



November 2004

NEWSLETTER NEWS

The **Carlson's School of Dance** Newsletter is now appearing on our Website and we will not be providing as many printed copies. Please let us know if this is working for you. Look for new issues at the beginning of every month (except September and January) of the school year.

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Carlson's School of Dance

MUSIC FESTIVAL COMING IN MARCH

Deadline for Entries: December 4.

Some classes are preparing a dance for the Cowichan Music Festival which takes place during the first week of March. If your child's class is involved you will be hearing about costumes and festival entry fees in November.

Solos, Duets, & Trios. The Festival Syllabus is now available for a cost of \$2.00 from Now Showing or Duncan Music. The registration form for solo, and small group (duet, trio) entries is in the front of the Syllabus. Parents and dancers who are entering solos should be collecting their music information—time, composer, publisher—toward having your entry ready for the Dec 4 deadline.

Masterclasses are available with the adjudicators in Ballet, Jazz and Tap at a cost of \$15.00. These classes are a great opportunity for dancers to work with a variety of talented teachers without the expense of travel and course fees that is usually involved. You must register for these classes on the festival entry form by Dec 4.

Completed entry forms with fees (made payable to Cowichan Music Festival) may be left at the studio office and we will make sure they go to the Entries Chairperson with our Group Entries by Dec 4.

SOME REMINDERS

1) Names on Dance Shoes. All dance shoes should have your child's name written inside in case they are ever left at the studio.

2) Clean Shoes for Hip Hop. No street shoes are permitted on the dance floors. Dancers must change their shoes before entering the studios.

3) Please pick up your children promptly after dance class. There is no supervision of children waiting while classes are in session.

4) Costume Deposits. There are some students for whom we have not received the costume deposit of \$40.00. This should be given to the teacher soon (made **payable to Carlson's Costumes and dated before December 15**). In the near future, costume Moms will be starting to purchase fabric for costumes and will need the fees from the whole class.

5) Other Costume Info

- \$40 will not necessarily cover the cost of some costumes. You may be asked for additional money or you may have a refund returned to you.
- The costumes are the property of the students.

6) Recital Dates are June 17 (2:00 p.m.) and 18 (2:00 and 7:00 p.m.), 2005. Three rehearsals will be held in the week leading up to these dates.

FRIENDS OF CARLSON'S CORNER

Since the Fall of 2000, The Friends of Carlson's, a group of dedicated parents, have been working quietly in support of the students at Carlson's. **Their stated purpose in the past 2 years has been to create a feeling of belonging for each student at Carlson's.** They have raised money through a raffle each Spring and sponsored **Carlson's Gear** which is reasonably priced T-Shirts and Sweat jackets and pants with Carlson's and Dance Logos. They have also presented each student at the Recital with a **Carnation** at the end of the show and made **floral presentations to the teachers** on behalf of every dancer. And, at the end of June, they have organized a **free picnic** for all Carlson's families with activities for the children and a lip sync performance opportunity that the dancers have really enjoyed participating in.

With very few parents involved, the Friends have run out of energy and will not be continuing. If you are interested in participating in this worthy organization please call Clarice Iannidinaro 746-4715. If there is no interest shown before we break for Christmas, the Friends of Carlson's will be disbanded.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, 6:00--8:00 p.m.
Cherie Nicholas

Wednesday, 4:00--6:00 p.m.
Joyce Scott

Friday, 3:30--5:00 p.m.
Cherie Nicholas

WHY TAKE DANCE EXAMS?

At Carlson's School of Dance exams are offered in Ballet (Royal Academy of Dance), in tap (Association of International Dance Teachers), and in Modern Jazz (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance). Not every dance school offers exams but we choose to because we feel that exams benefit dancers in a number of ways. First, 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 he moves to a new dance school, his 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.

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. The price lists for RAD (ballet), AIDT (tap) and ISTD (modern jazz) will be posted on our website in the near future.

The teachers decide which students are eligible to be examined, a letter is sent home, and then the parent and student decide whether to proceed. Students who don't take the exam generally move to the next level as long as they know and understand the work and are ready to move on.

Your commitment in the form of the exam fee payment must be received before your child may be entered in the exam.