

CWDA NEWS Oct-Nov.

Congratulations to all students and their fantastic ballet exam results. There were some excellent results with many students receiving very high scores. All students should be proud of their efforts in preparing for these exams.

Concert Date: Sunday 23rd November 11.00am and 3.30pm at Laycock Street Theatre.

All students will perform in both concerts.

Please arrive at the concert one hour early, with makeup already completed.

Dress Rehearsal: The dress rehearsal will be held at **Gosford High School Hall** (Racecourse Rd, Gosford) on **Sunday 16th November**, commencing at 9.00am. Please arrive at 8.15am to be ready for a 9am start. We will try to let the babies go early but it can be a stressful day so please bear with us. We can only go as fast as the students can have photos taken, and dress for their next dance. There will be times when we ask for certain students to be photographed first so we can continue with the next dance – please be patient.

Cost for dress rehearsal is \$12.00 per student - payable by 8th November.

This day is not a watching day - only mothers may attend to dress their child. Please arrange baby-sitting for siblings on this day. This will be a full hair, makeup and costume rehearsal, as well as photo day. Please ask your child's teacher for makeup requirements.

No jewellery, glitter or nail polish to be worn.

Technical Rehearsal: The technical rehearsal will be held on **Tuesday 18th November at Laycock St Theatre at 8.00am**. Please allow for heavy traffic heading into Gosford at this time of the morning, so we can start on time.

Cost of this rehearsal is \$16.00 per child - payable by 8th November.

During the technical rehearsal we work on staging and spacing of students in their dance; and help students to learn their entrance and exits positions throughout their dance. As they often have to run on and off stage, and sometimes even around to the other side of the stage before coming back onstage again. This all takes practice to understand how far and fast they need to travel, especially as Laycock Street Theatre's stage is so large. We also work on the finale and spacing it on this stage.

We set our lighting design at this rehearsal to allow students to adjust to the lighting. From onstage the lighting is very bright and with the darkened theatre it's important that our little ones know what to expect. They also learn how far forward to finish so when the curtain drops they are behind it, and learn to wait until it's completely down before exiting the stage.

As you can see this rehearsal is important in so many ways. I realise this may be difficult for some parents to organise around work commitments with it being a weekday, but this rehearsal is an essential part of concert preparation. We unfortunately have no say in allocation of our rehearsal date. You may be able to arrange car pooling with another parent.

The babies groups will finish at 9.30am; 8/u groups will finish at 11.00am. All others will finish at 2.30pm.

Sorry no parents watching on this day. Due to security rules at the theatre parents will not be allowed to enter the backstage of the theatre on this day. Please drop off and collect your child promptly at the stage door, where they will be marked on and off the roll again before leaving.

Teachers will take the students backstage in the morning and bring them back to the stage door at their stated finish times. Please try to be prompt collecting your child at the stage door. Teachers need to resume rehearsals and can't wait at the stage door for too long. If you can please try to be on time for pick-up, it will be much appreciated.

This is not a costume rehearsal. Children should wear full class uniform to this rehearsal, including dance shoes, leotard, hair in bun (girls), etc.

Photos:

Photos will be taken at the dress rehearsal. Each child should soon receive envelopes for orders. Please bring these envelopes with you on the dress rehearsal day. They can be handed straight to the photographer. The photographer will again take onstage photos at our concert, for students to order after the concert.

DVD Orders:

We are using the same company as last year to film this year's concert. The cost is still \$50.00 each, plus \$5 postage. They will record the Sunday afternoon concert and presentation/awards following the concert. Order envelopes will be available soon. These orders are to be handed to your child's teacher. If you don't pay for postage then your copy will not be available for collection until classes resume next year. No cameras or videos are allowed at the dress rehearsal or at Laycock Street Theatre.

Chocolate Fundraising:

We have now finished our chocolate fundraiser, so please return all outstanding chocolate money. Please remember that the first box sold purchases trophies for every child in the concert as well as special awards. Each subsequent box sold after this will raise \$20 towards your child's costume. (Each box totals \$50 worth of chocolates and we pay Cadbury \$30 to buy the chocolates). I won't know each child's profit raised towards costumes until all money has been returned.

Thank you to Kim Miller, Jenny Fuller and Kate Lowe for running this fundraiser again this year.

Class Schedule:

The last day for classes for this year will be on **Saturday 6th December, 2014.**

This means classes will continue for 2 weeks after the concert. Students will gain a head start on new work for 2015. If we were to break up straight after the concert students would lose their fitness and flexibility. They will still have 6-7 weeks' vacation when we break up on the 6th December.

