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TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2019

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Heathmont Community Bank® Branch
143 Canterbury Road
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 **Bendigo Bank**

Mrs Frost's Message:



A new year begins and I welcome all our returning families and also the many new families who have joined the school. I hope you all have a great year and enjoy being a part of our community.

Looking back to the concert I want to thank all involved for an amazing production. From the tiniest liquorice allsorts in kinder class to the amazing performances of the seniors in Sleeping Beauty and to the crew who made it seamless and magical it was a delight. Thanks also to all the teachers, committee and parent helpers behind the scenes and to all the families who ensured their dancers were on time and ready to perform. I am so pleased that we were once again able to offer a free matinee to the elderly and less fortunate in our community, so thank you to the Karralyka and Maroondah City Council for their support for this worthy cause. Thanks also to Carolyn Callanan for organizing it all. There was some wonderful feedback from the audience members!

It was with a sense of enormous pride in them, but also a great sense of loss for RBG, that I farewelled Katie and Steph Little-Hales, Ebony Killick, Keisha Sunderland and a week later Sean Ferenczi as they all move on into serious full time classical training. I wish all of them so much joy and success as they follow their dreams. It was also sad to farewell Miss Kathryn who has left RBG after many years as both a student and a much loved staff member and also Miss Courtney who was with us through 2018. We also welcome Miss Ashlee back from maternity leave and the rest of the staff whose support, knowledge and passion for dance ensure we continue to provide excellent training in all offered styles.

I did not do my usual trip to UK over Christmas as RBG required my time in order to try and resolve the ongoing storage issues for costumes and sets and to try and update and make more accurate, the costume inventory. We managed to store all costumes and scenery somewhere – many thanks in particular to the teachers and Geoff Kitchen along with a small number of fantastic parents who gave a bit of their free time to assist. As a result of this I will be travelling to UK to visit my daughter, her partner and my adorable grandson as well as my brother and extended family, for Easter. This means I will be away during the last week of this term and first week of next term. Our amazing teachers will ensure all classes are covered and everything will run smoothly.

The first weeks of classes ran smoothly on the whole, despite the heat, and it was good to be back at work with our students. There are a number of early closing dates for various things we do so please read through the enclosed information and make sure you are ready to meet these dates. In particular our SFD comp entries close latest 11 March and could be earlier if the online entries reach capacity before then. As we have barely begun private lessons this makes it difficult for all of us! Parents are being asked to be responsible for their own entries this year so those involved please get onto it asap and check with your coaches if unsure what to do!

It seems also very early in the year, but Vocational exam entries for the June session will have to be finalised and paid for before I leave as the closing date is first week of April.

Every year we participate in the SFD annual combined school concert, and this year is no exception. The concert will be held on Sunday 28/4/19 at the Nunawading performing arts centre and we are providing 2 items. The delightful "Green Eggs and Ham" tap with the older cast and a new classical troupe performed by the repertoire class. I will not be back in time to be there but once again our amazing teachers will ensure all runs well. A note had been sent via CareMonkey to the tap classes involved as we need to finalise numbers urgently.

The AGM is an annual important date and I hope to see many of you there on Wednesday 20th March. I will also be announcing the choice of feature ballet and possibly also the junior ballet!

Kind Regards, Mrs Frost



SFD MASTERCLASSES

Below is the SFD information sheet regarding entry to this year's Masterclasses. Each family of an eligible student will need to enter their own child/children via the link below. Eligible students are those in Jazz and Tap levels 3-4-5-6-7-8-9 and 10 jazz and tap (NOT LEVEL 4P as this is a non-exam level) and Classical levels 3-4-5-6.

Please note GRADE 6 RAD is NOT a SFD level and therefore not eligible to attend.

What are they?

Masterclasses are offered to students from level 3 in Ballet, Tap and Jazz, and students are encouraged to attend if they are training to undertake an exam. The emphasis of the Masterclasses is on style and corrections from the Examiners, rather than the teaching of steps. Masterclasses can be of great benefit to students who wish to complete their exams, however they **ARE NOT COMPULSORY**. (Also, please note that booking your child into a masterclass does not guarantee acceptance into exams and is not an EXAM.)

Information regarding SFD Masterclasses will be emailed to all eligible student levels via CareMonkey.

