



Website: www.basscoastballet.com.au
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February 2016 Newsletter

Dear Bass Coast Ballet School families,

Welcome back everyone! This is our first newsletter for this year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families and students and we hope you have enjoyed your first lessons at the Bass Coast Ballet School.

Our school has now grown and we have more enrollments than ever before, so 2016 looks like being a wonderful year for us.

Regards Tonya and Chris.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group Rehearsal Hall

The committee have for some years now been in negotiation with the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group about running our Wonthaggi classes in the new rehearsal venue they have built at the State Coal Mine. It will be a lovely studio space for us, complete with mirrors, barres and a great music system.

Bass Coast Ballet School has funded a proper sprung wooden floor for this building and in exchange we will shortly have the use of it for our Wonthaggi classes. We are delighted to announce that the floor has now been laid and we would very much like to thank Nick and Caroline Sibly, the Doughty Family, and Alasdair Hackett for their help with laying the floor.

There is still a little bit of work to be done before we can start using the venue, and working bees are run on Saturdays if you wish to help out.

Watch this space with regards to when we will be able to use it!

Speaking with teachers

We know that the start of the year often brings a lot of questions from parents regarding classes, fees, uniforms, etc.

Our teachers unfortunately do not have time to address these questions during class times and want to go home at the end of classes, so please do not try to discuss issues with them at these times. Let them do what they are supposed to be doing - teaching dance class.

Instead we suggest you check out our website. You should be able to find just about everything you need on there, as it has recently been updated over the summer.

If you can't find an answer to your question please phone Janine on the phone number above, or forward and email to the school. Again, we kindly ask you not to distract the teachers from their classes.

If you have a concern that you would like to discuss with the teacher, please contact the school via phone or email and we will make a time for you to speak with the teacher.

Family Account Login

From our website you can also access your Family Account Login. Instructions on how to access the Family Account Login can be found under the PARENTS tab.

The Family Account Login allows you at any time to:

- Check your fees and payments
- Add a new student
- Enroll in a class
- Update your contact details

Class Rolls

A student must be enrolled in a class to participate in that class. If a student is not enrolled they will not be able to dance. We ask that you please check the classes that you or your children are enrolled in on the Family Account Login and if you need to enroll in a class, this can be done on the Family Account Login.

If you are enrolled in a class that you have decided not to continue with you need to send an email to bc Ballet1@gmail.com asking to be removed from that class roll.

Term 1 Invoices

Will be added to everyone's Family Account this week. We no longer mail or email out invoices individually as you are now able to view your account at any time on the Family Account Login.

Information on how to log into the Family Account Login is under the PARENTS tab on our website.

Please remember that fees are charged on a per term basis, regardless of attendance.

We will send an automatic general email advising everyone when their fees are ready to view via the Family Account Login.

Payment can be made via direct deposit, cheque or money order. Accounts can be paid in full or part-payments. Automatic ongoing part-payments are also acceptable.

Please ensure that you include the student's name as a reference with all payments.

Absences

We understand that sometimes students get sick or injured. If this situation causes you or your child to be absent from class for more than one week we ask that you contact the school and let us know.

We can only discount fees for medical reasons if you have a medical certificate.

Jazz and Tap Singlets

For the convenience of our Phillip Island families, Danni Bealo, has sample sizes of the Bass Coast Ballet School jazz and tap singlets, as well as our jackets to try on and order in Cowes.

If you are located on the Island and cannot get into The White Tutu, please TEXT Danni on 0449 798 760 to organize a time to try them on.

Alternatively, Rebecca Leaver at The White Tutu in Wonthaggi also has sample sizes of the Bass Coast Ballet School jazz and tap singlets, as well as our jackets to try on and order in addition to her full compliment of dancewear and shoes for ballet, jazz, tap and hip hop.

A word about Contemporary Dance Classes ...

Contemporary is the only genre of dance that we put any stipulations on for students to participate in. It is the most physically demanding style of dance and requires a strong ballet background. It is for this reason students must be doing at least one syllabus class of ballet AND either an Open Ballet class OR Jazz class to enroll in Contemporary. This is to maintain correct technique and avoid injury.

Dance Class Levels

We provide a guideline on our website as to which grade or level students should enroll in based on their age. There may be certain situations where the teacher feels it would be more appropriate for a student to be in a higher or lower grade, or sometime to repeat a level or grade for an additional year.

Ultimately, it is at the teacher's discretion as to which class your child should be enrolled in. This is to ensure that they are dancing at a level that is appropriate for their ability.

Ballet Exam or Assessment Class Requirements

Ballet students from Grade 1 onwards may undertake ballet exams. Whilst ballet exams are optional we strongly advise our ballet students to consider taking ballet exams as the preparation process can be a powerful learning tool in improving technique. Entrance to examinations or assessments is also at the discretion of the teacher.

To be eligible to undertake an exam or assessment students must be enrolled in at least two syllabus classes per week. One of these classes **must** be with Miss Miranda or Miss Bronwyn in Wonthaggi. Please refer to the Wonthaggi timetable on our website for class days and times.

Pointe requirements

A reminder that all ballet students who wish to dance en pointe need to satisfy the following requirements:

1. Be in Year 7 or above at school
2. Have been doing regular ballet lessons for at least five years.
3. Be attending at least two syllabus classes per week and a pre pointe class.
4. Have an examination and be approved by an appropriately qualified physiotherapist.

If you require more information about this please contact the school.

General Rules for Parents

We would like to make our new students and families aware and remind existing families of some of our rules:

Dropping off/Picking Up

Please always escort your child into and pick them up from the foyer of the venue where they are dancing. **NEVER** just wait in the car for them to appear or ask them to wait outside, even if they are teenagers.

This is for their safety and we appreciate you complying with this request.

Custody Arrangements

If any families have custody arrangements that Bass Coast Ballet School needs to be aware of concerning who is authorized to pick up children from classes please contact the school either via email (bcballet1@gmail.com) or on 0408 399 853.

Parents are not allowed into classes

With the exception of Mummy & Me classes, parents are not to go into the dance class. This is distracting for the teacher, the other students and your child.

If you need to speak with the teacher, contact the school first.

Watching Week

Since you are otherwise barred from classes, we do allow parents into watch classes during the final week of terms 1, 2 and 3, so you can see what happens in your child's class and how they have progressed.

We will remind parents of this opportunity closer to the week.

Happy dancing everyone!