

CWDA NEWS Oct - Nov

Term 4 has now commenced and with its arrival we begin to finalise all our concert preparations. Costumes have all been ordered and some have even arrived for students to try on and admire. There are some very excited children right now!

Please remember to keep all of the following important dates for the concert free in your calender: -

Dress Rehearsal and Photo Day - Sunday 4th December 8.15am - Gosford High School Hall - \$14

Technical Rehearsal - Tuesday 6th December 8am - 2.30pm - Laycock St Theatre - \$18

Concerts - Sunday 11th December 11am AND 3.30pm - Laycock St Theatre (arrive 10am)

Last day of classes for 2016 - Saturday 10th December 2016.

All students will be involved in both concerts; participation trophies and awards will be handed out to students at the end of the second concert.

Please arrive at the concert one hour early, with makeup already completed - 10am

Dress Rehearsal: The dress rehearsal will be held at **Gosford High School Hall** (Racecourse Rd, Gosford) on **Sunday 4th December**, commencing at 9.00am. Please arrive at 8.15am to be ready for a 9am start. We will start with the finale (this involves every student taking a bow) and will follow in order of the concert program with the exception of our babies. We will do our best to bring the babies performances forward so they can leave earlier. This will all depend on how organised everyone is and how quickly everyone changes for their next dance. Please don't be late as it holds up the whole day.

Cost for dress rehearsal is \$14.00 per student - payable by 26th 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. Please ask your child's teacher for makeup requirements. *No jewellery, glitter or nail polish to be worn. Please remove earrings.*

Photos: Photos will be taken at the dress rehearsal. We are using Winkipop Media this year. They will photograph portraits at dress rehearsal as well as onstage photos at our 11am concert.

Ordering information will be available soon.

Technical Rehearsal: The technical rehearsal will be held on **Tuesday 6th December 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 \$18.00 per child** - payable by 26th 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 as the theatre is very heavily booked. You may be able to arrange car pooling with another parent or ask grandparents to help with transport.

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.

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

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 10th December 2016 plus costumes must be finalised in full by 26th November, before any costumes will be handed out to take home.

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. Some prices are now on the noticeboard and the rest will follow as soon as we receive them. 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, nor 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, dress and technical rehearsals, chocolate fundraising and costume payments need to be finalised by 26th November and prior to collecting costumes.

To take the financial pressure off all payments becoming due by 26th November parents are welcome to start making small extra payments in advance on either fees or costumes. Please make sure envelopes are clearly labelled explaining your wish to do this and remember to keep all costume and class fees separated.

DVD Orders: We are using Gerald Webb at livewebvideo, the same company as last year, to film this year's concert. The cost is still \$50.00 each, plus \$5 postage. Gerald will record the Sunday 3.30pm 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 Laycock Street Theatre.

Dressers at concert: All mothers are required to dress their own child at the concert for one 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.

Please note that only parents who have children in multiple dances with quick changes are allowed access backstage to both concerts. Over the last couple of years, the dressing room space has become very congested and noisy. To overcome this, we have decided to restrict backstage access so that mothers can dress for one of the concerts only.

For this reason, it is essential that you have arranged well in advance to take turns with another mother. Exceptions will be made for our babies with separation anxiety and for those mothers whose child has multiple quick changes.

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.

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 also 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.

Chocolate Fundraising: We are now finishing our chocolate fundraiser, so please return all outstanding chocolate money. Each 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 Gabby Church for running this fundraiser.

Shoes, Accessories and Hairstyles: A list will soon be placed on the noticeboard 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 the 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.

Concert Tickets: Tickets will go on sale Tuesday 15th November 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: \$40 Pensioner/Child: \$30

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!

Classes resume on Monday 30th January 2017.

Regards,
Cheryl