

April Newsletter 2005

(the newsletter of ALL newsletters – 9 pages!)

Hi everyone! Well, if you thought I was wordy before, check this 'BIBLE' out!!!

We are now really focused on the year-end Recital. We want to make sure that our students' time on that stage June 5th is a pleasant and memorable experience. Our show theme is '**A Little More Saskatchewan**'.

This 'Bible' contains 15 Important Items:

- 1) Costume Check times
- 2) PHOTO DAY schedule
- 3) May 1st Rehearsal Schedule – ALL students (Level 1-4 and Drama, Dance students required)
- 4) May COMBINED Class time changes
- 5) Dress Rehearsal Info – Sat. June 4th (some info, certain details TBA)
- 6) Recital Info – Sun. June 5th
- 7) Opening Number Rehearsal Schedule (Select Level 2-4 classes + Mini Express & Expressions)
- 8) Talent Show Week - with Miss Vanessa
- 9) Studio Attire Orders
- 10) New Calendar
- 11) Volunteers Needed
- 12) Mini Express & Expressions
- 13) CDs
- 14) Tip of the Month
- 15) PRACTICE PLEASE/LABEL EVERYTHING

1) Costume Check Times: Week of April 9-14th – (during dance portion of class - see attached schedule)

* It is very important that you come to this to find out any last-minute details needed to make the costumes for the recital just right. Even if your child is older, we would like the parents to be here. You are to bring your full costume (all but hair and make-up) and try them on so we can see that we're all on the same page.

*The students can wear the costume to class if they have their dance class first. If not, we will ask them to change right before dance class. If your child is wearing the costume to class, please bring a change of clothes for the other classes.

*Please LABEL ALL articles of your child's costume, etc.

2) PHOTO DAY Schedule: Photos are Sat. April 23rd and Sun. April 24th. – see attached schedule

*These are scheduled totally separate from your child's class. Please be on time. You can get ready here or at home, but take good care of your costumes. Order Forms from *Reflections by Richard* (from Humboldt) will be handed out within the month.

*Please note that the schedule was made with a lot of effort – no breaks are scheduled for the photographer or staff. Families with more than one child, out of towners, or special requests from long ago took precedence.

*If you pay for photos and your child cannot make the photo day, you will get your money back. We would appreciate a call though if you're not able to attend.

*Richard uses a digital camera so all photos are guaranteed to work out.

*Photos will be handed out at the Dress Rehearsal on Sat. June 4th after your child's group class has rehearsed.

*There will be a mini display of the special orders *Reflections by Richard* offers

*If you are NOT going to be here for Photo Day, please let us know as we plan the schedule by the amount of kids in the class.

3) May 1st Rehearsal Schedule – Sun. May 1st – Circle Drive Alliance Church - **IMPORTANT**

*ALL STUDENTS (except Tots) are to attend.

*We will learn our finale (pronounced 'fin-al-ee') song, all 220 of us – SASKAFUNK, by the Dalai Lamas which involves EVERY student & the instructors

*This is our ONLY chance to teach the choreography as a whole, so let us know if you cannot make this rehearsal as any un-notified absences may result in the student not taking part in Saskafunk.

*We will have some other classes rehearse at the church this day so please see if YOU are listed.

4) April 30/May/June Combined Classes – Class Time Change for month of May ONLY (and first week of June)

*As noted back in September, during the month of May we host Combined Classes where all 3 (or 2) instructors work with the group as a TEAM. True Musical Theatre style. Please see the schedule and make note of changes to your child's class time. The class lengths change for Level 2-4's as well. This change is mandatory to stay within reasonable hours of the day.

*As this is truly 'crunch time', please let us know of any absences from now on.

5) Dress Rehearsal Info – Sat. June 4, 2005 – Circle Drive Alliance Church – use north doors

(SCHEDULE YET TO BE DETERMINED, stay tuned)

*We will be running the Dress Rehearsal in order of the show as we have MANY costume changes, lighting cues, technical things that need to be ironed out. It will be a long day for us, and for possibly some of you. We ask that you do your best to accommodate this schedule ahead of time.

