

February Newsletter

Getting Ready for a Performance

As soon as we start session 2 we are doing all kinds of things to get ready for the spring performance. We want all of our students and parents to be aware of some of the things that will be going on in the next few week.

Over the next couple of weeks your dancers instructor will be checking everyone's shoes, cutting the drawstrings and taping them under. We will also be writing their names in them. If your dancer doesn't have pink leather ballet slippers

they will need them prior to the performance in May.

As the weather gets warmer (hard to imagine right now...) dancers often express an interest in getting shorter hair styles. We really appreciate it if the dancers can still get their hair in a bun for the performance, so please be careful how much you cut off and if your dancer wants to cut off a lot, please consider waiting until after the performance

to do so. It is also a good idea to use class to practice perfecting your bun skills. If it makes it though an entire class without falling down, then you've conquered the bun!

Dancers will be asked to wear their own tights and leotards to the theatre and in most cases will wear them under their costumes. Please take a little time to put your dancers name in their leotard and tights to be sure that we can return them to you if they are left at the studio or theatre.



Performance Fees

Please remember that performance fees will be appearing on your monthly invoices. You have until March to pay this \$25 performance fee. Perform-

ance fees are used to create, alter, and clean costumes used by the dancers. This fee is per dancer, but not per costume/dance. So each dancer partici-

pating in the performance will need to pay a fee. You may include this on one of your tuition payment or submit it as a separate payment mid-month.

Inside this issue:

Class Attendance	2
Matching Donations	2
Observation Week	2
Winter Weather	3
Voicemail	3
Birthday Party	3
Growing Studio	4

Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ *Spring Break*—
March 21-26
- ◆ *Picture Week*—
April 25-30
- ◆ *Observation Week*—
May 9-14
- ◆ *Dress Rehearsal*—
May 20
- ◆ *Performances*—
May 21-22

Class Attendance

Class attendance is always important to maintain proper technique.

However it will be even more important than ever over the next month or two.

We will be using class time to learn the spring concert dances. It is much easier for the teachers and stu-



dents when the entire class is present. If your dancer does miss a class

we will of course go back and teach them the portions they missed.

We just like to stress how much easier it is to learn it the first time rather than having to play catch up.

We are headed into another round of cold and flu season, so we know dancers will miss because of illness. Please remember to contact the office if your dancer will be missing class as it is always helpful for the instructor to know who will be gone. It also lets us know that your dancer is safe!

Matching Donations

Many employers in the community will match their employees donations to a non-profit group. Check with your employer to see if they participate. If so, your donation as well as your employer's is

Due to some grant funding we are able to bring an amazing piece of guest choreography into Mankato. Our advanced dancers will be performing Alexander Nevsky by Kay Englert at this years spring concert.

tax deductible, you become one of the stu-

dios patrons, and will be noted in the spring concert program. Thank you to the families that have already participated in this matching opportunity, your donations are greatly appreciated!

Observation Week

We'll be filling you in more on observation week as it gets closer, but we'd like to make sure you have it on your calendars!

Observation week is one week of classes that you, your family, grandparents, and friends are allowed to come into the

classroom and watch your dancer. It is a fun day where the dancers take class for you and then run their spring dance so you can see it before the show.

The instructor will also take



some time to talk about the performance and what to expect etc. More details to come, but for now mark your calendars for the week of May 9th-14th.

Winter Weather Continues to Be Troublesome

This winter continues to shower us with snowstorm after snowstorm. We don't usually have winters with such a steady stream of snow. This has caused problems for many of you when trying to attend classes and rehearsals, and continues to affect Miss Eryn's commute from the Twin Cities. Please remember that if school is canceled or early release due to the weather MBC is automati-



cally closed for classes that day. Late start days we WILL still have class.

If you are ever unsure please call the studio voicemail system and it will tell you if there is class or not. On days we are closed we always send out a mass email, change the voicemail at the studio and will call the TV stations. The stations won't put us on their scroll bar, but will list us on their website for you to check.

Saturdays tend to be difficult to call because we don't have the school system to rely on. If Miss Eryn can't make it to Mankato due to the weather we will call off classes and call everyone.

Occasionally, the weather may be bad in the Cities, but fine in Mankato. If Miss Eryn can't make it she will try to arrange a substitute teacher so that classes can go on as normal. If for any reason that a sub can't be found we will call off classes by calling everyone individually.

New Voicemail System

MBC now has a new voicemail system. Since this system can be checked and changed remotely it is now being checked daily. We can also update it should classes need to be canceled for weather related issues. So please take advantage of this by checking for closures by calling in. You can also feel confident leaving a message that it will be returned in a timely fashion. We look forward to serving you better!

Spring Concert Information:

**Performances will be held at:
Bethany Lutheran College
Saturday May 21 at 1pm and 5pm
Sunday May 22 at 1pm
Tickets will be available in April.**

Birthday Parties

Don't forget that your dancer can have her birthday party at the studio. If you are interested in using the studio space for a "Ballerina Birthday Party" please contact us

at:



info@mankatoballet.com

What do you get when you have a "Ballerina Birthday Party"....? You get to rent the studio for 2 hours, have an MBC teacher teach a short class, and wear ballerina tutus all for \$100.

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MANKATO
BALLET
COMPANY

New Board Members and Officers

Several board members had terms that were up as of December 31, 2010 we recently welcomed several new board members and a change of officers.

We would like to welcome Nancy Zallek as our new Vice President. Jenny Michels is now our President, Janet Moldstad is now our Treasurer, and Travis Carpenter is our Secretary. Other Board Members include: Cathi Fouchi, Jonas Nissen, and Wendy Betters.

Our Growing Group of Dancers

In its heyday Mankato Ballet Company boasted 135 students. Today we are close to that number at 126 students strong. We are thrilled at the progress our studio has made in the last few years. Our student base has grown because of your kind referrals, our dancers beautiful performances, and a greater presence in

the community. We look forward to seeing this trend continue. We are already making plans to add more classes to accommodate

kato Ballet Company is only as strong as its families and supporters, so thank you to everyone who has volunteered, donated



items and time, and to even the littlest dancers who bring smiles to the faces of those who watch them

growing class sizes. We are seeing exciting things happen like live piano music in some of the classes. Man-

enjoy their classes!