



## **OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

### **A Word from our Directors: Ms Jenna and Ms Chantel**

The year is off to a fabulous start and we are very excited to welcome over 500 Performance Program students into the studio each week! Over the past month our dancers have been working on through the concept of space and place (locomotor and non-locomotor movement) and for October we will be focusing on Size and Reach. We already have so much to share with you and Parent Share is almost here! We sometimes receive questions about why the door is closed during your child's dance class. Our little dancers are very distracted by conversations in the lobby, siblings playing with the toys in the toy box, having dance families watching at the door, or by the music that spills from one room to the next. We do our best to create a safe environment for your child to learn and explore movement without distractions. Our Parent Shares are an opportunity to see what we have been learning and how your child has been growing in dance. While many children are excited to dance for their families and an audience, others find this quite overwhelming. If you find that your child seems timid or withdrawn, this is perfectly normal. We have been working towards having your little dancer become comfortable dancing with his/her teachers and classmates over the last month; however, he/she may not feel as comfortable dancing in front of a room full of people. As teachers, we will encourage your child to participate but we will not force them, as this may add to his/her anxiety. Therefore, please do not be disappointed if your child does not participate as enthusiastically as hoped and know that this is probably not your child's typical classroom behaviour.





If you do have any concerns, please feel free to touch base with your child's teacher after class.

Thank you for your wonderful support families! We are so proud of our little dancers.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jenna & Ms. Chantel

## Dress for Success!

   	<p>While we do not adhere to strict dress codes at the studio we do ask that your dancer come dressed for dance. We allow choice through the colour and style of leotards in ballet/tap, and of leggings and athletic tops in hip hop/tap but we have seen a trend in children coming to class dressed in non-dance attire. In the same way that you would wear a swim suit for swim class so that you are not bogged down in the water it is just as important to wear dance clothes to dance class. Baggy sweatshirts and pants, jeans, hoodies, baggy t-shirts make it difficult for your child's teacher to assess their alignment and movement. Appropriate dance shoes are also very important for our dancers to allow for turning, movement at barre or supporting the foot in Hip hop. It is also very important for hair to be pulled off the face for safety reasons in all styles of dance. In levels 4 and up we do a lot of turning and spotting. Ponytails sometimes whip dancers in the face and a quick bun using a Dollarama bun donut can be a simple solution to this problem. We want our dancers to be able to move to their full potential and coming dressed for success is key to this.</p> <p>If you child is not dressed appropriately for dance class they may be asked to sit and watch for safety reasons.</p> <p>Last year we gave out hundreds of hair elastics. This year Hair elastics will be sold at the front desk for \$1 each.</p> <p><b>For a quick bun making tutorial <a href="#">click here</a> to see Ms Chantel and Madison do a 1 min ballet bun!</b></p>
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## Reminders:

- **Please keep your sick dancer home.** With cold and flu season upon us we ask that you please keep your dancer home if they are feeling under the weather. This ensures the other dancers and teachers have the best chance of staying healthy. It also keeps your dancer safe as illness can affect balance and vision.
- **Please label your child's dance shoes.** Over the last few weeks ballet slippers and tap shoes have been left behind after classes (we get it, it's busy!). We'd love to be able to track down whom the missing slippers belong to so we can return them to their rightful owner. Please write your child's first and last name on the inside of their dance shoes.
- **On October 15 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Payment Plan installment is date.** For those families using our payment plan please remember that we will be charging your card on Tuesday October 15. If your credit card has expired please be sure to contact Annie ([Annie@jadoredance.com](mailto:Annie@jadoredance.com)) to let her know what day you will be making your payment in person or over the phone.
- **Lost and Found** - After only 3 weeks of dance our Lost and Found box is already full! Please remember to take your water bottles, coats and dance bags home with you after class. If your child's items are labelled this also help us return them to you. This is another reason we have asked for no hoodies. Dancers get too hot quite quickly take them off and leave them behind!

## October Dance Concept: Size and Reach

This month our dancers will be exploring the concept of **Size**.

Size describes how much space a person occupies.

**Small** is “near reach” - body parts pulled in close to the center of the body.

**Big** is “far reach”- body parts extending into the kinesphere, away from the center of the body.

**Medium** is “mid-reach”-- this is the size our bodies generally move in during our day-to-day activities. It is in-between big and small.

Focusing on size encourages dancers to practice movements outside their everyday range of motion, and continues to support their body awareness as they develop new movement skills.

Variation in size and reach creates greater dynamics in dance exploration and composition. Every time your dancer explores a new movement concept they are adding a new layer of complexity and interest to their dancing.

Reach is also very important in dance technique as we work through extension and contraction. Dancers who have a good understanding of reach dance longer and stronger! Whether we are practicing center work or steps across the floor our dancers will focus on how size and reach relate to different dance skills.

The concepts we explore each month are taken from Rudolph Laban’s movement vocabulary and adapted to meet the outcomes of each of our JBallet®, JHop® and JTap® levels.

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **Fall Sharing Days**

Class sharing day gives your child the opportunity to show you what they have been working on in class. **Photos and videos are allowed on sharing days.** As such no nametags will be worn during these classes.

Siblings are welcome to join you but please keep in mind they will have to sit in the audience area in the studio during the sharing. Please do not bring electronic games into your child’s class sharing as they are very disruptive to the dancers and the audience.

We ask that all adults in attendance remember they are modeling good audience etiquette to our young dancers. Please turn off the sound on all electronic devices and keep talking between families in the audience to a minimum. Our dancers and teachers appreciate respectful audience behavior 😊

All Families are invited to **the last 30 minutes of class** for sharing. Ms Oakely, Ms Bridget and Ms Chantel's families have been contacted about revised Parent share dates. Those families Please refer to your class emails about your parent share dates.

### **Fall sharing dates**

Saturday Classes: October 5

Sunday Classes: October 6

Monday classes: October 7

Tuesday classes: October 8

Wednesday classes: October 9

Thursday classes: October 10

Friday Classes: October 11

*\* Ms Chantel, Ms Bridget and Ms Oakley will all have their parent shares one week early.*

*\*\*Youth Contemporary - parent share is on Oct. 22*

### **Thanksgiving Weekend No class dates**

Saturday classes: October 12

Sunday classes: October 13

Monday classes: October 14

Thursday October 31 classes **beginning after 4pm**. JBallet® 3, 4, 5 and JTap® 4 (as these all fall during Halloween fun hours) all other classes beginning before 4pm will run as usual.

**Halloween Dress Up Week**: October 24\* -31\*\*. Dancers are invited to wear their costumes to class. We ask that you make sure your child's costume is not a tripping hazard and that they are still able to dance safely. We also ask that you do not send props to school (wands, swords ect) as these are a safety hazard in class.

*\*Thursday October 24 (for classes after 4pm)*

*\*\*Thursday October 31 (for classes before 4 pm)*

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Junior Recital (JBallet®, JHop® and JTap® Levels 1-3 (JTap® 4)**

February 22 – more information can be found in the parent handbook on the website

**Senior Recital (JBallet®, JHop® and JTap® Levels 4-Youth)**

March 13-14 – more information can be found in the parent handbook on the website

**Questions/Concerns/Comments?**

Please contact Ms Chantel (Chantel@jadoredance.com) with any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the Full Year Performance Programs.

Please contact the front desk ([info@jadoredance.com](mailto:info@jadoredance.com)) with any questions or concerns related to dancewear, payments or absences.