



The Maine Dance Academy-December Newsletter 2020

Merry Christmas

THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATION:

Thank you to the 62 families that donated so generously to our food drive for the Catholic Charities Food bank. Our donation to Catholic Charities as always, was very much appreciative! THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH! You can't imagine what our thoughtfulness has done for so many needy families in our area. I feel immensely proud to be part of this kind deed that we happily do each year.

We will pick the winner of the "Half-Tuition" contest at our Senior practice on December 9th, 2020 and we will let everyone know through Messenger who the lucky winner is right before Christmas!. We will pull the lucky name out of a hat...good luck to all who donated!

Important Dates for Everyone:

Week of November 30, 2020: Dance and Tumbling.

Wednesday, December 2, 2020: Senior Practice from 7:15-9pm

Week of December 7, 2020: Dance and Tumbling

Wednesday, December 9, 2020: Senior Practice from 7:15-9pm

Week of December 14, 2020: Christmas Parties in all classes with ornament exchange.

Christmas Break from December 18 through January 3, 2020

Week of January 4, 2021 : Dance and Tumbling

Senior and Youth Practice:

Wednesday, DECEMBER 2, 2020:

Talking after #2, # 5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #11, #12

Seniors and youth cast members: *it is your responsibility to know if you are in any of these talking segments above. Refer to the Frozen 2 script from Messenger.*

Wednesday, DECEMBER 9, 2020:

Review of everything thus far before Christmas break

Christmas Parties:

We will have Christmas Parties in all classes on December 15, 16 & 17, 2020. Again, we will have regular class with taping in all classes so that our students have something to practice over our Christmas break. The parties will take place the last 15 minutes of each class. Each student is asked to bring in a **wrapped Christmas Ornament for an ornament exchange.** (Be aware when purchasing ornaments that there are boys in Nigel, Twitch, Troupe, Pavlova and Retton) This has been a tradition for us at TMDA and the students look forward to it. Thanks for helping us make it special for our students!

Winter Announcements:

I will only cancel dance due to SNOW when/if all the area schools are cancelled..... I will post on my website under Colleen's Corner and all over my Facebook pages (and tag as many of you as possible) by noon of the day of dance if I have decided to cancel dance for that evening. If we do cancel dance on a specific day and it is possible for me and Delaney to travel into the studio, then we will Zoom all of our classes for that particular day. **(More on ZOOM below).**

During the winter months, it is imperative that kids enter quickly from outdoors. **Please do not hold the door open for others.** Come in quickly and move away from the doors to remove your boots. Then quickly go into the waiting area with your coats and bags so that we can keep the flow of traffic moving. **Please speak to your children about this so they know how we wish them to handle coming into the studio.**

PS: It has started to happen again that children are going home with the wrong boots and dance shoes. Can we be extra careful and check that we in fact have the correct boots and coats before going home? **Also, please put their names in their coats, boots, dance shoes and anything else that would help us make sure that all kids are going home with their own stuff.** Thanks parents for helping your children with this.

Bathroom Breaks:

Please, please and please make sure your children go to the bathroom before coming to dance and tumbling, especially the little ones. We are not allowed to take your children to the bathroom and many of them ask frequently to use the bathroom. Thanks for helping us with this!

Masks and waiting for us to flick the outdoor lights:

Parents please make sure that all children have masks that properly fit their faces. It defeats the purpose of mask wearing if your instructors are continually putting your children's masks back on their faces. Also, many come to us without any masks at all and this cannot continue to happen. I have strict guidelines that I must follow so please, help me keep my ACADEMY doors open until we get through all of this?

Also, all parents must be wearing masks if you come to the studio doors to pick-up your children. Even if you are outside, the number of parents potentially waiting outside exceeds the numbers that the CDC has currently set for our studio. Please, adhere to this rule!

