



NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2012

Welcome Back

We hope you have enjoyed the break and welcome you back for 2012 which we know will be an exciting and successful one for the Michelle Slater Performing Arts Studio. Our end of year concerts were very well received and again the studio was very successful at the Darebin and Royal South Street dance eisteddfod's winning the Teachers aggregates at both Competitions, that's 5 years in a row and going strong. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work and dedication.

New Teachers

This year we welcome Kirsty Martin and Damien Welch to our teaching faculty. Kirsty & Damien began their illustrious career with the Australian Ballet. In 2000 they headed to Europe to dance with the acclaimed Nederlands Dans Theatre, they returned to Australia and re-joined the company in 2002. After a series of outstanding roles across a wide spectrum of repertoire from the most classical ballets, La Bayadere to the contemporary works of Jiri Kylian and William Forsyth. In 2009 Kirsty became the first Australian to win the converted Benois de la Danse prize (known as the Oscars of ballet) which is awarded to the most outstanding dancer internationally.

Kirsty: Fridays 4.00pm - 5.30pm Open Age Ballet and 5.30pm - 7.00pm Under 17yrs Ballet

Damien: Tuesdays 4.00pm-5.30pm Contemporary Open Age

We are also very happy to announce that Samantha Hunt will be joining our team for classes on Fridays. Samantha was the director of her own very successful performing arts studio and we are extremely lucky to have her wealth of experience and knowledge at our studio this year.

Term Dates:

Term 1 – Monday 6th February to Saturday 31th March

Term 2 – Monday 16th April to Friday 29th June

Term 3 – Monday 16th July to Friday 21st September

Term 4 – Monday 8th October to Friday 30th November

RECEPTION HOURS

Monday 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Tuesday 4.00pm – 9.00pm

Wednesday 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Friday 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Saturday 9.00am – 4.00pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd March

28th June – 8th July

20th Sept – 6th Oct

22nd November

30th November

14th December

Fundraising Dinner Dance

Darebin Competitions

Ballarat Competitions

Showcase 2011 – Clocktower

Showtime 2011 – The Palms at Crown

Spectacular – The Palms at Crown

CLASS REGISTRATIONS FOR 2012

A reminder to please get your 2012 registration forms in as soon as possible. Classes are filling quickly.

Over the break we've been working on upgrading to a new computer system, when you receive your invoice in the next week or so you will note that your invoice has changed quite a bit, we are hoping for a smooth transmission to the new system but please be aware that there may be some teething problems. We need all families to make sure that they have provided us with their current contact information and be aware that our main form of communication is via email. Please contact reception if you are not receiving invoices or any communications via email so that we can update your records. The newsletters will also be placed on the noticeboard each term.

The updated 2012 timetable is available on the website www.michelleslater.com.au please note that we are aware that some students may have class clashes and will be looking into these issues as soon as possible.

If you have any queries about registrations please email the studio on slaterperformst@optusnet.com.au and your query will be answered promptly. **PLEASE DO NOT RING THE STUDIO, LEAVE PHONE MESSAGES OR MAKE ENQUIRIES WITH TEACHERS ABOUT REGISTRATIONS.** Registrations must be accompanied with an administrative fee of \$27.00 for individuals or \$37.00 for families in order to secure a place. Registrations will not be processed without an accompanying administration fee. Class placement is at the discretion of the teacher and principals. Decisions as to class allocations by teachers are based on age and previous training.

HELP LESSONS AND PRIVATE LESSONS

Help lessons are available to those students wishing to improve their technique or to consolidate existing skills taught in class, please see reception to advise on what teacher will be suitable for your child. Payments for private lessons and help lessons **MUST** be given to the teacher prior to the commencement of the lesson, Do not leave the money at reception or in the fee box, 24 hour notice must be given for cancelation of private lessons otherwise a fee will be charged, please make sure you have your teachers mobile/email details.

FEE PAYMENTS

Term 1 fees are payable in full by the end of the second week of term 1, 18th February 2012. Where a student does more than 3.5 hours a week, an extension is allowable until week 4 of term 1, 3rd March 2012.

