

Towsontowne Recreation Council Dance Program

August, 2009

Dear Parents & Dancers,

On behalf of the council and teaching staff, I would like to welcome you back to an exciting new season of dance. We are already making plans for even more spectacular recitals. The date of the recitals is tentatively planned for the end of April/beginning of May. As soon as we know of a definite date and times, we will let you know.

CLASSES OFFERED

This year, our program will offer Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Pointe, Adult Ballet, Adult Jazz, Adult Tap, Hawaiian and Advanced Maori (for Advanced Hawaiian Only). Note: For information on Company tryouts, please see below. **ALL CLASSES WILL BE FILLED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS, HOWEVER, THE SCHEDULING OF CLASSES WILL BE DETERMINED BY WHETHER OR NOT WE RECEIVE ADEQUATE REGISTRATION FOR THE CLASS.**

DAYS/LOCATIONS OFFERED:

Classes will be offered on Mondays and Fridays at Riderwood Elementary, located on Landrake Road; Tuesdays at Ridge Ruxton Center, located on Charles Street (Tuesdays are reserved for Company classes, Pointe, Tap Production & Adult classes ONLY); and on Wednesdays at Cromwell Valley Elementary, located on Providence Road.

COMPANY TRYOUTS:

We will again have TRYOUTS for Dance Company, SR. Dance Company and Hip Hop Company. Due to the complexity of technique and the demanding role of a Company dancer, you must be at least 9 years old by 12/31/09 to try out for Dance Company or Hip Hop Company and at least 12 years old by 12/31/09 to try out for SR. Dance Company. There is no upper age limit for any of the Companies.

A serious attitude, dedication and the proper approach to a Company is as important as the technical abilities of the dancer. It should be noted that without such qualities, one cannot succeed in Company. **It is only fair to the other members of a Company that a dancer CANNOT REMAIN IN COMPANY unless ALL of the above requirements are met.** You may tryout for Dance Company, SR. Dance Company and/or Hip Hop Company as long as you meet the above requirements. If you were in any of the Companies last year, you still must tryout again.

We are excited to announce that all members in our Companies will again perform in a combined Company Production in the recitals. (As you may recall, in the past, we have done Company productions such as "HGH SCHOOL MUSICAL", "CATS" & "GREASE" to name a few). Additional details will be provided at a later date if you are selected for a company.

Tryouts will be held at Ridge Ruxton Center (see schedule below). Sorry, no parents are allowed to observe the tryouts; the dancers will be nervous enough. The dates and times of the tryouts are as follows:

DANCE COMPANY	Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm RIDGE RUXTON CENTER in the cafeteria
SR DANCE COMPANY	Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 8:30 - 9:20 pm RIDGE RUXTON CENTER in the cafeteria
HIP HOP COMPANY	Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 6:45 - 8:15 pm RIDGE RUXTON CENTER in the cafeteria

All Companies are tentatively scheduled to meet regularly on either **TUESDAYS** at Ridge Ruxton in the cafeteria on **FRIDAYS** at Riderwood in the gym. Days and times cannot be established until after tryouts.

This year's Dance Company is scheduled to perform a Jazz (broadway style) number in the recital. (This is subject to change). Jazz and Ballet experience is preferred for Dance Company but not required. SR. Dance Company is scheduled to perform either a Lyrical Ballet or Lyrical Jazz number. A **STRONG** Ballet background is required for SR. Dance Company and Jazz experience is preferred but not required. As far as Hip Hop Company, it is **STRONGLY** preferred that these dancers be able to execute certain dance techniques such as the Roger Rabbit, Running Man, etc. but this is not a requirement.

PLEASE NOTE: All companies will perform in **BOTH** recitals.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are trying out for any of the Companies, you **MUST** still register for at least one regular class. If you are selected for Company(s), you may continue in your regular class(es) as well as dance only in the Company(s). We are sorry but we **MUST** know your decision regarding this matter **BEFORE WALK-IN REGISTRATION** so we can avoid overloading the waiting lists. You will be notified by mail within one week after tryouts.

POINTE:

Also, as previously mentioned, we will be offering Pointe again this year. Miss Trish adheres to very strict guidelines regarding eligibility. If you are interested in trying out for Pointe, at the very least, you must be 12 years of age by 12/31/09, and have at least **5 YEARS OF BALLET EXPERIENCE**. Ballet **MUST** be taken concurrently with Pointe. If you would like additional information or are interested in being evaluated for Pointe, please give me a call as soon as possible. **PLEASE NOTE:** Pointe will be held on **TUESDAYS** at Ridge Ruxton in the cafeteria. The time cannot be established until after walk-in registration.