*Students are WELCOME to stay and watch quietly for the day – they can bring homework, quiet games, books, snacks (non-peanut please), etc. to keep them occupied if they have a break. NO FOOD is allowed in the auditorium, but they can eat out in the lobby. Parent chaperones will be volunteering all day.

*You will be given a specific time for your child's group, then another time for the FINALE (Saskafunk) with ALL of our students.

*Dress Rehearsal is full costume and props. Don't worry about hair or make-up unless you're concerned about it.

**Parents, this is OUR time to help your child learn about The Stage. You are welcome to wait in the lobby, but no parents will be allowed in the auditorium.*

*We will hand out photos after your child's group class has rehearsed.

6) RECITAL DAY – Sun. June 5th, 2005 – Show begins at 3:00 p.m. (till approximately 6:00 p.m.)

*The Big Day... students are to come fully prepared with costume, hair, make-up and a cover-up on

*Arrive at 2:00 p.m. to warm-up with the group, receive pep talk from instructors and focus for show!

*We truly ask that you leave your little ones with a sitter for the afternoon. It is a LONG show and, as you all know, having the sweet cries of young-ones while YOUR child is trying to say his/her line on stage can be very disheartening. On the same note, please make sure your cell phones and pagers and all other noisemakers are turned off once the show begins.

*Parents of younger students can go into the dressing room (on left)

*All classes will have a parent chaperone or 2 (or 3 if needed) so you can leave once you have found the chaperone

*NO RESERVED SEATING – except for volunteers & instructors & crew

*Doors will open by 2:30 at the latest

*Tickets will be on sale during our irregular hours by May 1st – prices TBA (around \$10-15, depending on theatre costs, etc.) No limit to amount of tickets you purchase. Tickets WILL be available at the door. The church holds 2000 so there will be ample seating. The balcony on the left will be reserved for our students & chaperones, but the right balcony is open to the public.

*After the show, there will be a short presentation of awards and thank you's and the students will be asked to pick up their Evaluation Cards to take home. Unclaimed evaluations will be mailed out.

***In accordance with federal copyright laws, we ask that no unsolicited video or audio recordings be made during the performance. We also ask that you refrain from using flash cameras and turn off your cellular phones and pagers due to the distraction they create. Professional videotapes of the recital can be ordered during the dress rehearsal on Saturday, June 4th and at the show on Sunday, June 5th. Prices to be announced. Russ Besenski will be videotaping our show this year (for those of you with us last year, we are NOT using the same fellow).**

7) Opening Number 'I Can Breathe'

Miss Vanessa wrote a song all about our great province and, since this is her final year with us, we wanted to open the show with this special song. She has selected some of her intermediate classes to learn it and perform it at the recital. After that, the Mini Express and Expressions will continue to perform it in the summer.

*The following classes will be learning 'I Can Breathe'

Level 2 Int. Wed., Level 2 Adv. Wed.

Level 3 Int. Mon., Level 3 Int. Wed, Level 3 Adv. Wed, Level 3 Int. Thurs., Level 3 Int.A Sat.

Level 4 Int Thurs., Level 4 Adv. Thursday

Mini Express & Expressions

*You will be working on this piece during your regular class time, but in order to combine all of you, a few extra rehearsals are needed:

Saturday, April 2nd – 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Circle Drive Alliance Church (vocals only)

Saturday, April 9th – 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Circle Drive Alliance Church (staging and choreography)

TENT: Saturday, April 16th – 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Circle Drive Alliance Church

*We will discuss costumes at Costume Talk

*please let us know if you cannot attend a rehearsal

8) Talent Show Week – April 18-23rd, during your vocal class with Miss Vanessa

*All students are welcome to sign-up with Miss Vanessa about performing a special talent (song, dance, act, musical instrument, etc.) during Miss Vanessa's vocal class with you during this week. This is for the student's only. Please e-mail Miss Vanessa if you have any questions at vanessanelson235@hotmail.com. Thanks!

9) Studio Attire

In case you missed it earlier on, you are welcome to purchase Saskatchewan Express Musical Theatre Studio Attire from Rainbow Fashions - bunnyhugs, pants, capris, shorts, tanks & tops... sample sizes are available upstairs for you to come and try on in order to help pick a size. Order Forms are available in our office. We will ask that you order on your own instead of through us. Please read the cover page (from me) carefully as we made some changes to what they are offering.