If you wish your child to attend the masterclasses, you need to:

1. Book your attendance with SFD, see information below, **AND**
2. Advise us (via CareMonkey) whether you are attending or not.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher or a committee member.

Classical - Sunday 19th May 2019

Jazz - Sunday 26th May 2019

Tap - Sunday 2nd June 2019

Venue: Dance World Studios
295 Bank St, South Melbourne

Registrations: www.comps-online.com.au

Closing Date for entries is 30th March 2019

Masterclass Prices:

Students:

Levels 3 - 4	\$25
Levels 5 - 6	\$30
Levels 7 - 8	\$35
Levels 9 -10	\$40
Pre-Elementary/Elementary / Intermediate	\$40

A booking fee of \$3.85 will apply to each invoice

MASTERCLASS RULES

- Registrations are open to students studying SFD exam syllabus work. To gain full value from the Masterclass experience, a good working knowledge of the syllabus is recommended, however students may attend if they have not fully learnt all exercises within the syllabus level.
- No individual timetabling requests will be accepted. Students must be available for the entire day.
 - No refunds will be given.
 - Requests for swapping of classes can be applied for prior to 30th March 2018, via email.
 - Timetables will be emailed to registered participants, within 2 weeks of each event.
- Attendance is at the performers own risk. It is agreed upon registering for Masterclasses that participants, including students, parents and teachers will not hold Southern Federation of Dance or its committee or host facilities liable for injuries sustained, illnesses contracted by them or loss of property while in attendance.
 - Use of video or photographic devices is prohibited.
 - Students must wear appropriate, well fitted dance attire and shoes.
- It is the responsibility of the person registering to notify their studio teacher of their attendance.
 - Students with allergies/asthma must bring their required medication into the studio.
 - Emergency contact details for the day, must be listed when signing students in.
 - Parents are not permitted to view classes.
 - Respectful classroom behaviour is expected at all times.

BENDIGO BANK GRANT

A big thankyou to Bendigo Bank once again for their assistance and generosity! Late last year our group was lucky enough to receive a grant of \$2000 to go towards the purchase of new tarkett for Studio 2. The new tarkett was laid over the summer break by Geoff and his band of helpers, who included Miek Crisan, Rob Thompson, Gareth Little Hales, Shelly Eckley and Vince Morgante. So thank you to you all! If you, your friends or family are looking for a new bank, please consider the Bendigo Bank and mention the Ringwood Ballet Group! Support the bank that supports us.



THE SLEEPING BEAUTY – FREE COMMUNITY MATINEE

Last year we were again successful in applying for a grant from the Maroondah City Council to be able to provide our Matinee production of The Sleeping Beauty, for free, to groups in our community. The groups who were able to attend the event included the elderly, disadvantaged and underprivileged. The free community matinee was another huge success and seems to be booking out earlier and earlier each year! MP Michael Sukkar and Deputy Mayor Mike Symon were also in attendance and we thank them for their continued support of the Ringwood Ballet Group and this program. This year the feedback we received was tremendous, below are just some of the quotes and highlights the importance of being able to provide such a valuable event to the community.



"What a wonderful experience, this is one of the best performances I have seen. Congratulations for funding such a great performance."

"Wonderful opportunity for residents to experience the talent, professionalism and dedication of the ballet school. A must for the community."

"Just beautiful to watch. Some people may never get to see a ballet otherwise."

"Thank you sincerely for supporting strongly an excellent Ballet school that is local and training future for professional ballet. It lifted my spirits. Thank you for also enabling less financial members of the local community to experience this magnificent production of outstanding young talent. I am very grateful and appreciative of the privilege."

"This is a great opportunity for local people to attend a very satisfying cultural event. Everyone in the foyer after the ballet looked so happy."

SFD COMPETITION ENTRIES

The SFD comps run from 30/6 to 5/7 2019 this year. We will hold our dress rehearsal in the community centre on Sunday 23RD June.

Entries close on MARCH 11TH

All information can be found on the noticeboard.

Each family is required to enter their own child/children this year through

www.comps-online.com.au

A reminder too that your child's private lesson is for 15 minutes once a fortnight as on the schedule on the notice board and costs \$13 per lesson payable directly to the coach before the lesson unless you make an arrangement to pay her by the term.