Classes will resume next year on **Tuesday 27th January, 2015.**

All Fees that are in arrears must be paid immediately. Thank you to those who keep up to date.

Every student's fees for the entire year - up to 6th December 2014 and costumes must be finalised in full by 8th November, before any costumes will be handed out to take home.

No costume will be handed out until after all costumes and all class fees are paid in full to the 6th December.

This may seem harsh but each year people take advantage of small kindnesses in relation to fees and do not pay fees owing.

Costumes:

Many costumes are now complete or nearing completion. Most prices are now on the noticeboard. All costumes must be paid by cash only so we can directly and promptly pay dressmakers.

Please do not pay in the same envelope as class fees, or by direct deposit into my account.

Remember to deduct the \$40.00 deposit you have paid previously from the total cost listed on the board. If you haven't paid the costume deposit, then please pay the full amount listed.

All class fees, chocolate fundraising and costume payments need to be finalized by 8th November and prior to collecting costumes.

Dressers at concert:

All mothers are required to dress their own child at the concert. To allow mothers to watch the concert, we find the best method is for you to organise with another mum to take turns dressing and looking after each other's child. One mum dresses at the first concert, the other mum dresses at the second. Some prefer to ask an aunt or grandmother to dress for one concert.

Some mothers have to dress more than one child, or have quick changes or multiple changes. If you see someone struggling please offer to help, this allows the concert to flow faster and is less stressful for all.

I will put a sign on the noticeboard for all mothers to write down which concert they will be dressing at, please write your preferred concert on this note.

Helpers at Concert: Each year we have a dedicated but very small group of mothers who help at the concert. Unfortunately we always have a shortfall of helpers despite many requests for help. We need helpers to sign in/out at the stage door and on the door of the Don Craig room; also someone to man the door from foyer to backstage. We need one person to open this access door for students trying to get from the Don Craig Room to the stage. This person will need to stay at the door with the key and listen for students knocking. If you can help with this, for either concert, please let me know. Students using the Don Craig Room are asked to enter/exit this door as a whole group only. Please wait for all group members before knocking.

We also require a couple of mums to usher students side stage so they are ready to perform; and someone in charge of each change room. Please consider helping with one of these tasks. It helps with the smooth running of the concert.

Shoes, Accessories and Hairstyles

I will also be putting a list on the board regarding hairstyles, and shoe requirements for all dances. I am just waiting for final word from teachers as they see costumes nearing completion. For all other needs please see your child's teacher. Dress rehearsal is with hair curled (if required for your child's dance). No jewellery or nail polish is to be worn for dress rehearsal/ concerts. **Please don't let your child eat or drink in their costumes.**

Laycock Street Theatre:

No students are allowed in the foyer at any time at the concert. This includes before the show and during interval. There is to be absolutely no access through the door that connects the backstage and foyer. You must use the backstage door and walk around outside the theatre to the entrance. This is a strict requirement of hire with the theatre. Only students dressing in the Don Craig room are allowed to pass through this access door. **There will be no watching from side stage allowed at all except for the finale and awards presentation.** The only people allowed side stage at any time are backstage crew and the performers who are about to dance next. This is very important as many dancers exit and re-enter throughout their routine and it becomes too congested as well as noisy if people are watching from the wings.

Please remember to keep your dressing rooms tidy at all times. We must tidy our own mess after the concert, as a condition of hire. It would be very helpful if each age group could tidy their own dressing area. Last year a few people stayed behind with the teachers to help tidy up. This made the task so much easier for us all and I thank those people. If everyone could help out a little that would make it even easier.

Backstage Access at Concert:

Access will be strictly limited to mothers who are dressing, students, and teachers only.

This is a security precaution and a condition of hire. I have to provide a list of names of every person wanting backstage access, and each person needs to be marked off the list. We have been told that this rule must be strictly followed and theatre staff will monitor the stage door access this year.

Anyone wanting backstage access to either concert please write your name on the list I will soon put on the noticeboard. If your name is not on this list you will not be allowed backstage.

Concert Tickets:

Tickets will go on sale Tuesday 28th October at 11.00am. Please note the later time...in the past tickets went on sale at 10.00am, but will now only be available from 11.00am. The tickets will be available to purchase online at www.laycockstreettheatre.com They will also be available at Laycock Street Theatre box office and by phone 43233 233. The box office hours are 11.00am - 5.00pm weekdays. Adults: \$35 Pensioner/Child: \$26

If you have any queries regarding rehearsals or the concert please ask your child's teacher, or call Cheryl on 43561999. You can also send a message through our Facebook page or by email. Looking forward to another entertaining concert!

Regards,
Cheryl