10) CALENDAR

March 5-10	COSTUME TALK	All Musical Theatre Parents
March 25-31	EASTER BREAK – NO CLASSES	
Sat. April 2	Classes Continue	
April 9-14	COSTUME CHECK – bring costumes	All Parents
April 18-23	TALENT SHOW – during Miss Vanessa's class	All Musical Theatre Students
April 23 & 24	PHOTO DAYS	All Students
April 30 th	Combined Classes Begin – see schedule	All Students
Sun. May 1	FINALE 'Saskafunk' rehearsal for ALL STUDENTS	ALL STUDENTS – At the Church
May 21-23	Victoria Day Long Weekend – NO CLASSES	All Students
May 28	TOTS RECITAL – Time TBA	TOTS only (ages 3 & 4)
Fri. June 3	Mini Express & Expressions Dress Rehearsal – church	Mini Express & Expressions
Sat. June 4	Dress Rehearsal – Circle Drive Alliance Church	ALL Students (and Finale too!)
Sun. June 5	RECITAL – 3:00 pm, Circle Drive Alliance Church *kids arrive at 2:00 pm please	ALL Students
June	Auditions for SUMMER SCHOOL – Musical TBA	Ages 8+
2 weeks in July	TENTATIVE SUMMER SCHOOL – Musical TBA	Ages 8+
September 2	Deadline for Mail-In Registration for Fall Classes	TENT.
September 7 & 8	In-Person Registration for 2005/2006 Classes – DSI Centre	TENT.
Mon. Sept 12	Classes for 2005/2006 year begin	TENT.

11) Volunteer Requests: We will be looking for MANY parent volunteers for May and June for our Recital Please read through the attached 'positions' and sign-up on the tack-board on the main level (near boy's washroom). Your help would be greatly appreciated as without volunteers, our show would not run as smoothly!

12) Announcing the Saskatoon Mini Express & Expressions Members for 2005!!!!

The Saskatoon Mini Express

Kaitlyn Chomitzky
Bailey Chomitzky
Shauna Gerlinsky
Robyn King
Dan-Elle Kramchynski
Kelsey MacDonald
Telessa Martin
Austin Milne
Ashley Paulgaard
Kassandra Saretzky

The Saskatoon Expressions

Josie Baycroft
Brittany Charington
Jaclyn Dalsgaard (Lori's Assistant)
Kara Engele
Raeann Engele
Bailey Gallagher
Jenny Gates
Milissa Hoffman
Maria Lammerding
Jenny Neudorf-Boldt
Larissa Paulgaard
Kaitlynn Pollock

Keep your eyes open for these amazing performers this summer! We plan to be out and about around the city, performing for local events, charities and Centennial Celebrations! If you or anyone you know may be interested in booking some youthful talent, singing the praises of Saskatchewan Songwriters, please give us a call!

13) CD's

As you know, all songs had to be sequenced from SCRATCH this year, with pitches altered from the original tracks, etc. So, we're working with some talented musicians/recording engineers and slowly, but surely, are getting there with your music. It will be a few weeks yet, but we have your blank CDs (or we SHOULD have them if you haven't brought one yet!) and will get them burned and given back to you as soon as we can.

14) TIP OF THE MONTH: Proper Breathing in Relation to Speaking....from Miss Lorna

As your children practice for the recital, we thought it would be beneficial to pass along a note about the importance of proper breath control. One of the things I've worked on with our students over the past four years, is proper use of voice in relation to speaking. It is very common to tell our children to "shout" or "be louder", but we don't always tell them how to do that in a safe manner. Similar to singing, proper speaking involves good breathing. The breath must be supported with the diaphragm (tummy breathing) in order to allow our body to absorb pressure and relieve it from the vocal chords. Improper speaking techniques **can lead to permanent vocal damage** similar to what can be caused by improper singing. The speaking voice, like any other muscle, should be carefully warmed up before being exercised and like any skill developed over a period of time. We do want your children to practice their lines, song and choreography at home, but please caution them against "shouting". If it appears your child is straining his or her neck muscles while they speak, remind them to take a deep breath and try again. Another way to practice is to have them lie on their backs and work on their lines. When we lie on our back we revert to diaphragmatic breathing!