OTHER AGE REQUIRMENTS:

- **BALLET** dancers must be at least 4 years old by 12/31/09.
- **JAZZ** dancers must be at least 5 years old by 12/31/09.
- **TAP & HAWAIIAN** dancers must be at least 6 years old by 12/31/09.

PLEASE NOTE: In order for your child to participate in our dance program, he/she must be old enough/mature enough to sit with his/her class during the recital (not with his/her parents) for the duration of the recital. If you are interested in supervising one of our **groups**, please mark the appropriate box on your registration form.

RECITAL FEE:

With the downsizing of the recreation offices and school personnel, effective a few years ago, we are required to pay the janitors on the rehearsal and recital days. In addition, we will need to pay to have our book copied. To help defer these costs, there will be a **RECITAL FEE DUE THE FIRST CLASS** of **\$5.00 PER DANCER** or if you have more than one dancer in our program, **\$9.00 PER FAMILY**.

REGISTRATION:

The registration fee is **\$140.00** for a ½ hour class and **\$150.00** for a 45 minute class. Most classes are usually ½ hour classes depending upon the school and space availability, size of the class and complexity of the class (ie. Company classes are always 45 minute classes). **IN ORDER TO SIMPLIFY REGISTRATION, AGAIN THIS YEAR WE WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO ONLY SUBMIT \$140.00 PER CLASS. IF IT IS LATER DEEMED THAT YOU DANCER'S CLASSES WILL BE A 45 MINUTE CLASS, WE WILL NOTIFY YOU THAT AN ADDITIONAL \$10.00 PER CLASS IS DUE.** The registration includes lessons for the entire dance season (Sept - May), \$35.00 towards the cost of the costume (excluding shoes, tights, and gloves if applicable), awards, certificates, and a small gift from the Council. NOTE: You can include your recital fee with your registration money.

A word about costumes...Each year, we travel on our own time and expense to a dance costume outlet in Pennsylvania to purchase as many costumes at discounted rates as is possible. Every year, however, the amount and variety of costumes available have decreased while the discount prices have continued to increase. We normally only need to order costumes for 4 or 5 classes from costume catalogs. Last year, as well as in the past, we had to order for at least 25 classes. The catalog prices are much higher and also include shipping and handling charges. Some of the dancers are in adult sizes which also increases the cost as adult sizes simply cost more. We will do everything in our power to keep the cost down, but we may have to inform you later in the beginning of January of an additional cost for those costumes that exceed \$35.00.

REFUND POLICY:

After your child takes **ONE CLASS**, there will be **NO REFUNDS AND YOU LOSE ALL RIGHTS TO THE PROGRAM (AND THIS INCLUDES COSTUME)** if you child drops the program **FOR ANY REASON** during the '09-'10 dance season (Sept - May). **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** If you have a problem, you **MUST** notify the chairman (not the instructors) immediately **BEFORE YOUR CHILD TAKES CLASS**.

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION:

As always, class size will be limited. Classes will be filled on a **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS**. Last year, as well as in the past, many classes were filled **BEFORE** Walk-In Registration. With the program expanding and limited classroom space available, we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you return your mail-in registration form and money (**DEPOSIT REQUIRED**) to us as soon as possible to reserve your spot. Registration forms and money **MUST BE RECEIVED BY SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2009. MAIL-IN REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE PROCESSED WITH WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS**. This is to allow us ample time to set-up a tentative schedule of classes. **PLEASE NOTE: WE MUST HAVE A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF STUDENTS IN ORDER TO SCHEDULE A CLASS.**

WALK-IN REGISTRATION:

Walk-In Registration will be held on **Monday, September 14th** at Riderwood Elementary outside the gym (lobby) from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm and on **Wednesday, September 16th** at Cromwell outside the gym (lobby) from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Ridge Ruxton registrations will be accepted at either location.

REGISTERING:

ALL REGISTRATIONS SHOULD BE PAID BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER. CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED IF NECESSARY. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TOWSONTOWNE REC. COUNCIL. If you are registering more than 1 child, please complete a registration form for each child. If you need additional forms, it is perfectly acceptable to photo copy your registration form. Please mail completed registration form(s), along with the appropriate registration money to:

**PAT WAGNER
Towsontowne Rec. Council
8815 Victory Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234-4211**

No checks should be given to the instructor or assistants. All checks should be given or mailed to the chairman.

