

Weston News

Volume 22, Issue 2

January 2011

OFFICE

Opening hours: 10.00 am -
1.00 pm (weekdays only)

Personal callers by
appointment only

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Dear Parent,

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and take this opportunity to wish you health and happiness in 2011. Please find some time to read through this newsletter and, if you are a parent of a senior student, pass it on for them to read when you have finished.

As I know many of you already appreciate, trying to put the timetable together is a massive jigsaw puzzle and it is not always possible to accommodate everyone at a personally convenient time. These days children are fortunate to have a very wide range of activities from which to choose and it is not always possible to fit everything in to a busy week. However, it should be appreciated that learning to dance requires a certain amount of dedication and, in order to achieve well in this most demanding of hobbies, students working at higher levels should consider attending more than just one lesson per week.

I am most fortunate that, as a Senior Examiner for the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, I am invited to examine not only in the UK, but throughout Europe. It is always interesting to witness the far superior level of accomplishment in other European countries where, if a student is undertaking a ballet training as a hobby, there is requirement for them to take a minimum of two lessons per week, in addition to any other dance discipline, and this is required from Primary level upwards. By the time they are working at vocational level (Intermediate Foundation and above) they are dancing every day!

Due to the fact that we have lost the use of St Cedd's school hall on Monday evenings, together with the movement of students following exams, there are quite a number of changes to the timetable this term. As I am unable to contact everybody individually, I have made a number of assumptions and would be pleased to hear from you if these are incorrect. I have highlighted the main changes overleaf and also enclose a copy of the full timetable for your information. If your child has been moved to an incorrect class please be so kind as to contact the school office by phone or email as soon as possible.

As a responsible dance training establishment we endeavour to keep our class sizes at a reasonable level and not overcrowd them. With this in mind I would like to make a heartfelt plea to those registered in the Grade 4 ballet class on Fridays. This class is full to bursting and, with the best will in the world, I am unable to provide the individual attention to the students that I would like. I have therefore introduced a second Grade 4 ballet class into the timetable on Tuesdays at St Cedd's School and would be most appreciative if some students could change to that class (or attend as a second lesson). Please telephone or email the office if you can make the change.

I have also included a new "Vocational Ballet" class on Tuesdays at CYGAMS and any students working at Grade 6 or above would be most welcome to attend this additional class. Although the class will not be syllabus based it will, of course, include the syllabus vocabulary required at this high level of qualification. Please be kind enough to register before the beginning of term. /...

.../ The school office opens at 10.00 am on Wednesday 5th January and Mrs Orme and I will be pleased to answer any queries you may have at that time. However, it would be helpful if you could email us with any class changes prior to then: office@theweston.co.uk.

With very best wishes.

Elisabeth Swan
Principal

CONGRATULATIONS

to Miss Ruth who announced her engagement in December to long-time partner, Richard. Wedding bells won't be ringing until 2012 but we take this opportunity to wish them continued happiness in their lives together.

WELCOME

to Jeni Murrell who joins the teaching faculty for our Monday evening adult classes. Miss Swan first met Jeni when she was a Dance Lecturer at Harlow College and Jeni a student (too many

years ago to think about). Jeni has since gone on to qualify as a dance teacher and has been undertaking further training at The Weston for a number of years for her own ongoing personal development. We are delighted that she has agreed to teach these classes and know that you will make her feel very welcome.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

In an effort to ward off the huge volume of "spam" we have changed our email address to office@theweston.co.uk and we

would be grateful if you could use this in future. Our web address remains the same: www.westonschools.co.uk.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

For those of you whose child took their examination at the end of last term their result is enclosed. You will be pleased to know that, instead of 'A', 'B' and 'C' the results are now given as 'Distinction', 'Merit' and 'Pass' - far more user-friendly!

The Royal Wedding

The announcement of a public holiday on Friday 29th April, together with the Bank Holiday on Monday 2nd May, means that the weekend is effectively a four-day holiday and, as such, we would not be wise to schedule classes

over those days. As students will remain in the same classes for both spring and summer terms it has been decided that classes will not be held on Friday 29th April, Saturday 30th April or Monday 2nd May but that they will be held

instead, during the spring term, on Monday 14th February, Friday 18th February and Saturday 19th February. Please be so good as to make a note of these changes in your diaries.

FIRSTLY, THE GOOD NEWS

As you are aware, the rate of VAT increases to 20% as from 4th January 2011. In the case of families already attending the School your invoice is enclosed and includes VAT at 17.5%. Unfortunately, those new in 2011 will have to be charged at 20%.

SECONDLY, THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS

Due to an unprecedented increase

in hall rentals and other overheads we have found it necessary to effect a slight increase in fees as from January.

CHILD SUPERVISION

Please be advised that, where children have a gap between classes (such as at Great Dunmow) we are unable to provide supervision outside of the dance studio. Parents are therefore requested to take

responsibility for their child during these breaks.

UNIFORM SALES

Mrs Bryenton and Mrs Orme will be visiting a number of venues during the first half of term with the uniform. Please see overleaf for dates and times. If you are unable to attend any of these please obtain an order form from your class teacher, or download from the website.

