

Studio Quick Calendar

2010

September 13th	First day of classes
September 15th	R.A.D. Exams Registration Due
October 11th	No Classes - Thanksgiving Monday
November 11th	Remembrance Day—No Classes
November 15th - 20th	Visitors Week
November - December	R.A.D Exams
December 12th	Start of Christmas Break

2011

January 10th	Classes Resume
February 7th - 12th	Visitors Week
February 21st	No Classes - Family Day
March 25th—27th	Dance Drive Festival Grande Prairie
March 25th—April 3rd	Spring Break No classes
April 22-26th	Good Friday—Easter Monday No Classes
T.B.A	Pictures—DansConnection Studio Blocking & Spacing GPRC Theatre Dress Rehearsal GPRC Theatre Recital GPRC Theatre

DansConnection Dance Studio



2010-2011 Studio Handbook

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Summer Store Hours:

Starting May 1st

Monday - Friday 10:00am - 6:00pm Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm

9913 - 100th Avenue Downtown Grande Prairie
(in between Bama Furniture & Valhalla Pure)

Phone: 780.51.DANCE Toll Free: 1.866.51.DANCR Fax: 780.539.0296
email: readysetdance@gmail.com

Children's Fitness Tax Credit:

In January 2007, the Government of Canada has implemented the Children's Fitness Tax Credit, which allows parents to claim a maximum of \$500 per year for eligible fees paid for each child who is under 16 at any time during the year. DansConnection Dance Studio is classified as an eligible program in which you need to keep your receipts. Further information can be found on the Internet by typing in Children's Fitness Tax Credit, Canada.

Website Security:

Our web site has a lot of our studio information posted on it. Please also use it as a link to email us if you are in need of help. We use The Studio Director program and you can click on their icons when registering on the website to find exact details on how your information is protected.

To Conclude:

All highlighted classes on the schedule in the registration package are suggestions and classes your child is best suited for. The teachers have discussed each individual student, their goals, their ability, their attendance record, their level of dedication, the class structure and what will be best for that student. We hope that you will trust our judgement and experience in dance education.

We are very glad to have your child at the studio. Thank you for entrusting us with their dance education. We look forward to a fantastic year of dance and fun! We also thank you for your cooperation in advance. Questions or concerns can be forwarded to Amber in the office at 539-4370 during office hours or you can also email us!

We Now Accept Visa, MasterCard and Debit.

Summer School

Summer school will be held each year and is available to all students of all levels. Disciplines taught during summer school are Ballet, Conditioning, Jazz, Tap, Stylized Dance (such as Hip Hop or Flamenco) , and Contemporary. DansConnection Company (DCC) choreography will be taught at this time. All DCC dancers and students considering taking Ballet exams must attend.

Local Festivals:

DANCE DRIVE FESTIVAL will be held in Grande Prairie March 25th—27th, 2011 and is held at the Grande Prairie Regional College Theatre. This is an event where a dancer can perform in a non competitive setting for adjudication, medals, or awards. Festivals can help promote self-improvement and increased self-esteem. Dancers who participate tend to grasp the performance edge early. Most classes have the opportunity to perform in the local festivals (excluding Pre School Programs PS1, PS2, & PS3) with registration.

Recital:

DansConnection holds an annual recital where each class will be performing in a minimum of two shows. If you are interested in volunteering for backstage help please watch for the sign up sheet.

Pictures:

Each year F.X. Photographic comes to our studio to take class and individual pictures. Costumes, hair and make up must be done prior to arriving for photo. If your child is enrolled in more than 1 discipline please be advised they may need to come more than 1 time throughout the picture days. Hair must be worn as stated on the costume etiquette sheet, but make up is optional and should be worn naturally, not as stage make-up.

Welcome to DansConnection Dance Studio.

As experienced qualified instructors we will have fun and share our passion, knowledge, skills and ability with all our students. This booklet contains valuable information, which will be referred to throughout the season. Please take the time to read it in its entirety.

