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Newsletter

Term 2 2022

Mrs Frost's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

Term 1 was an amazingly busy one as we prepared for our concert in April. It was a delight to watch the progress of all the students through the weeks of rehearsals and then finally as we got costumes on in the big combined rehearsals the buzz of excitement and the increase in performance level was fantastic. Then we arrived on stage, with the crew making sure everything was ready for us and so we performed four remarkable and exciting shows. It was such a delight to observe the dancers both on stage and in the wings and the level of enjoyment at being able to perform again was incredible! So I congratulate everyone involved from our tiniest junior performers to our most senior, the entire stage crew, all the dressing room helpers, the fabulous teachers and our committee. Each one of you contributed to the success! Of course the show isn't over until the final costume end piece of scenery has found a home. Thank you to the small team of teachers, parents and the crew who gave up their time to put everything away.

It was also sad to farewell our teacher Rhiann Costigan as she moves on to new things in her life. She will be missed and I hope she will come back and visit often!

Now we start term 2 and all the work needed to prepare for exams. Staff are currently assessing students' progress and shortly you will receive notification about exams and your student's readiness. We hope after the past two years of disruption we will achieve a full exam cohort and be able to run a normal exam session. Exams set an achievable goal for our students to work towards and there are various options that we can use to ensure each child can feel included. This includes full exam, a progress exam and for our younger children an assessment.

We are also planning our first full presentation evening since 2019 for September and fingers crossed this will happen! This evening gives parents and families the chance to see what their children have been studying over the year in the form of class exercises. It also allows staff do make sure younger students become familiarised with the stage and theatre etiquette!

My thanks to everyone for their continued support of the school and all who work in it - without you we wouldn't exist!

Warm regards
Mrs Frost

End of year concert dates - Slight Changes

As part of our regular overview of our concerts, the executive committee in consultation with Mrs Frost and Geoff Kitchen have decided to make a slight change to the format for our end of year concert for 2022.

We have decided to reduce the number of concerts from 4 full concerts and 1 community matinee, to 3 full concerts and 1 community matinee. In order for this to work with the Karralyka we will shuffle our set dates back by one day. So bump in will be on a Tuesday, full dress rehearsal on Wednesday and Thursday evening, then Community Matinee Friday, and full shows Friday night, Saturday Matinee and Saturday night. We will also be removing one of our first weekend rehearsals.

Please refer to list of important dates at the back of the newsletter for further details.

Feature Ballets for December 2022



Because of the huge production of Nutcracker in April I found it impossible to follow normal procedures and announce the feature ballet at the AGM in March.

Now this successful production is over I have had time to make a decision and we will be doing have a slightly different production this year. I needed to consider many things including costs, manpower in the form of volunteers in the crew, sorting costumes etc. And so I have settled for 2 ballets this year both of which will be fully costumed, and for which most sets are available. We will be doing the beautiful romantic ballet "Les Sylphides" (pronounced "lay silfeed") a reverie in white to the glorious music of Chopin. This is new to the ballet school but holds a special place in my heart as I have danced it many times.

Alongside this we will be dancing an abridged version of the delightful comedy ballet "La Fille Mal Gardée" (pronounced "La Fil Mal Garday") or 'The badly guarded daughter'. I produced a full length version in 2008! The heroine of the story is Lise, the feisty daughter of the widow Simone. She is in love with the farmhand Colas, but her mother has other ideas! She is determined that Lise will marry Alain, the son of the wealthy landowner farmer Thomas. The story is set in the fields of the village and all the villagers are enjoying a picnic in the summer sun. Much merriment is had as Lise and Colas Attempt to outsmart widow Simone and avoid Alain! Many delightful dances are included such as the clog dance, dancing chickens, a wonderful pas de deux in which multiple ribbons are used and culminates in an exuberant maypole dance! Needless to say there is a happy outcome for the young lovers!

We are still in the planning stages for the first part of the programme including the junior ballet in which all dancers will perform in all three performances, jazz, tap, contemporary, and character. It will be delightful to get back to a normal concert routine and to once again see all our students on stage sharing their love of dance!

Fundraising

The past few months have been full of BBQs and raffle organization. Many thanks to the parents who came along and helped set up and run BBQs. I know our senior students and staff very much appreciate this gesture. Also, special thanks to Lauren Hayman who organized the selling of flowers during the April concert.

April Concert Raffle

Congratulations to the winners of our raffle! It was great to see so many people buying a ticket and supporting our school during our concerts.

A special thanks to our sponsors who generously provided prizes and make this possible.