15) PRACTICE PLEASE & LABEL EVERYTHING!

We ask that you please review your material at home so you are prepared each week and feeling confident about growing as a performer. If you're struggling, please talk to your instructors and they will help you or offer suggestions. Please make sure you label ALL things belonging to your child – costumes, props, binders, etc. THANKS!

COSTUME CHECK SCHEDULE – April 9-14th 2005

Day	Time	Class	Song	Studio
Monday	5:00-5:30	2B	Saskatchewan Mermaid	3
	5:30-6:00	2I	Madeline's Paddlin' Pool	3
	6:00-6:30	3B	Big Yellow Taxi	3
	6:30-7:00	Senior Ballet	Anna Bekolay Song	3
	7:00-7:30	Senior Jazz	Crush	3
	7:00-7:30	3I	Smile	3, 1
	9:00-9:30	Senior Tap	Velvet Devil	3
	Wednesday	5:30-6:00	1B	The Sneeze
	5:30-6:00	Drama Only	(if Miss Lorna is ready)	2
	6:00-6:30	1I	Twitterpated	3
	6:30-7:00	2A	If I Were A Man	1
	7:00-7:30	2I	Monster in the Closet	1
	7:30-8:00	3I	Gold	1
	8:00-8:30	3A	Rasta Prairie Man	1
Thursday	5:00-5:30	1B	Just Ducky	3
	5:30-6:00	2B	Not Meant to Get Rich	3
	6:00-6:30	Junior Ballet	Soul Mate	3
	6:30-7:00	3I	What Do I Gotta Do?	2
	7:15-8:00	4B/I	Captain Vengeance	1
	7:30-8:00	Junior Tap	Wish Upon You	3
	8:00-8:30	Junior Jazz	Renegade Parde	3
		8:00-8:45	4A	Stand Up
Saturday	10:00-10:30	1B	Stinky Feet	1
	10:30-11:00	2IB	Penelope You're Picky	1
	11:00-11:30	2B	The Pirate Song	1
	11:30-12:00	TOTS	(If Miss Lorna is ready)	2
	11:30-12:00	1I	Saskatchewan	1
	12:00-12:30	3B	If You Can't Be Happy	1
	12:30-1:00	3IA	I'm Gonna Be Alright	1

Sask. Express MTS Photo Shoot

Location: Dance Saskatchewan Building – 205A Pacific Avenue (Studio 2)

Photographer: Reflections by Richard (306-682-3111)

Saturday April 23 - Schedule

Class	# of Students	Time to be here	Photo Time
TOTS	9	1:15 pm	1:30 pm
1IS- Saskatchewan	13	1:38	1:53
3BS- If You Can't Be Happy	10	2:09	2:24
3IAS- I'm Gonna Be Alright	12	2:34	2:49
1BS- Stinky Feet	14	3:03	3:18
2IBS- Penelope You're Picky	9	3:41	3:56
1BTh- Just Ducky	7	4:04	4:19
2BTh- Not Meant to Get Rich	9	4:23	4:38
3ITh- What Do I Gotta Do?	7	4:46	5:01
2BM- Saskatchewan Mermaid	9	5:05	5:20
3BM- Big Yellow Taxi	10	5:28	5:43
Drama Funky Fairy Tales (Thurs class)	6	5:53	6:08
FINISHED			6:25

