



September Newsletter 2005

Hi! Welcome (back) to the Saskatchewan Express MTS! We're still getting into the swing of things but the classes are running smoothly and every class already shows so much promise. I hope your child is having a great time!

I try to put out a monthly newsletter to keep everyone in the loop. Please read through it carefully as there is a lot of important information for you. I write this in no particular order, so make sure you get right to the bottom! We will also be placing newsletters on our website at <http://www.saskatchewanexpress.com> so you can check on there as well.

1) CHECK MARKS: As of Oct. 1st, the instructors will start to keep a tally of proper attire, shoes, pencils, music etc. for class. Please make sure your child has everything needed for class. (Level 1st don't need their binders or pencils) At the end of the year, those who have all checks or just one missed will receive a gold sticker to be proud of. Please place extra hair elastics in their dance bags/gym bags (and a brush) so the Prep Parent can help put hair up if needed.

2) HAIR UP: A few students are already coming with their hair down or only half up. Please remind them that it has to be up in a ponytail, bun, or piggies. It must be up for ALL classes (singing, drama, dance) Just a headband is not acceptable. Long hair wispies (bangs) need to be bobby-pinned back. Make sure that they have hair ties in their dance bags or binder and this will help them on the road to the gold sticker.

3) NO JEANS! I know, I know, some jeans ARE stretchy, but that is not okay with us. Dance clothes, yoga gear only please.

4) PHONE NUMBER CHANGE: As of Oct. 1st, our studio phone number is changing. The new number is

477-5553. Please make note of this. Our head office in Regina is moving into a new building, which is no longer government related, so that is why the number has to change.

5) CLASS PLACEMENT: Please note that we are still assessing all of the students. Within the next few months, some students may be asked to move to a different class that will suit their level more. If your child is finding it 'too easy' or 'too hard', our instructors are keeping an eye on things and will let me know so I can contact you. Also remember that we are only into our 3rd week of classes and it does take TIME to get things organized and evaluate levels. If you have any concerns, please call us to set up an appointment. We will not reply to e-mails in regards to this. If your child is finding the class 'too easy', please remind him/her to SHOW US that he/she deserves to be moved up. If he/she chooses not to participate to his/her best potential, then we will never notice and make the suggestion of being switched to another class.

6) RECITAL NEWS: We will no longer be hosting our Annual Recital (June 4) at Circle Drive Alliance Church. Another venue has been selected, but we will let you know once it is confirmed. We also have decided to have TWO shows. One for the younger students (plus senior students/dancers/Mini Express/Expressions) and one for the older students (plus dancers/Mini Express/Expressions). We felt that the previous years recitals have been just TOO long (4 hours).

7) RECITAL THEME: This year marks Saskatoon's Centennial. In honor of this, and our talented students, we are focusing on CREATION. The students will work with a local songwriter and CREATE a theme and music-style for their recital piece. We are hoping to find enough Saskatoon Songwriters who are willing to do this with us... if you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them call the office. Annalee Heilman will be assisting me with this venture!

8) MUSIC & CHOREOGRAPHY: We are starting into our first selection of music. Students will receive sheet music to keep in their binders. Level 1 parents, we will give you the sheet music and lyrics to keep in a binder at home for your children. Miss Michelle has been kind enough to allow all levels to contact her if you would like the choreography e-mailed to you. Please e-mail her at michelle@saskatchewanexpress.com and she will send it to you as an attachment.

9) PRIVATE LESSONS: Miss Christina is interested in teaching private voice lessons. She also may come to me if she feels a child will benefit from private lessons (to help keep up with the group) and I will in turn contact you or have her contact you. There would be a private charge for this, but of course it is totally up to you if you want to partake.

10) OPEN HOUSE: November 14-19 and Feb. 6-11 are our Open Houses. This is when parents, friends & relatives are invited to come and sit in on our regular classes. It isn't a 'show', but just a viewing of how our classes normally run. Please bring indoor shoes/slippers as you will be required to remove your outdoor shoes. You may also want to bring your own chairs or cushions, but we hope to have enough chairs for everyone.

**Senior Beg/Int Jazz (5:30-6:30 Monday's) - your classes for these week will be POST-PONED as we won't have enough studio space. Make-up classes will be announced closer to recital time.*

11) MAY COMBINED CLASSES: As mentioned in your Registration Package, as of April 29th, the instructors COMBINE their talents and work all together with the classes, creating the true Musical Theatre experience. In order to make this happen, we have to juggle the times of the classes just for the final month. They will still be on the SAME DAY. The length will be a bit shorter so we're not running classes 'til midnight!! The schedule has been finished so you have plenty of time to make arrangements (car-pooling, etc) for April 29th to June 3rd. If this change is impossible for you, please let us know NOW, so we can maybe try switching times with another class. You must let us know by January 15, 2006. Schedule is attached.

12) NEW CALENDAR: Already we have some calendar changes. Please see the attached and keep this NEW Calendar on your fridge at home!

13) CLASS LISTS: If you are interested in car-pooling or would like a class list, please come to the office to get one.

14) PARENT VOLUNTEERS: Many of you offered to be 'group parents' or to assist with phoning. I am going to select one person and a back-up from every class to help with phoning-trees, etc. I will give these people class lists within the next few weeks.

15) PHONE IF MISSING: We would really appreciate a phone call if your child is going to be missing a class. Thank you!

16) BRING TWO CDs: We will be burning CDs with the music for Oct-Jan curriculum. Please bring us two (2) BLANK RECORDABLE CDs with your name on the CASES. Deadline: October 15, 2005. We will burn the recital material in January, so that is why we ask for TWO cds.