- Maroondah Leisure
 - Danceart
- Alchemy Distillers
- Bowman Family

Save the date!

We are holding a Disco on Saturday 18th June. Please see flyer at the end of this newsletter for full details.

. We are hoping this will be a great chance for our students to all have some fun outside of classes!

A reminder that anyone keen to support fundraising or help to make our events even better, to please contact simone.morgante212@gmail.com . We are always happy to have the support!

Help Required

WORKING BEE

We will be having a working bee at the ballet studios on Sunday 19th June, between 10am-4pm. The purpose of the working bee is to give the studios a good clean and tidy prior to the exam period. If you are able to assist during this day, please see the Working Bee List that is up in the ballet foyer.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email us at office@ringwoodballet.org.au

EXAM HELPERS AND CATERING

Your help would be appreciated during the holiday exam practice days and official exam days, either by providing food or helping supervising children during changeover of classes. Every year the Ringwood Ballet community likes to show their appreciation by not only providing food and refreshments for the (external) examiners, but also for the teachers and helpers during both the holiday classes and exam period.

A roster of days, times and what sorts of food is required is available to access via the following google doc link https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wCRaPuSehk6aSxNaa8LWE1E1QCNNd-nklu_xcoPDmwU/edit?usp=sharing

If you are unable to access this you can come into the office and ask one of the office girls to add your details or contact Victoria Spiros at office@ringwoodballet.org.au.

***Please remember any assistance provided at the working bees or during exam time, goes towards your 4 hours of assistance at the ballet school, and families will be reimbursed their \$50 Maintenance Fee the following term, once assistance has been provided.

Competition Dress Rehearsal – Audience invited!

This will be held on Sunday 19 June from approximately 10 a.m. to approx. 12.30pm in the neighbouring Community Centre hall. A timetable will follow soon. All students and families are welcome to watch – we as for a gold coin donation to help cover costs.

Stage Crew/Scenery Help What is this and what does it involve?

Each year we need volunteers to assist with scenery for our annual concert. There are three main areas where parents can assist, as:

- Stage crew,
- Painting and repair of sets and backdrops, and
- Helping move scenery for rehearsals and to and from the Karralyka.

We are always looking for extra people to put up their hand to assist, as 'crew' move on as their children finish dancing, and the more assistance we have makes the back stage process so much easier and quicker for everyone.

Geoff Kitchen, our Scenery Co-ordinator, has put together detailed information about what is involved in assisting in each area with our scenery for the concert. If you think you could assist in any way please contact Geoff via email gwkitchen@optusnet.com.au.

Looking forward to your response and assistance!

Invoices

Just a reminder that term 2 invoices are now overdue. If you are having any difficulties or wish to organise a payment plan for your fees please feel free to contact the treasurer via email at

invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au

RBG Committee 2022

I would like to welcome our new committee for 2022, which was appointed at our AGM in March. The current 2022 committee are as follows:

President: – Carolyn Callanan

Secretary: – Cassie Bowman

Vice President: – Jo Floyd

Treasurer: – Jodie Kilworth (training up new treasurer Fiska Lusiana)

General Committee: - Simone Morgante, Andrea Halden, Kristian Reid, Victoria Spiros, Fiona Makedona, Simone Kleinys, Kim Trevena and Lisa Mirtschin

I would like to take this time to welcome our new members to our committee. I would also like to thank our outgoing members who have provided us with great assistance over the years, they are Alison Little-Hales, Cathy Davidson and Karalyn Mende.

If you have any questions for any of our committee members please do not hesitate to contact us, our details are listed at the studio on the noticeboard.

EXAMS

PROPOSED EXAM PREP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY TO THURSDAY 5,6,7,JULY 2022