Prizegiving

A very happy afternoon was held at the Civic Theatre on Sunday, 5th September. Our newest member of faculty, Miss Penny Taylor, was guest of honour at our annual prizegiving where we were entertained by some of our youngest Modern and Tap students as well as a selection from our choreography competition. There were excellent performances by our Musical Theatre students, and a Hip-Hop number had all our feet tapping. Mr Ryan Lay, who has left us to take up full-time training at the Italia Conti Academy, enthralled us all with a song from *Billy Elliott*. We were delighted to present so many examination

certificates and congratulate everyone on their achievements last year. Our own special awards were presented as follows: Joan Weston Award for Ballet - Rebecca Carson; Christina Ballard Modern Cup - Michael Smith; Tracy Corp Tap Dance Award - Laura Wilson; Des Claydon Award for Achievement - Kate Rayner; Claire Austin Award - Victoria Hornsby; Sarah Carroll Performance Award - Hannah Johnson; Nicola Jones Award - Kay -Lee Cornwall; Corinna Bourke Award - Jeni Murrell; Doug & Betty Wheatley Memorial Award - Rosie Baker; Rosina Baker Award - Hannah Tomlinson-Roe; Wanbon Award - Joanne Quinney;

Catherine Swan Memorial Award - Belinda Smith; Diamond Award - Ryan Lay; Graduate Award - Jessica Smart.

Certificates of Merit were presented to Lauren Bailey, Kerry Baldwin, Emma Bannister, Laura Barnes, Elliott Bryenton, Marsha Bryenton, Elizabeth Cooper, Jennifer Dale, Louisa Firman, Isabel James, Alexandra Lawrence, Bethan Mapes, Lauren Mountain, Francesca Pankhurst, Rebecca Patel, Francesca Rhodes, Esther Schwartz, Emma Shorey, Ella-Rose Smallwood-Gillan, Harriette Spriggs, Anna Spring and Felicity Wall.

Timetable Changes At A Glance

A copy of the full timetable is enclosed with this newsletter. However, the main changes are as follows:

Weekdays - Farthing Centre

All class times have changed slightly

Mondays - St Cedds Hall

These classes have been distributed elsewhere

Tuesdays - CYGAMS HQ

New Vocational Ballet class
Pointe Work class time changed

Tuesdays - St Cedds Hall

New class times, plus the addition of a new Grade 4 Ballet class
Senior Jazz moved to this day

Tuesdays - Farthing Centre

Adult classes earlier

Thursdays - Farthing Centre

Primary Modern cancelled resulting in the rescheduling of remaining classes.

New DDI Modern Theatre class

Fridays - CYGAMS HQ

New DDE Cecchetti Ballet class

Saturdays - Great Dunmow

Most class times have changed at this branch - please read carefully!

CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Our competition only drew a small entry last September. There may not have been quantity but what we did get was quality!

Congratulations to everyone who took part. The results were as follows:

Winner: "The Tired Tappers", choreographed by Joanne Quinney and Eleanor Smit

Runner Up: "In The Spotlight",

choreographed by Holly Kean

Highly Commended: "Summersky Blues", choreographed by Nicholas Sadowsky & Belinda Smith

MUFTI WEEK

Thank you for your enthusiastic support of Mufti-Week which saw students dressed up as fairies, witches, Snow Whites, Arabian dancers, naughty school girls, comic book characters, ballerinas,

waitresses, fireworks - the list (and your imagination) is endless.

Congratulations to the winners of the Pudsey Bears: Elliott Bryenton, Amy Butler, Alice Cole, Lara Elliott, Lois Gardner, Bart Lambert, Elizabeth Marriott, Marion Pettet, Nick Sadowsky, Imogen Sales, Michael Smith and Eleanor Sumner. A total of £480 was raised for Children In Need.

SCHOOL SHOW

This biennial event is fast approaching and we hope that everyone will want to take part. Performances will take place at the Chelmsford Civic Theatre on 12th to 16th July 2011, although not all students will dance at every performance. Rehearsals will be held on 3rd and/or 9th and 10th July. Please keep all these dates free and await further information which will be supplied during the term.

CHAPERONS REQUIRED

We are in urgent need of volunteers to be chaperons at the School Show, without whom we will be unable to go ahead. It can take up to three months to get a chaperon registered with the local authority, therefore, if you think you might be able to help, please get in touch with Mrs Orme at the Weston office for further information.

JAZZ CLASSES

with Tracy Corp

CYGAMS HQ, Meteor Way, Chelmsford, CM1 2RL

Fourth Sunday of each month:

23rd January ★ 27th February ★ 27th March

6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Suitable for those studying at Intermediate Foundation or above

£12 per class / £30 for all three

THESE CLASSES MUST BE BOOKED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE (minimum numbers required)

Please send your cheque, made payable to
The Weston School,
to: 28 Prykes Drive, Chelmsford, CM1 1TP

stating the student's name and level of class required

DATES FOR THE SPRING & SUMMER TERMS 2011

Office opens - Wednesday 5th January 2011

Spring term commences - Monday 10th January 2011

Half-term - Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th February inclusive plus

Monday 21st to Saturday 26th February inc

Spring term ends - Saturday 2nd April 2011

Office opens - Monday 18th April (closed 22nd to 25th April inc)

Summer term commences-Tuesday 26th April 2011

Half-term - Monday 30th May to Saturday 4th June inc

Summer term ends - Monday 11th July 2011

TEMPORARY CLASS CHANGES

Due to the addition of a public holiday on the day of the Royal Wedding resulting in a four-day bank holiday weekend, classes have been rescheduled in ALL VENUES, as follows:

Friday 29th April - rescheduled to Friday 18th February

Saturday 30th April - rescheduled to Saturday 19th February

Monday 2nd May - rescheduled to Monday 14th February

UNIFORM SALES

Great Dunmow - Saturday 15th January - 10.00am to 12.00pm

Chelmer Village Branch - Thursday 20th January - 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Springfield Branch - Friday 21st January - 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Farthing Centre - Saturday 22nd January - 10.00am to 12.15 pm

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL THE UNIFORM (BALLET, MODERN and TAP) IS TAKEN TO EACH OF THESE VENUES