



Carlson's School of Dance

March 2010

NO CLASSES

During
Spring Break

Last Class:
Saturday,
March 6

Classes
restart:
Monday,
March 22

website

www.carlsons.ca

email

info@carlsons.ca

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GOOD LUCK!

To all of the dancers who are participating in the Cowichan Music Festival this week (February 28-March 3) we wish the best of luck. The Canadian Olympic Athletes are showing us an amazing example of how to handle competition: Be as prepared as you can possibly be, do your very, very best and be gracious and sportsmanlike no matter what the outcome is on your day.

TAX CREDIT RECEIPTS

For Dancers who are new to Carlson's this year [2009/10] the yellow copy of the registration form you filled out in September will serve as your tax credit receipt. Starting in 2010, this will be what all dancers will need for their tax receipt.

The tax credit receipts for those who danced with us from January –June in 2009 have now been mailed. If you have not yet received yours a phone call or an email to the Studio will soon sort it out or simply submit your form [on the website] to the Studio.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 28– Mar 3. Cowichan Music Festival Dance Section.

Wed, March 24 at 7:00 pm.

Vocal and Dance Gala.

Cowichan Theatre.

Reserved Seating: Adult \$10; Child \$8

Sat, March 27 at 7:30 pm.

Highlights Concert.

Cowichan Theatre

Reserved: Adult \$14; Child \$10.

Tickets for the Gala and Highlights Concerts are available in advance from the Cowichan Ticket Centre.

Tue, March 30. A new session of the **3 Year Old Parent/Tot Class** starts. Registration is at 1:00 pm on that day and the class starts at 1:15. The cost is \$50. for 10 weeks.

Wed, April 7. Ballet Victoria presents **Carmina Burana** at the Cowichan Theatre.

Sat, May 29. Picture Day. See more details on page 2.

June 7-10. Recital Rehearsals every day from 4-8 pm at the Cowichan Theatre.

June 11, at 7:00 pm, **June 12** at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. **Carlson's Recitals.**

June 14-19. Last week of Classes for the 2009/10 Year following the Shows.

DANCE CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Each year Carlson's arranges for pictures to be taken of every dance class wearing their recital costumes. Individual photos are also available. The photos are similar to those taken for sports teams and are taken by LifeTouch Photography from Parksville.

Pre-Pay Envelopes will be distributed with the May Newsletter. You can decide which pictures you would like for each class for example, a group, an individual, a page of 5 individuals, etc. Fill out the envelope, put your payment inside and hand it to the photographer on Picture Day just before the pictures are taken. More details about picture choices, the pre-pay envelopes and a schedule for the day will also be available in the **May Newsletter**. Take a look at the May 2009 Newsletter on our website if you are curious. The process this year will be the same.

Picture day will be on Saturday, May 29 starting at 9:30 a.m. and will continue throughout the day. **Costumes must be ready for Picture Day.** The Pictures will be available during the last week of classes after the Recital and at Registration in September.

THANK-YOU FOR THE MONEY

*You may feel, at this time of year that you are being "enveloped" to death, especially if your dancer is involved in both exams and festival. We appreciate that everyone has been so helpful in getting the envelopes back to your teachers. It may seem like the amounts on some of the envelopes are trifling but if you think of the festival, for example, with 50 groups each costing an average of \$45 it adds up. When you are asked for extra for a costume that costs more than your \$40 or \$60 costume fee there is a costume maker out there who has paid out extra money and needs it back. This month, the costume money is being given to the teachers and to costume makers and more classes than ever before are **totally paid up**, causing much less hassle for those responsible for providing the costumes. Having over 80 classes costumed before picture day is a giant task. Anything that makes the process go more smoothly is helpful and **we thank you for your cooperation!***

WHY TAKE DANCE EXAMS?

At Carlson's School of Dance, exams are offered in Ballet, Tap, Modern Jazz and Hip Hop. Not every dance school offers exams but we choose to because we feel that exams benefit dancers in a number of ways. Exams give the children a goal to set for themselves and they work hard to achieve it. As they grow in dance they learn to work on their own technique without comparison to other students; exams help them measure their progress. When a student passes an exam she has demonstrated a standard that is recognized all over the world. If she moves to a new dance school, her level of dance is immediately and clearly known. In B.C., Secondary School Fine Arts credits are given for RAD Grades 5 and up (and for similar levels in the ISTD and AIDT). Exams also give parents a standard of measurement as their children move through the dance syllabus.

The School also benefits from using Exams in that there is a technical standard set for the school; it gives us a valid credential that is measurable internationally. Our teachers always have a high standard and work hard for and with the children but the exam program adds another dimension. The impending exam forces the teacher to require a certain standard from every child taking the exam. She can't let the child enter the exam underprepared. Even the dancers who do not take the exam are benefiting from this preparation because the standard of the whole class is rising. In fairness to the students who follow our guidelines there is less tolerance for students (after Grade 3) who like to take exam classes but do not choose to take exams or take the required number of classes. These cases are considered on an individual basis.

The fees for exams are paid to the international associations. No money is retained by the School except that which pays for the pianist who plays for the exams.