LEVEL 1 BALLET, JAZZ, TAP

1.30-2.45 BALLET 1

BREAK

3.00-3.45 TAP 1

BREAK

4.00-4.45 JAZZ 1

LEVEL 2 BALLET, JAZZ, TAP

10.15-11.30 BALLET 2

BREAK

11.45-12.45 JAZZ 2

12.45-1.30 TAP 2

LEVEL 3 BALLET, JAZZ, TAP

9.00-10.15 BALLET 3

BREAK

10.30-11.30 JAZZ 3

BREAK

11.45-12.45 TAP 3

LEVEL 4 BALLET

11.30-12.45 BALLET 4

LEVEL 5 BALLET, LEVEL 4 JAZZ, TAP

1.30-2.30 JAZZ 4

BREAK

2.45-4.15 BALLET 5

BREAK

4.30-5.45 TAP 4

LEVEL 6 BALLET, LEVEL 5 JAZZ, TAP

1.30-2.30 TAP 5

2.30-3.45 JAZZ 5

BREAK

4.15-5.45 BALLET 6

PROPOSED EXAM PREP SCHEDULE SATURDAY 2 JULY AND MONDAY 4 JULY 2022

JAZZ AND TAP 6

9.15-10.30 JAZZ 6

BREAK

10.45-12.00 TAP 6

RAD GRADE 6 AND I.F., TAP AND JAZZ 7

9.00-10.15 TAP 7

BREAK

10.30-12.00 GRADE 6

BREAK

12.15-1.30 JAZZ 7

BREAK

1.45-3.15 INTER FOUND

GRADE 7 AND INTER. TAP AND JAZZ 8

9.00-10.30 GRADE 7

BREAK

10.45-12.00 JAZZ 8

BREAK

12.15-1.45 INTER

BREAK

2.00-3.15 TAP 8

GRADE 8 AND TAP (TBA) AND JAZZ 9

1.30-3.00 JAZZ 9

BREAK

3.30-4.45 GRADE 8

BREAK

5.00-6.15 TAP 9 TBC

JAZZ AND TAP 10

12.45-2.00 TAP 10

BREAK

3.00-4.15 JAZZ 10

EXAM INFORMATION

MOCK EXAMS:

All CLASSICAL exam candidates are required to do a mock exam which is run exactly like an exam and we set aside 3 days to cover all the exam groups. They have not yet been timetabled but will be conducted on :

FRIDAY 8 JULY SFD CLASSICAL LEVELS 4-5-6

SATURDAY 9 JULY RAD HIGHER GRADES 6-7-8 POSSIBLY ALSO VOCATIONAL TBC

SUNDAY 10 JULY SFD CLASSICAL LEVELS 1-2-3

EXAM DATES:

RAD EXAMS:

We have requested dates between Monday 18 and Friday 22 July for the RAD Higher Grades and vocationals but cannot confirm these dates until they contact us.

SFD EXAMS:

These dates have been confirmed but a timetable with exact times cannot be worked out until we have all the entries back.

Below is a list of days – examiners to be confirmed

SUNDAY 17 JULY

All Jazz Levels

SUNDAY 24 JULY

Classical 1-2-3

Tap 4-5-6-9-10

SUNDAY 31 JULY

Classical 4-5-6

Tap 1-2-3-7-8



Uniform Requirements for Exams

CLASSICAL GIRLS

CLASSICAL SFD LEVEL 1

We provide an aqua leotard and circle skirt and ballet pink ankle socks for each candidate. THEY WILL NOT BE WEARING TIGHTS! We will fit each child before her mock exam and she will wear a beautiful fresh leotard both for the mock exam and for her examination. Hair will be worn in crossed plaits over the crown of the head with aqua bows (we provide these as well). **You need to provide pink ballet slippers with elastic over the instep, and flesh coloured ballet undies** (available from the dance shops) – no "normal" undies are permitted as they are visible.

CLASSICAL SFD LEVEL 2

We provide a lilac leotard and circle skirt. We will fit each child before the mock exam and she will wear a beautiful fresh leotard both for the mock exam and for her examination. You need to provide the correct ballet tights (pink not flesh) and ballet slippers with elastic over the instep (as worn in class). If you wish you may also provide flesh ballet undies (normal underwear is not permitted as it is visible). Hair is to be immaculately groomed in a FLAT bun just behind the crown of the head (the top should just be visible from the front. We will provide a flower comb so no other decorations are to be worn.

CLASSICAL SFD LEVELS 3-6

We have a full set of exam leotards for girls (provided from a grant we received several years ago). If your child is taking one of these levels we will fit her before her mock exam and she will wear a beautiful fresh leotard both for the mock exam and for her examination. Level 3 and 4 will wear lilac and levels 5 and 6 purple. You will still need to provide new clean ballet shoes with elastic over the instep and pink ballet tights.

RAD HIGHER GRADES 6-7

Students provide their own navy thick strap camisole leotard- Pink ballet tights – pink ballet slippers with elastic/ribbons (check with Mrs Frost) – black canvas Cuban heeled Character shoes. We will provide navy chiffon skirts and black character skirts as well as the long silk scarves.



RAD HIGHER GRADES – GRADE 8 AWARD

Navy leotard any style may be worn that is flattering and well fitted (please check with Mrs Frost)- Pink ballet tights – pink ballet slippers with elastic- black canvas Cuban heeled Character shoes We will provide navy chiffon skirts and black character skirts as well as the long silk scarves.