Registration:

There is a non-refundable \$35.00 registration fee per family and a non-refundable \$60.00 costume fee per class due at time of registration. All families must sign a registration agreement upon registration.

Student Placement:

There is no benefit for a child to be placed in a class that is not at their ability level. It is hard on the child, the other children in the class and on the teacher dealing with a variety of levels in a class. We hope that you trust our experience and judgement in placing your child in the appropriate level. Student placement is not according to age. We advance a student according to their ability and all the necessary technical requirements needed to ensure no injuries incur.

Calculate Age:

We base the student's age according to September 1st of the calendar year. It also helps if you go according to how your child is registered into the school system, as they would have a greater chance of being in the same dance class with their friends.

Costumes:

Prices range for \$60.00 - \$100.00

In the event costumes costs are above \$60.00, the remaining balance will be invoiced and payable February 15th.

Outstanding account balances must be paid by March 1st.

Costumes will not be given until account is paid in full.

Fees:

Class fees are determined by the number of hours your family dances a week. The fees include are for full season tuition. There will be a 5% late charge added if class fees are received after term is due. Full season tuition must be provided at time of registration to retain class payment. Payment options are available. We accepted post dated cheques dated September 13, 2010 and January 10, 2011, cash, Visa, MasterCard and debit.

Additional Costs:

Shoes
 Dance Wear
 Tights
 Hair Supplies
 Competition Fees (if applicable)
 Exam Fees (if applicable)
 GST
 NSF Charges
 Recital Tickets
 Pictures
 Costumes

Studio Policies:

These policies are for the greater good of the school as a whole. **All policies in this manual are non-negotiable. All classes offered run September - May. If your child will not be attending the remaining classes the you must notify DansConnection in writing by November 1st, 2010. There will be cancellation charge of \$100. If written cancellation is not received by November 1st, 2010 you will be required to pay 2nd term fees in full.**

Cold Weather:

Classes will not be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Student Pick Up:

We prefer that all children be picked up inside the studio. Please discuss pick up procedures with your children. The studio will close 15 minutes after the last class of each day, please ensure you are on time to pick up your children.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Ensure that all students are treated equal and are in a safe and caring environment.
- Inform parents and students of any concerns.
- Teach a full curriculum appropriate for the student's age and ability.
- Respect and follow studio's of guidelines and ethics.
- Set clear boundaries and communication paths.
- Place students in classes suited best for their level and ability, placing safety above all else.

Acro Dance ~ For students ages 6 and up

(pre programs also available)

Dancers will learn how to properly develop acrobatic and gymnastic skills with an emphasis on strength and flexibility. All classes will be taught by certified instructors. Students will focus on the technical elements of extension, balance and control while establishing specific skills and elasticity. This combination of dance and acrobatic skills is ideal for dancers that want to take their performance skills to the next level.

Exams

At DansConnection we hold exams in Ballet, Tap, and Jazz. Your teacher will let each dancer know when they are ready to take an exam, and it is likely that they will have at least 1 year study of a syllabus before you approach an exam. It is your choice to take an exam. Exam can be scheduled anytime on any day of the week during the exam session which is dependant on the examiner. As Ballet exams are held in the fall/winter, training starts the previous dance year. In order for teachers to determine if the individual will be ready for their exam **all students considering taking a ballet exam must attend summer school.**

Please keep in mind that we as teachers, have set guidelines and requirements that our students are expected to meet (set by the RAD., CDTA and ADAPT). Our experience tells us whether a student is meeting these or they haven't mastered it yet. The students can however, continue to work toward these goals at this level. The teachers will also expect the students entering the exams to possibly do some extra classes the month before the exam.

Examinations are only a way for the student and your teacher to see how you are progressing. The results are not necessarily an indication of students full dance abilities as nerves and other factor may affect exam results. Examiners are not there to frighten you and they know how you are feeling and will do their best to put you at ease. Remember you both have something in common - a love of dancing.