Finally, the weather is only going to get colder so please, do not send your children to wait outside for their class. We will flick the lights when we are ready for the next class to enter. We only flick the lights when both Miss Delaney and I are ready for our next classes to begin so PLEASE, wait for us to do this. When one class leaves the studio, we have about 5 minutes to clean before the next class can come in. **WE CANNOT TAKE THE NEXT CLASS IN UNTIL WE HAVE CLEANED THE STUDIO SO PLEASE JUST WAIT UNTIL WE FLICKER THE LIGHTS.**

The names of each dance class are on the door that they should enter and these change EVERY WEEK (Except for Temple & Napoleon who always come in the back door while Nigel and Pavlova come in the front door) so please pay attention to these signs. Tumbling is different as Retton enters and exits the front door, while Conner and Korbut enter the back and exit the front. Thank you for helping us keep your kids safe!

Tying of LACES for ballet classes:

Please practice with your children....it has been taking Miss Emily and I about 15 minutes of valuable Pavlova time to properly tie SO MANY LACES. We do not mind however, we have less time to do what actually needs to be done in Pavlova. Lopokova laces are also being mis-tied and we have been having sessions on that each week when they enter. These laces must be tied by students....trust us Mommies....you want them to tie their own laces. Thanks for helping us, help you!!

Tuition Fees:

Please make sure your tuition fees are caught up. I have sent as many VENMO reminders as possible that I can to those with outstanding balances for VENMO payment. A \$10 late fee per week has been accruing so please take care of these. Late fees accrue on late Payment-Plans as well. We do not see Parents anymore to remind you of late payments so please make sure you take care of these ASAP.

Moana DVD's:

This is the last week for orders and they are now \$35 each as I have already put in my first order. Make sure these are paid for this week!

Store Hours:

Just wanted to remind everyone what the dance store hours are for December:

December 1 & 2, 2020 and December 15 & 16, 2020. **WE WILL EXTEND ALL OF OUR BLACK FRIDAY DEALS FOR DECEMBER 1 & 2. 2020 ONLY.**

Tuesday: 4:15-8:15pm

Wednesday: 4:15-6:30pm

Thursday: Closed

ZOOM FOR "CANCELLED" or "DESIGNATED RED" DANCE CLASSES:

We are finally all set up to begin to Zoom our dance classes. This has been a huge under-taking since our studio has been in a "Dead-Zone" for the internet since I have owned the studio. However, with the help of our "Tech-Genius" and Dance-Dad, **Kyle Washington**, we were finally able to work with Spectrum to have it successfully installed in our studio. We have purchased two I-pads and a Business Package of Zoom to be able to simultaneously Zoom from both studios. A huge shout-out to Dance-Mom, **Jenn Michaud** for setting up our Zoom system in both dance studios and for educating me about Zoom. Jenn has also typed up the following directions for all of you so that we can all master Zoom as quickly and easily as possible.

** I do realize that many of you have probably never used Zoom before (I had not either) but with the following guidelines, I think we can smoothly make this transition to never having to cancel classes again. Remember, we had never used Dropbox or Messenger before either, but these two systems have made all of our lives with dance choreography so much easier and I am sure, Zoom will too!

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS:

1-You can join a Zoom meeting from any electronic device connected to Wi-Fi or the Internet. There are 2 ways to access Zoom, depending on what device you will be using.

A-If you are using a cellphone or tablet, you need to download the Zoom app.

B-If you are using a laptop or desktop computer, you can access Zoom directly from any web browser by typing in Zoom.com.

2- You will need to create a Zoom account, and this is a free app for everyone.

3-To join a Zoom meeting: Click the link provided to you or enter the meeting ID and password provided to you. **(These links will be forthcoming to all of you through Messenger this week.)**

4-Each dance/tumbling class has a different Zoom link. **This link will remain the same for the entire year in case we need to use it at any time.**

5-Each participant will be muted upon entry and I ask that you remain muted to ensure that everyone can hear the instructor.

6-The Zoom class settings are set up that there is no waiting room, and you can still join if you are late. Just come on in!

7- The Zoom passwords are meant for only those that we give ACCESS too and CANNOT BE SHARED WITH ANYONE. We have created Meetings and Passwords for each dance class and these cannot be shared between classes OR WITH ANYONE ELSE. (If anyone shares these passwords or links then they will be removed from that link for the remainder of the year. We will take this seriously.)

