, candy, or drinks). This is very important so that nothing happens to their costume or someone else in their class. I will address behavior with each class so they will know what to expect. If students misbehave and I am called to the dressing room, I will stop the show and call the parents out of the audience and the child will be asked to leave and not perform. I do realize this may seem harsh; but, I am not going to tolerate students who will not behave. The helpers are good friends and family who agree each year to help with recital. Students must respect and obey their helpers. Please remind and reinforce this with your child. It is also a good idea for them to wear something over their costume so that nothing gets on it.

Directions to:

Byron Middle School gym is located on Linda Dr. You will enter the side doors facing White Road. This is for the gymnastics program only on Thursday, June 3rd.

Porter Auditorium is where the dress rehearsal and recital are held on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Directions are on the following page.

Note to Parents of the Younger Students: Since, for some of you, this will be your first recital, I wanted to address a few items. The younger children may perform and they may not. For the two and three year olds, it is a big feat to go out on stage with all the lights and people, stay out on stage, and not cry. Some students may do better than others. Some of the students that do great in class may not do anything on stage or the other way around. Please try to encourage your little one. Let them know that you will be in the audience to see them. Encourage them to Dance, Smile, and have Fun! There will be a red line on the stage and students are cautioned not to go past the red line or they will fall off the stage. Help reinforce the importance of stopping before they get to the red line. I am so proud of my little ones. They have grown and accomplished so much since the first weeks of class. I hope you are as proud. Also, some parents, grandparents, etc. bring flowers or a small present for their performer. This is strictly individual preference; but, should not be presented until the program is over and your child has been dismissed.

Peach Productions will be videoing the recital & gym meet again this year. You will be able to video on Friday night which is the dress rehearsal, but no one is allowed to video on Saturday during the recital except for Peach Productions. This cuts down on distractions in the audience. If you would like to purchase a video, the information is attached and should be returned to me by May 20<sup>th</sup>. Also, no video or photography equipment can block the walk way, front of stage or side steps to the stage.

Summer Fun Program: I am currently scheduling classes for the summer. If you are interested in class, please let me know. Classes begin June 15<sup>th</sup> and run for six weeks.

Fall Classes: The recital marks the end of a great year. If your child will not be participating in the Summer Fun Program, information about Fall classes will be mailed to you during the summer. It is important that you return the information as soon as you receive it so you can get into the classes you want.

Questions: The next couple of weeks will be hectic as we complete plans for the performances and the end of another year. Please give me a call if you have questions/concerns about anything or if you just need clarification. I am so proud of each of the girls and boys. They have worked extremely hard this year and have accomplished so much. I hope you will enjoy their performance and will be able to see how they have grown over the last year.

Thank you: I have been teaching dance and gymnastics for fifteen years and have owned by own studio for eleven years. Each year the studio has grown and expanded – not from advertising; but, from working with wonderful children and a great group of supportive parents. Thank you for letting me have a part in your child's life and for eleven tremendous years. Thanks for helping make my dream come true.

Patricia Hodges  
Ms. Patricia's School of Dance and Gymnastics  
"Where Dreams Do Come True"