DansConnection Company (DCC)

DansConnection Company is a group of dancers who are invited to perform in various out of town festivals and local competitions. This opportunity is offered to all students at a Grade 1 RAD level and attend DansConnection summer dance program. DCC forms will be included in registration packages and are due back **June 1st, 2010**. All Solo choreography will be taught during summer school. All group choreography will be taught in the month of September. All DCC students must show commitment to dance. 9

Lyrical ~ *For students ages 9 and up, extensive ballet training required*
Lyrical dance combines the beauty and grace of ballet with classical jazz. Emphasis is placed on the expressive interpretation of the lyrics within music through movement. Students will focus on the technical elements of extension, balance and control while establishing a sense of emotion and artistic impression.

Contemporary ~ *For students ages 10 and up*
Contemporary is an interpretative and creative form of dance, developing the communication of emotions or ideas through the medium of movement. Students in the modern program will explore a variety of modern dance techniques while developing their own sense of creativity.

Pre School Programs ~ *For students ages 3 to 6*
These programs are specifically designed to provide children with the joy of dance and movement. Basic fundamentals are taught, focusing on strength, timing, balance, rhythm, flexibility and coordination. Age appropriate songs and activities are paired with technical training to provide a fun and exciting dance environment. Your child will not even realize they are learning! Classes offered in Ballet, Tap & Intro to Dance.

Pre-Programs ~ *For students ages 5-7*
Pre-Programs are designed to introduce dance and music fundamentals in a fun and encouraging way. Each class will cater to the requirements necessary for either the ballet, tap or jazz discipline while promoting a sense of rhythm, confidence and essential technique to build on. Children will explore their creativity while being introduced to developmentally appropriate exercises that prepare them for future discipline specific training.

Conditioning ~ *Grade 4 Ballet & up*
Conditioning is a great class for all dancer's. No choreography in this class. Work on our stamina, flexibility, strength, turns through techniques.

Musical Theatre ~ *For students ages 7 and up*
Dancers will learn how to combine the elements of music, song and dance to capture a fun filled Broadway style. Emphasis is placed on the expressive story telling communicated through the words, music, movement and technical aspects of dance. This fun , energetic class helps build self esteem and self awareness while they learn and grow.

Parents Responsibility:

- Our office should be used to keep communication open between parents, teachers and directors. Questions and concerns must be addressed through our office administrator to set up an appointment in order to ensure full attention and care is provided.
- Ensure child attends class and arrives at least 5-10 mins prior to class start time.
- Ensure that all fees are paid on time
- To treat the concerns of the teachers seriously.
- To inform the teachers of any concerns or problems pertaining to your child which may affect their dance training.
- To ensure you review website for all newsletters, notices and schedules. All information will also be posted in our waiting room.
- Newsletters will be emailed out every second month, please ensure you receive a copy. They are also available for pick up in our waiting room.
- To call or email the office of an unavoidable absence. We keep attendance books in class. If your child is missing 3 lessons in a row, a call will be made. It is the dancers responsibility to learn missed material prior to the next class (This does not apply to PS1, PS2 or PS3 classes.)
- Respect and support the studio policies and schedules.

Student Responsibility:

- **ATTENDANCE** - All students are required to attend their classes on a regular basis. Frequent, repetitive class work is essential to muscle development and memory. If a student does not attend classes on a regular basis, they will fall behind and risk being removed from choreography or possible being put into a lower level class. It is also extremely important that students do not come late to classes. Dance classes are designed to begin with a warm-up and then graduate to more difficult work, missing the warm-up could result in injury. Students should arrive 5 – 10 minutes prior to class starting. Consistent attendance is mandatory and self discipline with attire and grooming is necessary.
- **POLITE** - Students are to be respectful to all others including other dancers, faculty and family. This is to occur both in and out of the studio. Student behaviour at festivals and other functions outside the studio is to be considered courteous to everyone no matter the response in return. This is to be upheld at all times with NO EXCEPTIONS.