8-Unfortunatly, there is no way to Zoom tumbling classes as everyone involved would have to have a home gymwe will do our best to reschedule any cancelled tumbling classes.

9- We will Zoom our classes for the following reasons only: **snow cancellations or if a school has been designated RED**. If a school has been designated RED, it will be **your responsibility** to let us know so that we can Zoom you into our class. It is impossible for us to know which schools are RED from day to day so each parent will have to notify us through Messenger if your school has gone red and then we will Zoom in that class until the Red designation has been removed. **WE WILL NOT ZOOM IF YOUR CHILD IS ILL FOR SOME REASON OR YOU ARE TRAVELLING OR ANY OTHER REASON YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO CLASS.** We will ONLY Zoom if we cancel class due to snow or if a school has been designated RED.

Again, we realize that Zoom may be new to many of you, but I assure you, **just one click** of the link that I send you will allow you access to the studio and your instructors! Please be looking for this link this week-end! Breathe, we can do this! Good luck!

Frozen 2 Recital Up-date:

I am so very sorry that we cannot have a Christmas Show this year....sometimes things just seem a little unfair. However, I am hopeful for our end-of the-year recital! With the news of a vaccine in the near future, I am optimistic that we can schedule our recital. I am looking into moving our recital to June 18, 19 and 20, 2021 (past all the graduation dates) so that maybe the worse will be over by then and even if we cannot have an indoor recital, then we can plan to have an outdoor recital. I wanted to give everyone a heads up about this news. I will know more in January...so please keep an eye on those updates. If we do move our recital back, we will then have some planned weeks off from dance and tumbling in January and March as we have had before.

Dance Resumes January 5 & 6 and Tumbling resumes January 7, 2021!

I want to take this time to thank all of my employees for their outstanding dedication to TMDA. To my secretaries, **Deanna & Vicki**.... what would we all do without you?? Thanks for keeping me straight and for always bringing a breath of fresh air into the dance store. You two ladies have stuck by me all these years and I always say....I couldn't do it without you and I so very truly mean that!! Deana and Vicki...this is our 27th season...I love you both entirely! You are not my employees but my dearest friends that I can truly call my family!

To **Delaney, Malerie, Sheridan, Elizabeth and Emily**.....there are no words to describe my utmost respect for the 5 of you. Dancing in masks, trying to figure out where each group is from week to week, making sure the kids hand sanitize, trying to figure out who's coat got left behind and did I mention, dancing for 6 hours in masks yet? I will tell you like I do every year; you are not only my dance partners but dear friends. You are

amazing dancers, actors, teachers and mentors to our students....we are all so lucky to have you! Thank you for joining our team! Who would have known that our students would be keeping the fire lit at TMDA and you are 5 of our best!! To **Miss Emma and Danielle** who will be teaching throughout December and January, thanks for filling in and giving of your expertise! We love having you back in the studio!! **Annalise and Renee** thanks for being our little helpers, our music runners, our brains when we can't remember what we taught 2 minutes ago and for being such outstanding role-models to our younger dancers. To **Allison & Chloe**.....thank you for joining our team and becoming our friends. We are so happy that our tumbling program is still alive at TMDA and we thank you for doing this....with us! How lucky I am to be able to do something I love everyday with people I respect and cherish. Thank you for your professionalism and your talent....our student's benefit immensely from your love of dance, tumbling and the arts.

Finally, to all my dancers, tumblers and families; thank you for being a part of TMDA....you are the reason for our success. We are navigating in uncharted waters and I thank you for believing in our studio enough to still want to be a part of it. I am blessed to have you all in my life...I truly am! It has been 27 amazing seasons for me and even though it doesn't look the way it has in the past, I am hopeful for a better tomorrow. If we all continue to work together, follow our guidelines and stay positive in the wake of a lot of negativity, we can make Frozen 2 a reality. We owe this to our children.

Thank you for living my dream with me...it continues to be an honor for me to be part of your lives. With that, have the Merriest of Holidays.

Miss Colleen and my amazing crew!