CLASSICAL BOYS

CLASSICAL LEVELS 1-2

We will provide navy lycra shorts. You need to provide white short sleeve leotard or close fitting T shirt (Tucked in) -- white ballet shoes with white elastic over instep - white socks

CLASSICAL LEVEL 3 UPWARDS

You will need to provide Navy footless tights/well fitted leggings, white cap sleeve leotard – white ballet shoes and white socks. Once boys start wearing tights they also need a support belt – Energeticks do make smaller sizes for younger males.

JAZZ AND TAP GIRLS

LEVELS 1-5

Cobalt Blue, sleeveless, gathered front Leotard, Light tan tights (Energetiks matt – mocha matt or fiesta matt tan) – tan tap shoes – Tan jazz shoes (full or split sole) – plain black hot pants (Energetiks brand) for jazz only - Plain Black tap skirt for tap

LEVELS 6-9

As above but with the double strap cobalt blue leotard

JAZZ AND TAP BOYS

A black and cobalt leotard will be provided by RBG – black bike shorts for junior boys – black $\frac{3}{4}$ tights for seniors – black ankle socks and black tap or jazz shoes. Black Jazz pants are **not** permitted in any examinations.

GROOMING

Hair must be immaculately groomed (use gel and hairspray to tame wisps) off the face – no fringes – in a bun or crossed plaits. NO decoration to be included – we will provide the correct hair decoration on the day. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the correct hair pins and nets are provided – RBG does not provide these items for you. The fine French pins are useless so please don't waste your money buying them. The medium length thick HAIR PINS (NOT BOBBY PINS) can be found in some chemists and at Target. Hairnets must match as closely as possible the hair colour – fine bun nets are not usually successful as they are too small – large fine nets for children with very fine – or not much – hair and slumber nets for those with lots of heavy hair are recommended and can be found in most chemists or once again at places such as Target, Big W and some supermarkets. BUNS SHOULD BE FLAT AND NOT PROTRUDE OUT FROM THE HEAD WHICH DISTORTS THE LINE OF THE NECK AND HEAD. We also have hair pins, bobby pins and hair nets for sale through the office – please ask!

Boy's hair must be neatly groomed and not distracting – long hair may need to be secured with a headband.

A NOTE ABOUT SHOES: new shoes have got to be worn in and must fit closely – “room to grow” is not only detrimental to safe dance but also prevents staff or the examiner from seeing the correct use of the feet thus likely to affect the final outcome of the exam. New shoes MUST be worn for the mock exam and classes leading up to the exam so if buying do so now! This includes ballet shoes, character shoes, jazz and tap shoes!

EXAMINATION DAY

Due to the need to avoid crowding we require parents/carers to bring their dancer in and then to leave the premises and return when the exam ends to collect.

RAD higher grade and vocational examinations are conducted on week days so students will need to be excused from school for their examination. This is the responsibility of the parent to arrange. We have requested between Monday 18 July and Friday 22 July as our preferred dates but this cannot be confirmed until Mrs Frost receives the running sheets. Exams often run early and there is nothing worse for a child than to be rushed into the room unprepared because he/she arrived late. Therefore candidates must arrive at the studio **1 hour** before the start of his/her exam with all uniform requirements and the hair already correctly groomed if possible. If you expect us to groom the hair you will need to arrive as early as possible (minimum 1 hour before the exam). Do not expect us or another mother to provide your child with the required items and due to Covid we cannot allow sharing of personal items. As a parent you can help your child by encouraging a calm approach and reiterating that this is something to look forward to not something to fear. Having all their uniform requirements in hand and ensuring cleanliness and perfect fit will make the child feel special and supported. Once at the studio Mrs Frost and the teaching staff will be there for each candidate – and will do all that is possible to ensure their exam is a special occasion. We want the candidates to value the whole experience and remind you that the greatest value is to be found in the motivation and commitment over the whole year not just in the end result or mark achieved on the day.

SFD Examinations due to the inclusion of classical levels there will be a large entry. The dates have been confirmed and details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. You will receive exact times once we have all entries in and a running order. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the day is kept free for this occasion. Exams often run early and there is nothing worse for a child than to be rushed into the room unprepared because he/she arrived late. Therefore candidates are required to arrive at the studio **60 minutes for classical and 45 minutes for jazz and tap** before the start of his/her exam with all uniform requirements and the hair already correctly groomed if possible. If this is

not possible the candidate should bring all his/her hair things with (see grooming above) and it will be done at the studio – but you need to allow more time for this so must arrive at least one hour before. Do not expect us or another mother to provide your child with the required items and due to Covid we cannot allow sharing of personal items. The candidates will then be warmed up thoroughly and encouraged to feel confident and ready for the examination. As in previous years both studio 1 and studio 2 will be used for exams so all warm ups and changing must be done in studio 3. As a parent you can help your child by encouraging a calm approach and reiterating that this is something to look forward to not something to fear. Having all their uniform requirements in hand and ensuring cleanliness and perfect fit will make the child feel special and supported. Once at the studio the teaching staff will be there for each candidate – and will do all that is possible to ensure their exam is a special occasion. We want the candidates to value the whole experience and remind you that the greatest value is to found in the motivation and commitment over the whole year not just in the end result or mark achieved on the day.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND BADGES