Sunday April 24 - Schedule

2BS- The Pirate Song	11	10:45	11:00
The Saskatoon Expressions (10 min group)	12	11:12	11:27
The Saskatoon Mini Express (10 min group)	10	11:46	12:01
Minis and Expressions (10 minute group)	21		12:29
Instructors (10 minute)	6	12:24	12:39
3IM- Smile	11	12:34	12:49
Sr. Jazz: Crush	9	1:01	1:16
Jr. Ballet: Soul Mate	5	1:24	1:39
Sr. Tap: Velvet Devil	4	1:39	1:54
Jr. Tap: Wish Upon You	7	1:52	2:07
Sr. Ballet: Anna Bekolay	7	2:11	2:26
Jr. Jazz: Renegade Parade	5	2:30	2:45
Drama Only – Senior (Wed. Class)	8	2:45	3:00
2IM- Madeline's Paddlin' Pool	6	3:06	3:21
4B/Ith- Captain Vengeance	9	3:23	3:38
4AdvTh- Stand Up	5	3:46	4:01
3AdvW- Rasta Prairie Man	8	4:01	4:16
3IW- Gold	9	4:22	4:37
2AdvW- If I Were a Man	8	4:45	5:00
1IW- Twitterpated	9	5:06	5:21
1BW- The Sneeze	13	5:29	5:44
2IW- Monster in the Closet	10	6:01	6:14
FINISHED			6:39

April 30, MAY/JUNE COMBINED CLASSES – Mandatory Change

Day	Time	Class	Song	Studio
Monday	5:00-6:00	2B	Saskatchewan Mermaid	3
	6:00-7:00	2I	Madeline's Paddlin' Pool	3, 2
	7:00-8:00	3B	Big Yellow Taxi	2, 1
	8:00-9:00	3I	Smile	1
Wednesday	4:00-5:00	2A	If I Were A Man	3
	5:00-6:00	1B	The Sneeze	3
	5:30-6:30	Drama Only		2
	6:00-7:00	1I	Twitterpated	3, 1
	7:00-8:00	2I	Monster in the Closet	1
	8:00-9:00	3I	Gold	1, 3
	9:00-10:00	3A	Rasta Prairie Man	3
Thursday	4:30-5:30	1B	Just Ducky	3
	5:30-6:30	2B	Not Meant to Get Rich	2
	6:30-7:30	3I	What Do I Gotta Do?	2, 1
	7:30-8:45	4B/I	Captain Vengeance	1
	8:45-9:30	4A	Stand Up	1
Saturday	9:00-10:00	1B	Stinky Feet	1
	10:00-11:00	1I	Saskatchewan	1
	11:00-12:00	2IB	Penelope You're Picky	1
	11:30-12:00	TOTS		2
	12:00-1:00	2B	The Pirate Song	1
	1:00-2:00	3B	If You Can't Be Happy	3
	2:00-3:00	3IA	I'm Gonna Be Alright	3

**Sunday, May 1st FINALE Rehearsal Schedule and a few other groups...
Circle Drive Alliance Church**

Time	Group	Song	Artist	Notes
1:30-2 pm	L3B Mon.	Big Yellow Taxi	Joni Mitchell	
2-2:30 pm	L3I Wed.	Gold	Touchtone Gurus	Bring flashlights!
2:30-3 pm	L3B Sat.	If You Can't Be Happy	Dalai Lamas	
3-3:30 pm	L3IA Sat.	I'm Gonna Be Alright	Rochelle Major (Craig Salkeld)	Bring suitcases!
3:30-4 pm	L4B/I Thurs.	Captain Vengeance	Craig Salkeld	
4-4:30 pm	Senior Jazz	Crush	Kara Tremel	No jazz runners!
4:30-5 pm	Junior Jazz/Ballet	Renegade Parade Soul Mate	Belly Button Buddies Jack Humeny & Melissa Becker	
5:00- 8 pm	ENTIRE STUDIO (no Tots)	Finale: Saskafunk	Dalai Lamas	EAT BEFORE &/or bring a snack!!!
8:00-9 pm	Minis/Expressions	Recital Material ONLY		TENTATIVE!

In closing, I know you all may have many questions in the next few months, so I will do my best to answer them and send out more frequent e-mails to the entire school, just to keep everyone updated. Please note that these schedules are subject to change if certain things arise, but we wanted to get this info out as soon as possible for you. This is a very exciting time of year for all of us and we hope your kids are having fun and enjoying all aspects of the Saskatchewan Express Musical Theatre Studio.