REGISTRATION/DEMAND WILL DETERMINE THE TYPE AND AGE GROUP OF CLASSES FOR EACH DAY. You will be notified **BY MAIL AFTER THE WALK-IN REGISTRATIONS** of your dancer's class time and day. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR WRITTEN NOTIFICATION BY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, PLEASE CALL US. Please wait until then BEFORE YOU CALL.**

PLEASE NOTE: **IF YOU REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN) TO DANCE ON DIFFERENT DAYS, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THOSE CLASSES WILL PERFORM IN THE SAME RECITAL. PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN YOU REGISTER.** We will do our best to accommodate everyone's first choice.

DANCE ATTIRE/SHOES:

During the year, proper **DANCE ATTIRE** is **REQUIRED**. Dancers may wear leotards, tights, dance crop tops and bike shorts/pants. All clothing must be **TIGHT FITTING**, to not restrict movement and so the instructors may see the lines of the body for proper placement. **T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND SWEATERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN CLASS.** Please remove these items **BEFORE ENTERING CLASS** to avoid leaving them behind. For the cooler months, if your dancer does not have a long sleeve leotard, we suggest that she wears a turtleneck **UNDERNEATH** her leotard. All hair should be pulled back off the face so it does not distract the dancer's concentration. Please review the policy on dance attire with your dancer. A dancer will not be permitted to participate in class if he/she is not properly dressed.

All dancers must have proper dance shoes. **PINK** Ballet shoes **WITH ELASTIC STRAPS ARE REQUIRED** for Ballet, Jazz, Hawaiian/Maori and SR. Dance Company. **PINK, WHITE OR BLACK SLIPPERS MAY NOT BE WORN.** (NOTE: Hawaiian/Maori classes will perform barefoot in the recital.) **TAN** Tap shoes or **TAN HEEL** tap shoes are necessary for Tap. (NOTE: **IF YOUR DANCER ALREADY HAS BLACK TAP SHOES, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO BUY TAN. YOU CAN PURCHASE TAN TAP SHOES WHEN A NEW PAIR IS NEEDED.** We are converting our Tap program from **BLACK** to **TAN** Tap shoes. (Tan **HEEL** tap shoes may be only worn **UNDER THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTORS.**) **POINTE** shoes **MUST** be purchased with Miss Trish to ensure proper fit. **BLACK JAZZ** shoes are required for Dance Company. **BLACK JAZZ** shoes are required for Hip Hop Company. **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE BLACK JAZZ SHOES OR BOOTS UNTIL YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR COMPANY(S).** Please mark all dance shoes with your dancer's name. If you have used dance shoes to sell, please give me a call as soon as possible (preferably **BEFORE WALK-IN REGISTRATION**).

NOTE: IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE "FIT" OF YOUR DANCER'S SHOES, PLEASE ALLOW ONE OF THE INSTRUCTORS TO LOOK AT THE SHOES ON YOUR DANCER'S FEET before they walk in them. The dance shoe stores will not exchange shoes that have been walked in.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

The dancers will be called into class and dismissed by Miss Trish. Please have the dancers waiting outside the classroom at the appropriate time and remind your dancer to use the restroom **BEFORE CLASS** so as not to interrupt the flow of the lesson. No gum or candy is allowed in class. No hoop or large earrings should be worn. Please keep all jewelry worn to a bare minimum. Also, we ask that the younger dancers leave all toys, dolls, play jewelry, etc. **OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**, and please keep small children quiet while class is in session. (Please remain outside the classroom. An observation day called "Parents Sit-In" is tentatively scheduled for sometime in January/February).

CLASSES BEGIN:

Classes will begin on the following dates:

- **MONDAY** classes - Monday, September 21, 2009 (no classes will be held on the 28th due to the holiday)
- **TUESDAY** classes - Tuesday, October 6, 2009 (due to tryouts)
- **WEDNESDAY** classes - Wednesday, September 23, 2009
- **FRIDAY** classes - Friday, September 25, 2009

If you have any questions or comments now or during the course of the dance season, please feel free to give me a call. **PLEASE NO PHONE CALLS AFTER 9:00 PM.** We are looking forward to another exciting dance season. Thanking you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

Pat Wagner
VOLUNTEER CHAIRMAN

410-665-2908

BALTIMORE COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS