

Newsletter

Term 2 2020

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Mrs Frost's Message

As I cast my mind back to term 1 and the rather abrupt end to classes in the studios I am reminded that we should never take anything for granted, and then I was also reminded how blessed I am to be part of the wonderful community that is RBG as everyone has pulled together to make things work! Within days all the teachers came together to lay plans for whatever the near future would hold. We created a "socially distanced" senior timetable for when we might be allowed to re-open and we spent long days planning and filming class content for future online classes covering all junior levels of classical, jazz and tap and senior repertoire. Within a week the studios were locked down by council and we were unable to film any further in a suitable space! Then we had to edit and upload it all onto Google classroom and learn how to deliver via Zoom! My thanks to Jessi and Rhiann for tackling this so successfully. It was hugely challenging for the senior teachers in particular –we are not as tech savvy as the younger ones and we have relied heavily on them to set us up. I can't express how grateful I am to all the teachers for their input at that time and for continuing to maintain these classes.

We have now completed 4 weeks online and everyone seems to be rising to the challenge. It was so wonderful to see that so many families were able to be involved and for me one of the greatest motivations each day is knowing I will see my students smiling faces in class.

Miss Rhiann has recently added new classes for Kinder and Pre Primary on classroom so please enjoy! We will also work on a live stream event for these little ones so keep watching out for information!

I hope that we will be providing a sense of normality for our students and ourselves. It is clear that online classes are extremely challenging and we are working in often less than ideal spaces. But I think it is important to encourage a routine and I would like to say to my students no matter how small your spaces are or how challenging your floor surface your internet connection etc. you can still get so much out of participating – the discipline of getting into uniform, grooming yourself and facing up on time will be of enormous value in giving your days purpose and direction. You also get to see your friends and to dance! Limited space isn't going to limit your love of dance nor should it stop you from being expressive and sharing your passion for dance. Imagination and passion have no walls so this is maybe a time to work on artistry, imagination and musicality rather than expansive jumps, grand allegro and travelling steps! This is the sixth week of isolation for me and I am feeling the effects of it emotionally and physically as I'm sure everyone else is, so now is the time to really pull together and keep going and keep our spirits high.

Classes have run really smoothly despite the odd drop out of Internet and some difficulties finding zoom links. The students are working well and as I said before it is a delight to see them every week.

It was with a heavy heart that we decided to cancel exams and comps for now, as it's been too hard to plan and there are too many unknowns affecting preparation for these events. We will continue to work towards third and fourth term and the concert in the hopes that we will return to a more normal time.

At the AGM just before we closed our doors for a while I announced the feature ballet to be CINDERELLA! This wonderful ballet is full of magic, humour and a happy ending!

While no one knows yet whether we will get to our own happy ending - performing it - I am certainly working as if we will and seniors are learning the solos etc. in the repertoire class!

My best wishes to you all
Mrs Frost

Presidents Report

Well Term 2 is definitely very different to what we were expecting at the start of 2020! We have been very fortunate to have some extremely passionate and dedicated teachers who were not going to give up, and put together a very comprehensive online program for all students. The committee have also been hard at work resetting fees schedules, assessing our figures and trying to keep the administrative side of the school functioning.

At this stage everything seems to be running as well as can be expected, both from a learning and financial perspective. We are aware that online does not suit all children, nor will it ever replace 'real' face to face classes, but we all seem to be hanging in there and from the comments received appreciating a little bit of normality during this time.

From a financial perspective, we have applied for the JobKeeper subsidy for our staff. This means that we will be able to continue to pay our teaching staff, with our reduced enrolment fees topping up the shortfall in wages and other expenses incurred.

At this stage the school is taking things one step at a time, and are continuing to plan for the future and whatever restrictions that may be imposed on us going forward. As advised previously Exams have been cancelled for this year, as has the SFD competition program which was to occur in July. We will keep families up to date with any other changes or cancellations as they occur.

Please continue to read all the information in the newsletter, and your emails that come out via CareMonkey to make sure you are kept up to date with everything that is happening.

Thanks

Carolyn Callanan

President

Zoom Links

These are to be found in Google Classroom under CLASSWORK in all styles

There is one for each studio (meeting). They are recurrent so have the same ID and password each day/week. Simply click on the link for the relevant studio.

A simple guide to correct studio links:

CLASSICAL:

Level 1 and 2 always in STUDIO 3

Level 3 Monday STUDIO 1 Saturday STUDIO 3

Level 4 Monday STUDIO 1 Saturday STUDIO 3

Level 5 Tuesday STUDIO 1 Saturday STUDIO 3

Level 6 Wednesday STUDIO 1 Friday STUDIO 3

ALL SENIOR CLASSES 6P/IFP UP every day with Mrs Frost or Miss Massey STUDIO 1

With Miss Janine STUDIO 3, Thursday Open Class will be STUDIO 3

ALL JAZZ, TAP AND CONTEMPORARY:

Every level every day STUDIO 2

CHARACTER -STUDIO 3

Fundraising

Well, it is a bit hard to provide too much information from a Fundraising perspective. As I look at all the things we have cancelled and what we had planned for the rest of the year, which are also in doubt. At this stage we will wait and see what restrictions are in place going forward and see what activities we may be able to bring back later in the year.

Term 1 Easter Raffle

We had to cancel our Movie Afternoon, but we still had our raffle at the end of the term. The prize winners were:

1st \$100 Dance Art Voucher and dance bag - Emily Sutherland

2nd - Gift Hamper - Miss Rhiann Costigan

3rd - Lolly Jar (oops which was smashed and is now a bottle of champagne!)- Miss Maddie Magetti

Photo Day/Concert Photos 2019

RBG raised \$650.50 from our annual Photo Day and concert photos in 2019! So, a big thankyou to Bill Lamb from WePhotograph for all his hard work, and all the RBG families who purchased photos. For families that ordered photos from Bill I have taken them home when we left the studios. I have emailed the families regarding their photos, so please contact me to make arrangements for collection, otherwise I will hand them out when we return to the studios.

Grants

We have applied for a grant from the Maroondah City Council for our annual Community Matinee Concert, which we have received for the last 5 years. We also applied for, and were successful in receiving a grant from the State Government for \$10,000 to assist not for profit and small businesses continue to operate in this time. This grant will come in very handy as we start to transition back to 'normal'.

RBG Committee 2020

Just before the school went into lock down, we did have our AGM. As such I would like to welcome our new committee for 2020, they are:

President: Carolyn Callanan

Secretary: Cassie Bowman

Vice President: Cathy Davidson

Treasurer: Jodie Kilworth

General Committee: Alison Little-Hales – Karalyn McDonald – Caitlin Olbrich – Simone Morgante – Jo Floyd – Beth Williams

I would like to take this time to welcome our new member Beth Williams, to our committee. If you have any questions for any of our committee members please do not hesitate to contact us via office@ringwoodballet.org.au.

How do I know what is going on?

We are keeping families updated via CareMonkey and on Facebook through our Ringwood Ballet Group – Private Members Page. We also have an Instagram page that you may like to follow for updates and to see what we are doing, and a public Facebook page.

CareMonkey

Just a reminder to our new and current families, that we use a system called CareMonkey to disseminate all of our important information. It is a great way of ensuring all families get the right information at the same time, it can't be lost in your child's bag or left on the floor, sends out automatic reminders, and saves the committee a lot of office time.

During this time of isolation it is even more important to ensure your details are up to date and that you are receiving your emails from CareMonkey. If you have not received any, or are having any difficulties please contact us so that we can help you out.

Contacting Committee or Staff:

If you need to contact the committee or staff regarding an issue please email one of the following options:

Office –

Our RBG phone and office computer is being monitored daily by our office assistant Katie. If you have any questions or wish to advise of any absence from class please use the details below.

Ph: 9870 6549

Email - office@ringwoodballet.org.au

President – president@ringwoodballet.org.au

Secretary – secretary@ringwoodballet.org.au

Treasurer – invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au

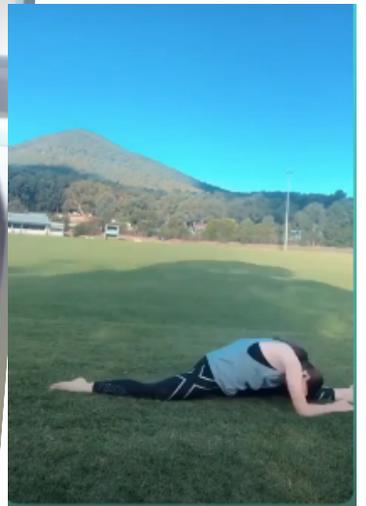
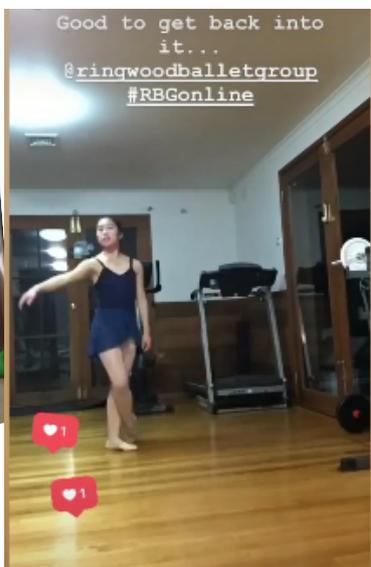
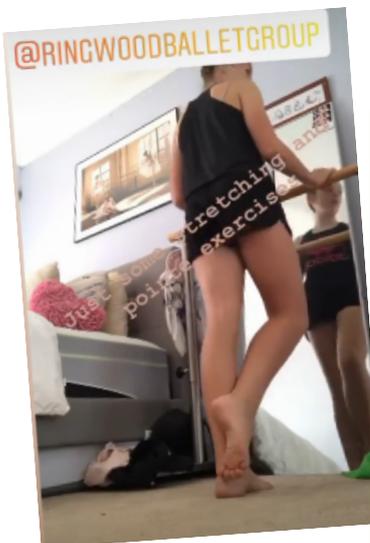
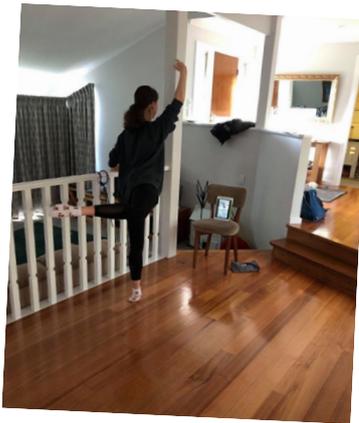
Accessing a Zoom Class:

If you are trying to access a Zoom class and having difficulties please contact either Rhiann Costigan or Jessi Goodall via messenger at the time, post a message on our private facebook page, post a message on google classrooms or call the office.

Invoices

Just a reminder that term 2 invoices are now overdue. If you have yet to finalise your invoice could you please do so ASAP. 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

STAY@HOME – Photos of our students and teachers continuing their dancing at home!



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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY -2020

MAY

SUNDAY 17TH SFD Classical Masterclasses **CANCELLED**
SUNDAY 24TH SFD Jazz Masterclasses **CANCELLED**
SUNDAY 31ST SFD Tap Masterclasses **CANCELLED**

JUNE

MONDAY 8TH Queens Birthday – **TBC**
SUNDAY 21ST Comp Dress Rehearsal **CANCELLED**
MON 22ND – SAT 27TH Open Week **CANCELLED**
SATURDAY 27TH SFD Scholarship Technical Classes **CANCELLED**
SAT 27TH – FRI 3RD (JULY) SFD Competitions **CANCELLED**

JULY

SAT 4TH – SUN 5TH Higher Grades Exam Prep Classes **CANCELLED**
TUES 7TH – WED 8TH – THURS 9TH Exam Preparation Classes **CANCELLED**
FRI 10TH – SAT 11TH – SUN 12TH Mock Exams – Classical **CANCELLED**
MONDAY 13TH Start of Term 3
SUNDAY 19TH Exam Session Commences **CANCELLED**

AUGUST

SUNDAY 2ND Exam Session Ends **CANCELLED**
SATURDAY 8TH Senior Ballet Audition

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 5TH Presentation Day/Evening **TBC**
SATURDAY 19TH End of Term 3 **TBC**
SUNDAY 20TH - Southern Dance Festival Starts **TBC**

OCTOBER

MONDAY 5TH Start of Term 4
SUNDAY 11TH SFD Choreographic Competition **TBC**

NOVEMBER

MONDAY 2ND Cup Day – NO CLASSES
SUNDAY 8TH Concert Tickets go on Sale
SATURDAY 14TH Last day of ALL Saturday classes
SUNDAY 15TH Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*
FRIDAY 20TH Last day of ALL regular weekday classes
SAT 21ST – SUN 22ND Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*
MONDAY 23RD Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*
WEDNESDAY 25TH Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*
SAT 28TH - SUN 29TH Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*
MONDAY 30TH Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*

DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY 2ND Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals*
SATURDAY 5TH Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal*
SUNDAY 6TH Full Dress Rehearsal – Community Centre**
TUESDAY 8TH Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal - Junior Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemp etc.**
WEDNESDAY 9TH Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal – Feature Ballet**
THURSDAY 10TH 11am Matinee – Feature Ballet Only
THURSDAY 10TH 7pm Performance
FRIDAY 11TH 7pm Performance
SATURDAY 12TH 12.30pm Performance
SATURDAY 12TH 7pm Performance

*These rehearsals replace regular classes in these weeks.

**These rehearsals are COMPULSORY. Failure to attend will result in being withdrawn from the production.