



# Welcome Back!



It's the beginning of another great year here at ABA! We are so glad to have our families from last year back, and to say a big welcome to our new students! Please be sure to greet any new dancers and families you may see; let's show everyone why we love ABA!

If you have not already, please be sure to double check your ABA Profile. It is important that you make sure you are signed up for the classes that you are wanting to take. It would also be great if you could check that your contact information is up to date. Please also be aware that if you are wanting to sign up for Automatic Payments, there is a form we need signed from you and returned to us. If you want this form, please email us at: [americanballetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:americanballetacademy@gmail.com)

Many of you heard that Dana received a once in a lifetime opportunity to go to Europe with her family! Obviously we were very happy to make sure that she was able to go! We have made sure that all her classes are being covered while she is gone, so you may see someone you do not know or did not expect teaching one of your classes. Have fun with your substitute teachers, knowing that Dana will be back on the 21<sup>st</sup>, excited to be home, and happy to be back with her ABA family!

Speaking of the ABA family, we want to send out a huge THANK YOU to all of you who helped us oppose the bus stop in front of the studio. We

won! We received overwhelming support from you all, and we just can't thank you enough!

## **Nutcracker & Parent Meetings**

Of course with fall comes Nutcracker! **Please check the calendar on the page two for important Nutcracker dates.**

As with past performances, we will be having our parent meetings and costume fittings during your child's class time during the week of October 5-10. Please plan on attending!

Seating will be assigned for the shows, and tickets go on sale October 19. Since parents normally get their tickets earlier now to make sure they get the right seats, we will be coming around looking for volunteers sooner. Please keep this in mind when you are asked to be signed up for a position so soon before the show. We know it can get old being asked over and over to please sign up, and that it can feel we are rushing you. We hope everyone will remember that we just want to get the help we need to make the performance a great experience for all the dancers! And of course, thank you so much for volunteering!

Nutcracker is an exciting time & everyone has a role they would like to get. Unfortunately, that means you could find yourself with a disappointed dancer. Please do your best to be proud about whatever role they are given; they are all so much fun! It helps a lot when they see that you are excited for them; it is contagious!

## **Classes not to miss!**

We are excited to announce that we now have three levels of **Boys Ballet Classes:** Ages 5+, Ages 9+, and Men's Class, as advised by the instructor. These classes give boys the chance to focus on movements that are generally included in the male repertoire. Remember, these classes are tuition free!

**Pas de Deux** class is here! In partnering, students will learn to apply the foundational technique they have learned, while being supported by another dancer. They will also learn to move together in a way that compliments both dancers. Whereas there will be boys in the class, girls will sometimes be required to partner each other. This will ultimately make them a better partner. This class is for ages 14 & up, and requires an additional 5 technique classes.

It can be especially hard with the more advanced dancers who have solos or small group dances. It's hard not to feel compared, or that we are valuing one dancer above another. Please keep in mind that with casting we take into account strengths, what we want each dancer to improve on, and what part will best showcase each and every person! So cheer up! You are all truly great dancers! ☺ Of course younger dancers can also be disappointed, especially if they have been the same part for many years. Please help them to keep in mind that we try our best to mix things up, but we can't always accommodate the wishes of everyone. And remember that the dances are different each year, even if your dancer is the same role again.



### **Dress Code and Back to Dance Sale**

With the start of the new year, we like to write a little about the dress code for new students, and as a refresher for returning students. Girls should wear a solid colored leotard, pink tights, and pink ballet slippers. If you have black tights or shoes from past performances, it is acceptable to wear these to class. Ballet I-III are not allowed to wear skirts. They can wear tight fitting black shorts sometimes, but need to be comfortable in just a leotard and tights.

Girls Ballet I and up need to have hair pulled back in a

proper ballet bun. This is both traditional and functional. If you need help with this, it's alright to ask another parent to help you!

If you are in need of some new dance attire, come on in to our back to dance sale! It will be happening Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 2pm-4pm, at the studio. Come on in and get geared up for classes!

We'd also like to say a few words about ballet etiquette. These niceties are universal in the ballet world, and are good for dancers of all ages to know and practice. It is important for your dancer to be at class on time, in proper attire. Hands should be raised to ask or answer questions, and talking should be kept to an absolute minimum in class. Your dancer should always thank the teacher at the end of class. Please keep absences to a minimum, and be sure to let your teacher know when you have to miss. Dancers should never lean on walls or the barre. Please go over these rules with your dancer!

### **Parking Lot Safety**

With fall comes a fuller lot, and earlier darkness. Please be safe coming in and leaving the studio! Be sure to escort your dancer in and out of the studio, and to have them wait for you **inside** the studio. Older dancers who drive themselves should still come and go using the buddy system. We have had no incidents, but want to make sure everyone stays safe! Please also honor the 10 minute spots in the lot. These spots are for parents to drop off their dancers.

## Calendar

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-4pm, 2015

Back to Ballet Sale

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Eugene Nutcracker Audition at ABA.

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Nutcracker Tickets go on sale

October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

We have Saturday classes!

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal at ABA.

1:00 for Act I, and 3:15 for Act II.

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

No class today. Happy Thanksgiving!

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Mandatory All Cast Rehearsal at ABA.

1:00 for Act I, and 3:15 for Act II.

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Spacing Rehearsals after school at the Elsinore Theatre. Pre-Ballet II & up only.

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dress Rehearsal at The Elsinore Theatre.

December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Children's Nutcracker!

## CONTACT

Please feel free to contact us at any of the following:

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Store Hours:

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm

Saturday 10:15-11:45am

By appointment