- **POISED AND PATIENT** - Consistent and persistent effort must be made each class to ensure the student actually progresses. Lack of consistent effort does not heed the results both the student and the teacher want to achieve.
- **POSITIVE** - Negative attitude from one affects all in the classroom. We are committed to having a safe and secure atmosphere to achieve positive results for the group as a whole. This is to be everyone's objective.
- **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR** will be disciplined as follows: First Infraction - a verbal warning Second Infraction – discussion with the parent Third Infraction - will result in dismissal from the dance studio. Withdrawal Policy will be followed.
- Any student caught stealing, bullying, vandalizing or intentionally hurting another individual will be dismissed immediately and Cancellation Policy will be followed.

Class Rules

No Gum, Candy, Food or Soft/Sport Drinks
 No Jewellery (small stud earrings are allowed)
 No Jeans, Boxers, Regular Clothing or Street Shoes

Viewing Classes

Although we all love to watch our children learning, it is actually quite uncomfortable for the students to learn (and make mistakes) while people are watching. In order for your child to get the best out of class time we have implemented a no spectator rule and hope this will be respected. This includes friends of the dancers who want to come in and watch a class. We have two official parent's viewing week. Any competitive class will not be offered this opportunity.

Dress Code

BALLET/INTRO TO DANCE

Hair in Bun (no exceptions), Pink Ballet Tights, Ballet Shoes
 3 yrs to Primary - Pink Body Suit, Pink Wrap Skirt
 Grades 1 & Up - Character Shoes & Skirt, Navy Body suit

JAZZ/TAP/LYRICAL/MODERN/HIP HOP

Hair pulled back, black bodysuit, Jazz shorts (optional)
 Tap & Jazz Shoes— **Black**
 Lyrical - **Beige** Free Forms
 Hip Hop - **Indoor** solid Black runners

Please visit Ready Set Dance downtown
 between Valhalla Pure and Bama Furniture for all your dance wear needs.

Programs:

Please read your registration package for information on our different programs. We have a recreational program, exam program as well as a competitive program. Be sure to choose your program wisely to suit the needs of your child and family.

Disciplines Offered by DansConnection

Ballet ~ For students ages 3 and up

Ballet is the foundation of all dance disciplines. Students will study the RAD syllabus. Ballet classes combine both art and grace with the development of good tone, technique, and placement. Classes are offered at the recreational, competitive and examination levels. Ballet is an excellent way to enjoy increased fitness, body awareness for performance and personal enjoyment.

Tap ~ For students ages 3 and up

Tap is the discipline where your feet make the music. Paired with popular and classic music, students will learn to improve their timing and coordination while developing rhythmic and syncopated footwork. Students of all ages are introduced to ADAPT tap technique and terminology. Dancers will love learning the tap steps in an encouraging atmosphere. If you love to make noise with your feet, tap is the discipline for you.

Jazz ~ For students ages 5 and up

Jazz is an expressive and energetic dance discipline that combines current dance moves with popular musical trends. Students will develop the latest dance styles in these high energy and innovative classes. Students of all ages are introduced to ADAPT tap technique and terminology. Age appropriate material is presented in a fun and exciting manner with an emphasis on safe and correct technical execution. This discipline is especially enjoyed by high-energy kids, teen and adults.

Hip Hop/Street Dance ~ For students ages 5 and up

Hip Hop/Street Dance classes are the only place where you can dance to your favourite pop music and learn all the cool dance steps from music videos. This discipline teaches the latest, most innovative and trendy urban dance techniques! Elements include proper conditioning, stretch and strengthen techniques, steps and combinations. The blend of jazz and street-style dancing has made hip hop a popular choice for dancers. Anyone can join these high-energy classes, as long as you bring some attitude and a little individual style!