Lori Rebalin
Studio Director

Irregular Office Hours:	
Now	May
Mon-Thurs: 5-9 pm	4-10:00 pm
Sat: 10-1:30 pm	9-4:00 pm

Recital 2005 - A Little More Saskatchewan

Volunteer Duties:

Here is a list & description of what we need volunteers for. Please sign up on sheet on tack-board!
All people volunteering up until 3:00 p.m. are able to reserve 4 seats - please come at 2:00 to do this. A sign will be made for you. Thank you.
Your help is GREATLY appreciated.

Ticket Sales

- Collect tickets & cashbox from Lori
- Have a calculator or scrap paper to work out totals
- Use the running list to keep track of who you sold tickets to and what # was on the ticket
- Check guest list in case the tickets are comps for special visitors/media, etc.
- Get change if need be
- Cheques can be made payable to Saskatchewan Express - we accept only cash or cheques
- You are not responsible for phone reservations - I will! I will put tickets in an envelope and if they come to pick them up, you will find their envelope and distribute the tickets once they have paid for them.
- *Pre-Show sales, at 3:00 p.m. please hand CASH BOX to Lori at the sound booth*
- Anything else I may think of regarding tickets...

Registration Table & Video Orders

- setting up table with our registration package and sign up list.
- help explain a little bit about our program and what we offer
- give out my business card for interested people
- have a supply of the blue pre-registration forms and have people fill them out IF interested
- look after our photo albums that will be on display
- keep running list of people wanting to purchase video, collect payment from them
- Anything else I may think of regarding this...

Ushers

- taking tickets and putting into a box (I NEED TO SAVE THEM AND COUNT THEM AFTER)
- helping people find seats
- showing people where the washrooms are
- distributing show programmes
- closing the theatre doors when show starts, opening at intermission and end of show
- get your seat reserved!
- Have at least 2 of you sitting near the doors please
- ?? Names? will direct performers to the dressing room - NO PARENTS in the dressing room please!
- We will try and open the theatre doors at 2:15 or 2:30 pm to avoid congestion in the foyer
- one of you will be keeping an eye on audience members, making sure they're not videotaping or being loud... any crying or noisy children; the parents should be asked to step out of the theatre with them.
- anything else I may think of regarding this...

Balcony Chaperones - assigned one or two per group

- come to the sanctuary (dressing room) doors at 2:40 to meet with myself or a volunteer to explain details
- you will then collect your group or introduce yourself to them - make sure you have an attendance list, know who each child is. Find out if they are in more than one number and the finale.
- those who are able to sit in the balcony right away, should head up right at 2:50 p.m. Only the left balcony is available for us. The right is open to the public. Please sit together as a group.
- you MUST know what # your group is and make sure you take them BACK to the dressing room door (the left side when you enter) at least 4 numbers before they are ON STAGE! Lorna will be waiting for them at these doors to warm them up and go over their #.
- you may head back up to the BALCONY to watch this group, you may head back to the dressing room to collect them to take them back up to the balcony

-PLEASE NOTE: no congestion in the balcony aisles... all people MUST be in a seat!

-DO NOT ENTER the theatre until you hear clapping

-keep the doors quiet!!!! We will try and arrange a way for the door not to make a lot of loud noise, but hold onto it carefully!

-I realize that all groups will be different as some are at the beginning, some are before intermission, some at the end - so just use your best judgment as to WHEN to have the students backstage... keep in mind that it is important for them to review their # and FOCUS before performing. It will allow them to feel good about themselves!

-Any students coming and going without a chaperone SHOULD NOT be allowed into the balcony, this includes the teen classes, Mini Express & Expressions.

Backstage Chaperones - looking after the students in the dressing room

-hair, make-up, costume assisting

-lining kids up ready to go backstage

-Teachers Lynnea & Lorna will be helping with this as well

-Lorna will do a pre-stage warm-up with each group and have them run their # in the dressing room

-At dress rehearsal, chaperones will assist with kids in the dressing room and in the theatre by keeping them quiet when watching rehearsal. We may need your help when it comes to the finale too. (taking small ones to the washroom, etc.)

-Anything else I may think of regarding this..

Boys Dressing Room - get boys to the room, help with their costumes hanging them, etc, run them back to the big dressing room for Group Warm-up at 2:30 pm & getting them ready prior to their performance

Lobby Area - Help put up signs, display tables, Make it look pretty!

ENJOY THE SHOW!