

NEWSLETTER Term 1 Week 4, 19th February 2012

WELCOME BACK FROM FRANCESCA

A warm welcome to all our new and existing students and their families. I hope you enjoy 2012 at the Harbour Performing Arts Centre. It's wonderful to see the students already enjoying their dancing. This year we have a fantastic group of experienced teachers who will inspire every student to achieve their best.

This year the school newsletter will be made available on the school website in the student area as well as being distributed at the studio. Photos from 2011 Concerts are available from

<http://www.coffsdigiwed.com/concert>

UNIFORMS & GROOMING

We are now going into week four of the new year and it is noticeable that a number of students do not have shoes or are not wearing their correct uniforms. It is a safety issue that children are still dancing bare foot in ballet classes especially from Grade one and above. It is in your child's interest of injury prevention to be wearing the correct shoes. Students who are attending Grade 1 and up to Grade 5 ballet should ideally now also have Character shoes or alternately be wearing their jazz shoes for character to protect their heels. There are plenty of shoes available in our folder located on the table in the waiting area. Hair should be neatly tied back off the face and ideally girls hair in a bun. We realise that many children come straight from school, however, on these days a suggestion might be to wear hair tied back for school.

DATES TO REMEMBER

1st March	Grafton Eisteddfod Solo entry closing date.
5th April	End of Term 1 (Thursday)
13th April	Closing date for Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod solo entries
23rd April	Term 2 commences
27th May	Dress rehearsal for Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod at the studio
9th-11th June	Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod group weekend
11th-17th June	Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod solos
Saturday 30th June	Term 2 ends

TEACHERS FOR 2012

Francesca Montanaro: ARAD, RAD, RTS — *BALLET*

Merryn Gould: *BALLET, CONTEMPORARY, JAZZ*

Lissa Argue: *SINGING*

Rebecca Nicholson: *TAP, JAZZ*

Lyndall Phillips: *BALLET*

Lauren Harper: *PILATES*

Ashlee Pennington: *HIP HOP*

Kirsty-Lee Mears: *BALLET, JAZZ, TAP and DRAMA (student teacher)*

DRINK BOTTLES should be brought to class and taken into the studio not left in the fridge please. Children will no longer be allowed to leave the studio to get a drink from the sink. This is disruptive to the lesson and wastes considerable time.

PARENTS WAITING AREA-PLEASE TRY NOT TO OPEN THE STUDIO 2 DOOR DURING CLASSES. Check the timetable first

EISTEDDFOD SOLO ENTRIES.

The closing dates for Eisteddfod solo entries are fast approaching and entry forms for the eisteddfods will be handed out to all students who are currently taking a private lesson. **All entries must be checked by a teacher. Students of HPAC may only enter a solo at an eisteddfod if they are attending a regular private lesson.** Please note parents and/or caregivers are responsible for eisteddfod fees and postage of the entry forms to the local Eisteddfod. If you are already looking for costumes to hire Debs Dancewear has plenty to choose from contact Debbie on 02 66511691, 0416100820, or email: debsdancewear@bigpond.com

Harbour Performing Arts Centre



TAP

"CONGRATULATIONS"

Miss Rebecca and Roland

who are expecting a baby in August. So that Miss Rebecca can prepare the students for their CSTD Tap exams we have decided this year to enter the June examination session. The date will be just after the Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod and will be confirmed soon. We would like to remind Tap students to check their tap shoes regularly for protruding screws.

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

We are pleased to now be able to offer more Junior classes on a Monday afternoon. We have a Primary ballet at 3.30pm followed by a Primary Jazz class at 4.15pm. For Grade 1 students there is a ballet class at 4.00 pm followed by a Jazz class at 5.00 pm and a new Grade 2 ballet class from 5.45pm until 6.45pm. Our Saturday morning students have the opportunity to start tapping in our Preliminary tap class at 11.15am. There are places in all these classes if any existing students are wishing to swap days.

SCHOOL JACKETS AND T- SHIRTS are available to order at the studio. The Jackets are \$44.00 and the T-shirts \$32.00. Orders can now be placed by writing your child's name on an envelope with your requirements, sizes and payment. **SPECIAL OFFER** on children's size 6 and 8 T-shirts, \$20 to clear on remaining stock. Please make payments for clothing in cash.

COSTUME RETURNS

Please return all hired or borrowed solo costumes to the studio by the end of week 4. We update the costume catalog at the beginning of each year and costumes hired last year must be returned and new arrangements made. If you wish to hire them for this year's eisteddfods. This can now be arranged through **Debs Dancewear**.

BALLET EXAMS

R.A.D. Classical Ballet Exams & Assessments

The children's exams will take place in TERM 3. If your child wishes to take an exam, they must be attending 2 ballet classes a week and be confident with the exam content. Pre-Primary and Primary students wishing to take their assessment need to take one lesson per week and feel confident with their work. A workshop will be organized from the 11th-13th of July to help the children prepare for the examinations and assessments. Please note that the R.A.D. allocates the examination date and will not guarantee any provisional dates that are issued.

Vocational Graded Examinations

These are professional examinations and are no longer entered as a class. I will speak to the parents and children individually when I feel that they are ready for these examinations. The exams are technically demanding and require a lot of hard work but they give the students a fantastic sense of achievement.

SECOND HAND ITEMS

Parents are most welcome to advertise second hand items in our folder which is situated on the table in the waiting area. There are lots of parents looking for shoes etc at the moment so now is a good time to unload any of those items which you no longer require.

2012 EISTEDDFODS

This year the school will be entering two Eisteddfods for groups - our local Coffs Harbour and the Port Macquarie competition, which will this year take place at the Glass House Theatre in Port. This will be a exciting opportunity to dance on a large stage in a fully equipped theatre. A number of the senior students have expressed an interest in entering their groups at the Grafton Eisteddfod which will take place on the first week-end of the Easter holidays. I realise that many families travel away or may not wish to take part over Easter, so please let me know if you wish your child to attend. The groups I will consider entering are the Open Age; Classical, Modern, Tap, Jazz and Contemporary. From the 14 years age group; Tap, Extra Performance Jazz and Classical. Most of the Jazz classes from Grade 1,7&8yrs and above will have the chance to dance at Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod. This will be a wonderful performing experience for children. If, however your child is not taking part please let their teacher know. It in no way disadvantages them in their weekly classes as learning routines are apart of dance education. These routines will be part of the end of year concert which I hope every student will take part in. We are looking forward to an exciting year of dance experiences

Francesca