

# DANCE NOTES

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Happy  
St. Patrick's Day!



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## ARRIVAL TIMES

As a reminder, students should not be arriving more than 10 minutes before their scheduled class time. This was stated in your handbook at the beginning of the year. Remember that the lobby is not soundproof and if you can hear us in the studio, we can hear you in the lobby. The noise of students coming early is disrupting the previous class. It is also compounding the chaos in the lobby between classes when you come before the previous class is given a chance to collect their things & leave. And if you are in the first class of the day, you are interrupting our set-up time as we are preparing lessons and the studio for the day before your child's class starts.



## PARENT OBSERVATION

The viewing windows will be open for parents to observe during the first week of April. Because our waiting area is so small, please do not bring other siblings on viewing day.

Please remember that with the blinds open, it is not a true representation of a normal lesson for your child. Many dancers get nervous with extra people watching or your child may be trying to "entertain" mom or dad & not doing their best work in class.

As a reminder, observation days are only for parents. Please do not use this as a chance to entertain grandma, grandpa, aunts, cousins, friends, etc. They will all have an opportunity to see your child perform at the recital in June, when your child is ready for an audience.

## SPECIAL TAP GROUP

I will be observing in class and sending home invitations to students age 5 & up who are excelling in tap to be a part of a special tap number in the recital.

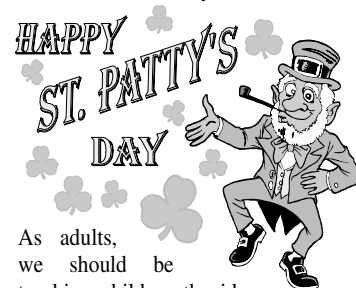
Students will be chosen based on their willingness to try and cooperate in class, how hard they have been working at the regular routines so far this year, both in class and at home, and their basic tap technique.

This is an opportunity for them to enrich their tap work by doing some harder steps and combinations than they might normally do in their regular class.

This group is completely optional for those invited but will involve a minimal expense in costuming and extra practice time, which will be explained in the invitations.

## COMMITMENT

As spring approaches, children's schedules are often filled with baseball practices, birthday parties, or just play dates in the warm spring weather. You and your child have made the commitment of finishing the dance year to her teacher and the other students in her class, so weekly lessons & practicing should come before the other activities. Also, dance students may just now be realizing that while dance is still fun, it is a lot more work than they thought it would be. However, they do not realize how close they are to finishing with our summer recital about 14 lessons away!



As adults, we should be teaching children the idea of commitment and finishing what you start. Very often, I see parents allowing their children to quit dance in the last few months before recital. This makes it very hard on me, as a teacher, to choreograph dances at the last minute.

It is also letting down the other students in the class & making them work twice as hard at relearning parts. And as parents, you've also put a great deal of money into lessons & non-refundable costumes.

Completing the year will also give your child a sense of accomplishment at recital; knowing they CAN do it!

We will be talking about this subject in class & I hope you agree & can reiterate this fact at home!

# RECITAL

## SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH 3PM

### FARMINGTON CENTENE CENTER

PLEASE MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS NOW!

# REMINDERS

All accounts (costumes, tuition, recital fee, etc.) must be paid **in full** before costumes will be handed out in May.

## DANCE WEBSITES

[www.justforkix.com](http://www.justforkix.com) -

Dance apparel & gifts

Order a gift for your favorite dancer!

[www.tapdance.org](http://www.tapdance.org) -

The Tap Dance Homepage

Information to keep up on the world of tap dancing.




**MARCH BIRTHDAYS!**

- Lexi Callahan - March 7th
- Miranda Wade - March 14th
- Isabella Sutton - March 15th
- Abigail Terry - March 18th
- Tristan Orine - March 23rd
- Miss Kim - March 23rd
- Emily Barnhouse - March 24th

# DANCE PUZZLE

**Mystery Message**  
Circle all the even numbers and write them down in the order they appear to complete the name of a famous ballet.

U	T	7	P	5	W	H	V	11	H	Q	E	
13	J	16	S	10	L	11	C	N	E	B	W	D
14	E	D	G	R	P	U	X	M	K			
15	L	Q	I	O	K	5	G	N	P	15	Z	
16	G	F	3	4	B	I	X	C	E	P		
11	R	S	A	J	Z	U	T	Y	T			
15	B	Y	M	I	T	O	Y	N	V			



# TERMINOLOGY

Many tap steps have nicknames:

**Irish** – Shuffle Hop Step. Most likely named for the influence the Irish Jig had on the beginning of tap dance.

**Buffalo** – Hop shuffle jump, jump shuffle jump, jump shuffle jump, step step. “Shuffle off to Buffalo”.

**Shim Sham** – Shuffle step shuffle step shuffle ball change shuffle step. A step from the Vaudeville dance “The Shim Sham Shimmy”.

**Maxie Ford** – Shuffle jump toe or shuffle hop toe step. Named for 1910’s movie choreographer and Vaudeville “The Four Fords” tap dance team member Maxwell Ford.

**Time Step** – Hop shuffle step flap step touch. Initially used as a means by which a tap dancer could communicate with the band and set the tempo.

# MARCH

# 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 March Tuition Due	3 March Tuition Due	4 March Tuition Due	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Final Costume/Recital Fee Payment Due	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<b>Parent Observation First Week of April!</b>			