Every exam candidate will be given their result and their report as soon as they are received by Mrs Frost. Their Certificate and a RBG badge will be presented formally at the Presentation Evening – September 3rd 2022

ASSESSMENTS

Our level 4P and Pre primary students will be offered an assessment to ensure readiness to move up into the next level. We will announce exact dates and times as soon as we can, to coincide with the exam period. The information and permission slips will be sent out through caremonkey as soon as possible. All those who are entered for an assessment are required to follow the same processes outlined above for examinations and to wear the same uniform etc. The arrival time for all styles is **45 minutes** before the scheduled start of the assessment so that candidates can be warmed up and made to feel confident and special before entering the studio. Each candidate will be issued with an assessment report as well as a badge. These will be presented at the Presentation Evening on September 3rd 2022. **ASSESSMENT FEES: \$28 per style**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Sunday 29th - SFD Tap Masterclasses TBA

JUNE

Monday 13th - Queens Birthday - Reduced timetable

Sunday 19th - Comp Dress Rehearsal

Monday 20th - Saturday 25th June - OPEN WEEK TBC

Saturday 25th - SFD Scholarship Technical Classes TBC

Saturday 25th - End of Term 2

Saturday 25th - 1st July - SFD Competition TBC

JULY

Saturday 2nd ** TBC - Higher Grades Exam prep classes

Monday 4th ** - Higher Grades Exam prep classes

Tuesday 5th ** - Exam preparation classes

Wednesday 6th ** - Exam preparation classes

Thursday 7th ** - Exam preparation classes

Friday 8th ** - Mock Exams (Classical)

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th ** - Mock Exams (Classical)

Monday 11th - Start of Term 3

Sunday 17th - Exam session commences

Sunday 31st - Exam session ends

AUGUST

Saturday 6th - Senior Ballet Audition

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3rd - Presentation day/night

Saturday 17th - End of term 3

Saturday 17th - 25th SDF Competition TBC

OCTOBER

Monday 3rd - Start of Term 4

Sunday 9th - SFD Choreographic Competition TBC

Monday 31st - No classes

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 1st - Cup Day NO CLASSES

Sunday 6th - Concert Tickets go on Sale

Saturday 12th - Juniors last Saturday of Normal Classes

Friday 18th - Seniors Last day of normal classes

Saturday 19th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Sunday 20th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Monday 21st - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Wednesday 23rd - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Saturday 26th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Sunday 27th - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Monday 28th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Wednesday 30th - Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

DECEMBER

Saturday 3rd - Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal

Sunday 4th ** - Full Dress Rehearsal & Photo day (Community Centre)**

Monday 5th - Final Senior Open Class

Tuesday 6th - Theatre - Bump In

Wednesday 7th ** - Junior Ballet,

Jazz/Tap/Character/Contemporary

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL at Karralyka Theatre **

Thursday 8th ** - Senior Ballet FULL DRESS REHEARSAL at

Karralyka Theatre**

Friday 9th - 11am Matinee - Senior Ballet only (Red Cast)

Friday 9th - 7pm Performance

Saturday 10th - 12.30pm Performance

Saturday 10th - 7pm Performance

** These rehearsals are **COMPULSORY**



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Ringwood Ballet Group

2022 Disco

Come and join us on Saturday 18th June for the RBG 2022 Disco. All students from Junior, Middle and Senior school are invited to attend and you are welcome to bring a friend!

Date: Saturday 18th June 2022
Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Location: RBG Studios
Price: \$15 per person (all inclusive)
Includes: Pop top, 1 slice of pizza, donut, and glow sticks (extra slices of pizza available for \$3each)

Pre-booking and payment is essential to allow for accurate catering of the event, and no money will be needed on the night.

Please return the attached reply slip with payment of \$15 per attendee to the office by Wednesday 15th June.

Full name(s) of child(ren) attending:	Pizza type (Hawaiian/Margherita)	Qty

Contact name and phone number for the night:

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