

CDs: A practice CD containing your dancer's recital music will be available this month. This gives the dancers ample time for practice at home. We strongly encourage this; we want the dancers to be confident when they perform on the stage and have an enjoyable experience. Please encourage your dancer to practice. Trust us, we can tell who practices and who does not. The recording and duplication of these CDs is a major project. Please guard them carefully. We cannot replace lost CDs; there is only one recorded per student. *Note, these CDs are for rehearsal purposes only and are not intended for distribution.*

COSTUMES: We plan on beginning costume distribution on Saturday, April 18th. **Reminder: Account balances must be paid in full before your dancer will receive any costumes.** Please call if you have any questions on this studio policy. When your dancer brings home his/her costume, please have him/her try on the costume immediately. Parents are responsible for making the necessary alterations. When selecting the appropriate size for each dancer, we ordered according to the recommended size chart for each manufacturer. If a dancer was on the borderline, we bumped them up to the next size to allow adequate room for growth. Please remember that these are not custom-made costumes. Alterations on many of them will be necessary. Please make the necessary alterations in a timely manner: sew shoulder straps, attach tutus to the costume at the hip (not around the waist), hem pants, etc. We understand how busy everyone is, but do not leave these things until the last minute. It always takes longer than one would think. Too many kids have come to dress rehearsal unprepared! Dancing in pants that are too long becomes a safety issue! Be sure to store the costumes in a protective covering and put them in a safe place. Please, no home recitals until after the concert. Pictures of the costumes are displayed at the studio in the costume books. Check the books for additional information regarding tights and accessories.

TIGHTS: All ballet students will be wearing theatrical pink matte tights (no shiny) and pink leather ballet shoes (no extra lace or frills). Jazz and tap tights will vary with each class. A list is enclosed. Please purchase your tights early and be sure that they are the required style and color! The Dancer's Boutique has a list of required tights for all of our classes. Recital time is a busy time of year for the dancewear manufacturers and at times, demand exceeds the supply. Don't get caught at the last minute. We highly recommend that you purchase new tights for the performances. After several washings, the tights lose their original color and are more likely to run after repeated wear. An extra pair of tights is advisable; it is always best to be prepared. After all of the dancers' hard work, we want everyone onstage to have a neat, uniform, and non-distracting appearance. Be sure that your dancer is well prepared and has everything that he/she needs. A dancer cannot dance onstage without a complete costume!

PROGRAM ADS: There will once again be an opportunity to advertise in the program this year. Congratulate your dancer or wish him/her luck with a personal ad. It will make your program a keepsake to treasure. Business advertising is also a possibility. A program ad form is enclosed. The deadline date is Saturday, May 2nd. Don't miss out!

SENIOR SECTION IN THE PROGRAM: There will be a special graduating senior section in the program again this year. Parents of graduating seniors, your letter is enclosed.

DRESS REHEARSALS: Saturday morning, May 16th. The dress rehearsals will run as they did last year with the matinee beginning at 8:00am and the evening rehearsal beginning at 10:30am. Once again, we do not have access to the auditorium until Saturday morning. All dancers will have their dress rehearsal on Saturday morning before the performances. Although this is a little more demanding on the dancers, it does keep Friday free for everyone.

CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS: Jack Durham of *a la carte Images* will once again be at the auditorium during dress rehearsal to take portraits of the dancers in costume. We are having both performances on Saturday professionally video taped by Pask Video Productions. DVDs will be available for you to purchase; order forms will be sent with the next newsletter. If you want to personally photograph and/or video your dancer's performance, please do so during the dress rehearsal. This way you will not infringe upon someone else during the actual performance. More info will be included in the May newsletter.

DANCE APPAREL FOR SALE: A variety of Dance Alliance apparel items will be available to celebrate another wonderful year of dance and our studio's upcoming spring recital. Order forms will be available at the studio after spring break.

NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATIONS: Some classes for Lisa and Heather will be cancelled Wednesday, April 29th as well as some of Heather's classes on Thursday, April 30th because of Jazz Dance Theatre's 14th Annual Benefit Concert. Notices with make-up information will be given to individual students the week we return from break.