RAD HIGHER GRADES AND VOCATIONAL EXAMS CLOSING DATES AND EXPECTED EXAM PERIOD

Vocational exams first session close on 8th April. We will inform you all about your readiness to enter this session. Some may be better waiting until October. Please listen to your teachers! The exam session is due to run from 3 June to 17 June. The October session closing date is 15 August and should run from 14 October to 31 October.

Higher grades 6,7 and 8 closing date is 6th May and we will request a date in the 2nd week of term 3.

OUTSIDE WORKSHOPS AND EXTENSION PROGRAMMES

These can be a fantastic way to develop your passion for dance, to work with master teachers and to make new friends with similar interests. While many of these programmes do not require your school principal to sign your application forms, it is common courtesy to let Mrs Frost know when applying to attend these things and to keep her informed as to how you get on! It is also expected that if you wish to use an exam skirt or character skirt that you first ask Mrs Frost and not just help yourself. We have lost a number of skirts this way.

FUNDRAISING

A big thankyou to all the families and friends who purchased items during concert time, participated in photo day or any other fundraising event! We raised \$1084.00 in total from our concert fundraising items, which included the sale of calendars, roses, programmes and the raffle.

We also raised \$334 from selling sausages, drinks and costumes on enrolment day.

Fundraising for 2019

Our fundraising plans for this year include:

Term 2 – Yes, Cadbury Chocolates are back in May!

Term 3 – Disco – TBC

Term 4 – Concert fundraising activities, ie. raffle, roses.



SECOND HAND UNIFORM

If you dropped off any second hand clothing to sell on Enrolment day, could you please check the office to see if it has been sold. If not, the items need to be picked up by 8th March. If you still wish to sell them you can list them for sale on our second hand page on our website. Any items not picked up by the due date will be donated, as we do not have the space to store these items.

BLOCH DISCOUNT CARDS

Bloch discount cards are available to all new and existing students, and provides 3 levels of discount depending on how many classes you do per week. If you would like a discount card please speak to one of our office assistants.

CAREMONKEY

At Ringwood Ballet we use a system called CareMonkey to manage each students details and as a way to send information and permission forms to parents. If you are new to the school, you should have received a request from CareMonkey asking you to make a profile for your child. If you are having any problems, or have not received a request from CareMonkey please contact office@ringwoodballet.org.au so that someone can assist you.

INVOICES

Please note that Term 2 invoices will be sent to all families during the last week of term and are due at the start of Term 2.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The Ringwood Ballet Group Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 20th at 8.30pm. Apart from the presentation of annual reports, an important aspect of the evening is the election of the new committee.

The committee are all volunteers and look after the 'management' side of the school while supporting the Artistic Director and teachers as they concentrate on 'all matters dancing'. Joining the committee means making a commitment to do that 'little bit extra' - there is always something to do for most of the year, but it is even busier around Presentation Evening and in the lead up to the Concert. If you do feel like joining have a chat to any of the current committee. Nomination forms can be found at the end of this newsletter and will be available in the foyer. We are losing a couple of committee members this year, and would really love a few more new faces to come on board.

The AGM is open to all members (as are all committee meetings) and is usually fairly brief but includes the announcement by the Artistic Director of the feature ballet for the Concert! If you are thinking of coming along, please indicate your intention using the reply slip at the end of the newsletter - this is purely to allow us to provide adequate 'supper' at the end of the meeting and perhaps organise a few more chairs!

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

We are always thrilled when our students and former students achieve success and would like to keep you all posted!

Katie Little-Hales, Stephanie Little-Hales, Ebony Killick and Sean Ferenczi have begun their Full time training at the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet this year.

Keisha Sunderland has begun her full time training at Queensland Ballet Academy Senior Programme, Level 5.

Chloe Eckley, Eliza Mignot and Matilda Lamb have joined Lehenda Ukrainian Dance Company,

Rhiann Costigan has started the Full Time Contemporary Dance Course at Transit Dance.

Former Student **Flynn Stelfox** continues into Year 6 at the Australian Ballet School and we look forward to hearing more from him as he moves forward towards his dream of becoming a professional dancer.

Former student **Oliver Hoddinott** has joined Level 6 at the Australian Ballet School after 5 years at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School.

Former student **Melinda Ferenczi** continues her training at the Australian Conservatoire of Ballet.

Former student **Tahlia Alonartitis** is working as a cast member at Disneyland Hong Kong.

Former Students **Natalie Smoel and Madeleine Magetti** have graduated from Kelly Aykers Full Time Dance.