17) PREP PARENTS: I am still looking for prep parents for many classes. You will receive a class list with the guidelines (hair up, proper attire, shoes tied, gone to bathroom (little ones), etc. If I haven't heard from someone in your class by October 6th, I will start asking people myself. This only takes 5 minutes before class starts, please think about it!

18) LABEL EVERYTHING: Every year, we accumulate so many Lost & Found items, so make sure you label all of your belongings, especially water bottles! We invite Community Living to come and collect items every few months.

19) MINI EXPRESS/EXPRESSIONS: What an awesome summer our performing groups had... so many shows and a lot of great exposure. This was the 3rd year we've had the groups and they keep getting better and better. Under the direction of Sarah Remillard, the groups performed throughout Saskatoon and were also in Osler, Regina, Dundurn & Goodsoil. AUDITIONS: Originally, we planned on waiting until January to audition, but we are aiming to get started in November this year. Info packages will be handed out to all students ages 8+. It is a HUGE commitment from the students and the parents. Extra fees and fundraising required. Rehearsals and Shows will run November 2005 to July 31, 2006.

20) VETERAN STUDENTS: Every September, I take the time to thank our students (and their parents) who have been with us since the beginning. Now heading into our 6th year, the following students are still here: *Corianne Bracewell, Kaitlyn Chomitzky, Erin Cote, Josh Cote, Kara Engele, Kathryn Hammel, Erica Hindmarsh, Lauren Kadis, Natasha Kalra, Chelsea Mercure, Linley Redford, Christina Thachuk*

5th Year: *McKenna Allison, Bailey Chomitzky, Raeann Engele, Nicole King, Amy Pederson, Cherish Schneider, Hanna Sookocheff, Kim Trischuk, Sydney Volk, Kennedy Voykin*

I hope I remembered you all - thanks for being a part of us for sooo long!

21) BRING A PICTURE: The 'Wall of Fame' is slowly growing in my office. Please bring a photo (any 4x6 or smaller) so we can keep the photos on the wall for the year. This helps the instructors and myself become more familiar with the students. Deadline: October 15th, 2005

22) MESSAGE CENTRE: Please check our display rack (by the men's washroom) with the file folders. Those without e-mail, I will place memos/newsletters in there for you with your child's name on it. Audition Packages will be in there as well in case your child isn't here the day we hand them out. Please let us know if you would prefer a handout instead of e-mail. We are just trying to save trees and copying costs.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: I am ALL about promoting things happening in our community. I often will send out e-mails about workshops, shows, events, etc. that may interest someone on our list. I also like to get our students out there auditioning for commercials, shows, etc. so don't be surprised if you get an e-mail or call from me about this. I dabble a little as a Casting Director...

Coming Up:

*October 8 - Dare to Dance 'Outta The Box' - a FANTASTIC dance show, very professional, hard-working Saskatchewan dancers combining forces to put on this extravagant event. I go every year and always walk away in awe. I recommend it for ages 8 and up. (Miss Catherine is in the Dare to Dance Company)

*October 22-23 - 5678 Showtime - Dance Workshop - check out <http://www.5678showtime.com>. I took part in a few of their workshop classes two years ago and it was great for the more 'serious' dancers. Classes are being held here at DSI. Convention is at the Hilton.

*November 4-6 - Film Fighting Workshop - Daniel Ford Beavis, one of Saskatoon's only Stunt Performers is hosting a workshop. Check out <http://www.stuntschool.com> for more information. I'm not too sure what ages it is for, but it looks pretty intense!

On behalf of Miss Michelle, Miss Lorna, Miss Sarah, Miss Karen, Miss Christina, Mr. Matt, Miss Catherine, and Mr. Ryan, thanks for everything you guys! **Please remember your two CDs and your photo** and we'll see you soon!

COMBINED CLASSES - Sat. April 29 to Thurs. June 2, 2006:

MONDAY:

2B - 5-6:00 pm (regularly 5-6:30 pm)

2I - 6-7:00 pm (regularly 5-6:30 pm)

3B - 7-8:00 pm (regularly 5-6:30 pm)

3I - 8-9:00 pm (regularly 6:30-8 pm)

*Tap, Jazz & Ballet stay the same

WEDNESDAY:

1BB - 4:30-5:15 (regularly 5-6:00 pm)

1BA - 5:15-6:00 (regularly 6-7:00 pm)

Sr. Drama Class 5:30-6:30 as always

1A - 6-6:45 (regularly 6:30-7:30 pm)

2IB - 6:45-7:45 (regularly 6-7:30 pm)

2A - 7:45-8:45 (regularly 7-8:30 pm)

3A - 8:45-9:45 (regularly 7:30-9 pm)

3I (Boys) 7:30-8:30 (regularly 7-8:30 pm)

THURSDAY:

2B - 5-6:00 (regularly 5-6:30 pm)

3I - 6-7:00 (regularly 5-6:30 pm)

4I - 7-8:15 (regularly 6:30-8:45 pm)

4A - 8:15-9:30 (regularly 6:30-8:45 pm)

*Tap, Jazz, and Ballet classes stay the same

*Ballet stays the same for Friday's

SATURDAY:

1B - 10-10:45 (regularly 10-11:00 am)

TOTS (if still running) - 10:00-10:30 am (regularly 12:30-1 pm)

Jr. DRAMA CLASS - will be finished by then

2I - 10:45-11:45 (regularly 11-12:30 am)

2B - 11:45-12:45 (regularly 10-11:30 am)
3B - 12:45-1:45 (regularly 11-12:30 pm)
3I - 1:45-2:45 (regularly 12-1:30 pm)