

# Dance Dialogue

## *Make Every Day Count*



IDA Awards are almost here! Can you believe it?! All the participants have been working so hard, and we are already extremely proud of them all! Remember that these last few days before Saturday are very important for the success of your dancer. It is vital that they are practicing their dances and exercises at home. It really doesn't take much time to do them at least once or twice each day, and the benefits are well worth it! It is hard to focus on the technique and performance aspects of ballet when you are struggling simply to remember what comes next. We want all of our dancers well prepared, so that they can do their very best!

On the big day, make sure to arrive at least twenty minutes early so that your child has time to get signed in, put their ribbon on, go over their exercises one last time, and breathe! Older dancers truly should arrive even earlier, so as to have enough time to properly warm up. Please make sure to arrive ready to go, meaning your child's hair is in a performance bun, and they are wearing proper attire. After each student in your dancer's group has performed, (about fifteen minutes) you will be excused. Please come back at the designated awards time, so that they can be given proper recognition, receiving their certificate and award.

Of course there will be some dancers who, in the heat of the moment, make mistakes, or just don't feel as if they did their very best, and their grade may reflect these things. They may also feel that they just deserved a higher grade. They may be disappointed. Please remember to be proud and supportive of your dancer, even if they do not do as well as you or they hoped or expected. It is important to remind them that the work that they have put into the awards is far more important than the grade they receive. If they have worked their very hardest, then they will have improved their dancing, and the true goal of IDA Awards will have been achieved. This is what is most important to Annie and the other teachers. Please remind your dancer that all the teachers are so proud of them, no matter what the outcome. Just being brave enough to get up in front of the judge is a major accomplishment!

Each dancer's "marks" will be on the back of their award. They are not required to share their grade with anyone else, just like in school. The purpose of these awards is not to inspire jealousy or unhealthy competition, but to challenge and honor each participant. Let's help all the dancers to keep a positive attitude towards themselves and each of their peers!

### **A Note from Annie:**

#### **Welcome Sharon**

As most of you know, my life keeps getting busier and busier. Two kids is amazing, but does add challenges! There is not nearly enough time for me to do some of the small day-to-day things that need attention with their opposite sleeping schedules, and little fingers that love to push buttons... So, I have decided to hire some additional office help. Many of you already know Sharon. She is a regular sub here at ABA. She knows the studio well, and really represents what we try to do in so many ways. Hiring this help is probably way over due. I am excited because it means I will really be able to keep my attention focused on what I love to do: teach and plan for your kids. Things that Sharon will do: emails, phone calls, newsletters, other print outs, schedules, website... I will continue to do the accounting stuff, along with the class, show, and business planning. My email is going to remain the same. Sharon is going to use the email [americanballetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:americanballetacademy@gmail.com). So, when you have a question, I would greatly appreciate it if you would contact Sharon. If she doesn't have the answer she will either find it or forward it to me! If it is something confidential then by all means send it to me directly. I want everyone to know that I am still here 100% for those times I am needed. But, if you have a friend that wants to join ballet and doesn't know where/when/how to register, or you are wondering about switching from Tuesday to Thursday Ballet I - contact Sharon :).



What's Next?

Once performance awards are over, the dancers begin thinking about the Spring Performance! Sometime after Spring Break we will begin rehearsals. Yippee! Annie is still deciding on what to do for the Spring Show, but you can be sure it will be as fun and entertaining as ever!

It is important to be aware of the commitments before the rehearsal season begins. It is extremely vital for your dancer not to miss class except in cases of emergency, illness, or

a mandatory school function. We will review the ABA attendance policy in next month's newsletter. Other important dates include Class Meetings and Costume Fittings – April 13-18, All-Cast Rehearsals – May 30 and June 6, Spacing Rehearsals at the Elsinore – June 12, and the Spring Performance – June 13.

As always, it is going to be a busy spring. We are so excited to get started on this next adventure with all our ABA dancers!



Pirouette Workshop

Level 3 and up is invited to attend a pirouette workshop being offered by Ikolo Griffin (formerly with the San Francisco Ballet). This workshop is being held March 24 and 26 from 11am-1pm. This is a great opportunity to keep dancing over Spring Break, and to train with a top notch teacher! Prices are \$35 for one class, or \$50 for both. If you sign up by March 10, you get a 10% discount off both dates only. Class space is limited to 20 dancers, so sign up ASAP.

To sign up either call Ikolo at 415.205.2714, or email him at ikolo@justturns.com. For more information on this workshop you can go to justturns.com. This event will be held at American Ballet Academy. We Hope to see you there!

*Wishing everyone a wonderful spring break! March 23-28*

**Calendar**

**March 7, 2015**

International Dance Acclaim Awards in the afternoon. Individual's exact times are posted on the viewing window of the upstairs studio.

**March 23-28, 2015**

Spring Break! Let's hope for sunny weather!

**April 13-18, 2015**

Spring Performance Costume Fittings and Parent Meetings during class. Ballet II and lower parents: plan to attend!

**May 25, 2015**

Memorial Day! No class!

**May 30, 2015**

All-cast Rehearsal, afternoon, at ABA.

**June 6, 2015**

All-cast Rehearsal, afternoon, at ABA.

**June 12 2015**

Spring Performance Rehearsals, at the Elsinore

**June 13, 2015**

Spring Performance at the Elsinore

**June 30, 2015**

Last day of school year classes

**CONTACT**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact us at any of the following:

Phone: (503) 364-4738

Email: [americanballetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:americanballetacademy@gmail.com)

Mail: PO Box 2671 : Salem, OR 97308

[www.americanballetacademy.net](http://www.americanballetacademy.net)

Like us on Facebook!

Store Hours:

Tuesday 4:45-5:45pm

Saturday 10:15-11:45am

By appointment