Former Student **Scott McConnell** is Performing in Jersey Boys the Musical in the role of Hank, and is also the understudy for Four Seasons band member Bob Gaudio.

Former student **Hannah Monson** continues to appear in TV series Glitch, which is currently filming its 3rd season.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2019

MARCH 2019

Monday 11th March - Labour Day - No Classes

APRIL 2019

Monday 1st to Saturday 6th - Open Week

Saturday 6th - Last Day of Term 1

Tuesday 23rd - First Day Term 2

Thursday 25th - ANZAC Day - No Classes

Sunday 28th - SFD Combined Schools Concert

MAY 2019

Sunday 19th - SFD Classical Masterclasses

Sunday 26th - SFD Jazz Masterclasses

JUNE 2019

Sunday 2nd - SFD Tap Masterclasses

Monday 10th - Queen's Birthday - Reduced Timetable

Sunday 23rd - Comp Dress Rehearsal

Saturday 29th - SFD Scholarship Technical Classes

Saturday 29th to Friday 5th July - SFD Comps

Saturday 29th - End term 2

JULY 2019

Sunday 1st to Friday 5th - SFD Comps continued

Approx. 6th 7th and/or 8th - Higher Grades Exam prep classes

Tuesday 9th, 10th 11th - Exam preparation classes

Friday 12th, 13th, 14th - Mock Exams (Classical)

Monday 15th - Start of Term 3

Sunday 21st - Exam session commences

AUGUST 2019

Sunday 4th - Exam session ends

Saturday 10th - Senior Ballet Audition TO BE CONFIRMED

SEPTEMBER 2019

Saturday 7th - Presentation Evening

Saturday 21st - End of term 3

Saturday 21st onwards - SFD Competitions TO BE CONFIRMED

OCTOBER 2019

Monday 7th - Start of Term 4

Sunday 13th - SFD Choreographic Comps

NOVEMBER 2019

Saturday 2nd - Regular classes

Monday 4th - NO CLASSES (due to poor attendance in previous years)

Tuesday 5th - Cup Day - NO CLASSES

Sunday 10th - Concert Tickets go on Sale

Saturday 16th - Last Saturday of Normal Classes

Sunday 17th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Friday 22nd - Last day of 'normal' classes

Saturday 23rd - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Sunday 24th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Monday 25th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Wednesday 27th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Saturday 30th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday 1st - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Monday 2nd - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Wednesday 4th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Saturday 7th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Sunday 8th** - Full Dress Rehearsal (Community Centre)

Monday 9th - Final Senior Open Class and Theatre Bump-in

Tuesday 10th** - Junior Ballet, Jazz/Tap FULL DRESS REHEARSAL at Karralyka Theatre

Wednesday 11th** - Senior Ballet/Contemporary/Character Full Dress Rehearsal at Karralyka

Thursday 12th - 11am Matinee - Senior Ballet only (Red Cast)

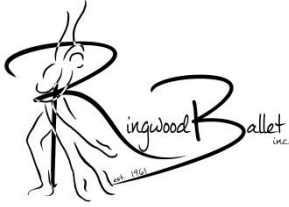
Thursday 12th - 7pm Performance (Blue Cast)

Friday 13th - 7pm Performance (Red Cast)

Saturday 14th - 12.30pm Performance (Blue Cast)

Saturday 14th - 7pm Performance (Red Cast) and End of Term 4

** These rehearsals are compulsory



COMMITTEE NOMINATION

FORM 2019

I hereby nominate

as a candidate for election on the Ringwood Ballet Group Inc Committee of Management.

President Vice President Treasurer Secretary General Member

Name of Nominator

(being a member of that Incorporated Association)

Signature of Nominator

I consent to this nomination

(Signature of Nominee - being a member of that Incorporated Association)

**This form must be delivered to the Ringwood Ballet Group Committee of Management
PRIOR to the start of the AGM – 8.30pm on Wednesday, 20th March 2019.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPLY SLIP

To assist us with preparations for the Annual General Meeting or to apologise for non-attendance, please indicate below (attendance or non-attendance is in no way governed by completion or non-completion of this form):

Name/s:.....

I/we wish to apologise for non attendance at the AGM on
Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 8:30pm ()

I/we are hoping to attend the AGM on Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 8:30pm ()
Number attending ()