



Zeeland Recreation Dance Program December Newsletter



It is really hard to believe that fall semester is wrapping up this week! It has been so great to watch our classes grow technically and artistically this fall, as well as to watch our dancers create new friendships and strengthen old ones as they continue to dance with each other every week. As instructors, it really is a blessing to watch this dance community grow, and to see the little dance families that are formed as some of our dancers grow up together over the years. We hope that you all find peace and joy amidst the business of this holiday season, and that you know that one of our most cherished gifts is that you share your children with us each week.

THIS MONTH'S
REMINDERS

“Uplifted” and Kids Dance Day



Please join us at Cityside Lokers Auditorium on December 16th at 7:00 p.m. and December 17th at 6:00 p.m. as the Zeeland Dance Company and its younger divisions, the Zeeland Youth Dance Company and Junior Company, present “Uplifted.” With 100% of the ticket sales going to Hand2Hand Ministry, this benefit concert is a great addition to any holiday agenda. The concert itself is less than an hour, and pairs holiday pieces of many disciplines alongside highlights of “The Nutcracker”, including the cheerful “March of the Children,” the lovely “Sugarplum Fairy,” the powerful Russian “Trepak,” the cheeky “Gingerbread” children, and bright “Waltz of the Flowers” amongst others. The brevity of the concert makes this an ideal first “Nutcracker” experience for young children.

Children of the community, ages three through fifth grade, are also invited to join the Zeeland Dance Company onstage during their weekend of performances through participating in a Kids Dance Day that takes place December 17th. Children ages three through kindergarten can come join the company for a morning of dance, crafts, and lunch from 9:00-12:00 with their morning concluding in a showcase for the parents. Children ages first through fifth grade can come join the company from 9:00-2:00 for technique classes and to learn choreography to perform alongside the company members in the benefit concert on the evening of December 17th. It is a wonderful way for many children from the community to get involved in giving back to Hand2Hand. The official deadline already passed, but we have extended registration to be open through Thursday, so if you have not signed up for this opportunity, it is definitely not too late!

Visiting Days

Visiting days are in full swing. Many classes have already completed visiting day and a few are wrapping up this week. Family and friends are welcome to come watch, but please keep in mind that at all of our locations, seating is limited. Please limit distractions during visiting day by refraining from talking to other guests or to your dancer during the class. Feel free to take pictures or videos before, during, or after class!



Zeeland Recreation Dance Program Apparel

For those who placed orders, apparel should be ready to pick up in the office starting December 20! Dancers may pick up apparel themselves, but feel free to sneak in during office hours if it is intended to be a gift.

Measuring Day

Thanks for a successful measuring day! We had an awesome turn out. If you have yet to get your form in, please turn it into the office ASAP to ensure that you receive your preferred costume size for recital costumes.

Dancer Gift Guide

As the holidays approach, we instructors tend to get emails from parents asking about fun gifts to buy dancers. Here is a little round-up of our favorite items to support your dancers!

- Class appropriate dancewear: fun leotards and booty shorts, fresh tights, and to help keep dancers warm in the winter months, a ballet sweater and leg warmers
- Bun making kit: hair ties, hair donut, hair spray, hair clips, headband/barrettes, and don't forget tons of bobby pins!
- Stage make up kit: black and white eyeliner, mascara, false eyelashes, neutral eyeshadow, bright blush, dark pink/raspberry lipstick
- Sewing kit: thread to match leotards and shoes, pincushion, needles, pins, scissors, elastic
- iTunes gift cards
- For stretching and conditioning: yoga mat, yoga block, resistance bands, balance ball, Bosu Ball Balance Trainer
- For sore muscles and feet: foam roller, yoga wheel, Lacrosse ball
- [Apolla Shocks](#)
- A tap board (there are many great tap boards on the market, or for a more budget friendly option, a piece of plywood, paneling, or chip board)

A Few Extra Reminders

- The next Ballet Breakfast club will run on January 10.
- Students have started working on pieces for “Sleeping Beauty” as well as choreography for the spring concerts. We are happy to let parents take a quick video at the end of class of the choreography so that students may practice at home, but please communicate this desire with instructors before class. Weekly videotaping might not be necessary, but the occasional video of current choreography can be very helpful.

Dates at a Glance

December 16	Uplifted, 7:00 p.m. @ Lokers Auditorium
December 17	Kids Dance Day @ Lokers Auditorium
December 17	Uplifted, 6:00 p.m. Lokers Auditorium
February 3	Sleeping Beauty, 7:00 p.m. @ DeWitt Auditorium
February 4	Sleeping Beauty, 3:00 p.m. @ DeWitt Auditorium