Please note that it is studio policy that all outstanding amounts after the abovementioned dates will incur a \$50.00 late payment fee. **Again we urge you to advise reception if you are not receiving invoices or any other communications via email.** If you require any further information regarding this matter please see reception.

We accept payments in cash, cheque (made payable to Michelle Slater Performing Arts Studio), eftpos and credit card (VISA & Mastercard). Credit Card payments can also be made by phoning through card details to the studio during reception hours (see times above). Families can also transfer fee payments to our nominated bank account being:

Commonwealth Bank

BSB: 063-147

Account #: 1054-3730

Account Name: Michelle Slater Performing Arts Studio

Ref: Please use your child's surname as the reference

CONCERT DVD'S

If you placed an order for a Showcase or Showtime Concert DVD they will be available for collection at reception from Monday 6th February at 4pm. Stay tuned for Spectacular DVD collection dates.

HIRE COSTUME RETURNS

If you didn't return your child's hire costume on the allocated dates in 2011 please return them urgently. A reminder that hire costumes must be returned in a clean state with all accessories attached or you may be requested to forfeit your \$20.00 security deposit.

HOUSEKEEPING/ADMIN REMINDERS

Please treat the studio as you would your own home. Do not drop litter outside and we ask all students to use the bins inside the studio where provided for their rubbish.

Parents are requested NOT to leave young students (esp. pre-school age) at the studio unsupervised or with older siblings. Staff & teachers are NOT responsible for looking after younger students where parents are absent. Non-dancing siblings are not to treat the studio as a playground and parents are requested to provide suitable activities for siblings whilst they are waiting during class times. Boisterous & unruly behaviour will not be tolerated especially in our reception area. Please also note that empty studios are not to be used as lunch rooms or play areas for anyone at anytime.

Parents are requested to come into the studio and check for any notices on notice boards. Parents PLEASE ask your children if they have received any notices in class or visit the studio regularly to check the notice boards. The onus remains firmly with parents to ensure that they are kept fully informed at all times of any changes to classes, rehearsal times etc. This becomes particularly relevant and important around competition and concert times.

If your child is unwell PLEASE do not bring them to class.

Parents are also requested NOT to speak to teachers during class time or after classes about their child's progress. If you have a query/issue/concern please address it to the particular teacher via email to the studio at slaterperformst@optusnet.com.au, your query will then be promptly directed to the teacher for his/her response. Class time is precious and all students are entitled to their teacher's full attention during class time. Teachers often take back to back classes and any discussion after class can result in them being late to their next class. Please be aware of this as we have asked all of our teachers to ensure that they are punctual and run all their classes on time.

CAR PARKING

As always at the start of Term 1 each year we must share our space with the Landmark Books customers we ask that you all adhere to the following regarding parking.

Please be considerate of others and observe all car parking regulations. There is a **DROP OFF ONLY** area along the station perimeter at the end of Melfort Avenue outside the studio, **DO NOT PARK** except if you are dropping off students. It is **STRICTLY A DROP AND GO ZONE - Drivers are not permitted to leave their vehicles in this zone. DO NOT DOUBLE PARK OR PARK ACROSS DRIVEWAYS** in Melfort Avenue, it inconveniences others. Please do not park in the area in front of the roller door as this area is allocated to teachers only.

We also ask you not to park in the area between our studio and Landmark books until after 5.30pm Monday to Friday. There's plenty of available parking in Paul England's car park (after 5pm weekdays & all weekend) and in the Strathmore station car park on Pascoe Vale Road (on weekends).

Please be aware of other people as you leave and enter the street.

FUNDRAISING

Some of our competition students will be travelling to the USA in 2013 to perform at Disneyland. The fundraising committee have organised a variety of fundraising events the main event being our Dinner Dance on the 3rd of March 2012. Keep an eye on the notice boards for event information and help support this exciting venture.

We look forward to another fantastic year!!

Michelle & Kevin
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