

Penticton Shine Dance Festival
May 15-17th 2020
Newsletter #2
January 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you have had a wonderful and restful holiday. I thoroughly enjoyed travelling with the students to Vancouver in December. Their enthusiasm and level of personal responsibility was exceptional. As we look forward to the second half of the year, I thought I would bring you up to speed with respect to the Shine Festival in May.

First, we received a PAC grant of \$1000. While it was not the amount of funding I requested, it does nevertheless significantly help with festival registration costs. The total registration payment was due to Shine and paid for in mid-December. As we had just completed the Vancouver trip and the holidays were near, it seemed reasonable to wait until January to request payment from all families.

Second, the students chose to withdraw one piece, to further reduce the registration costs. We will perform three group pieces at Shine. Our fee per person for registration, including taxes is now \$65.50. Registration costs are non-refundable. In the event that your student is unable to attend, another dancer may be able take their place. We will do our best to reimburse as much of the cost as possible should this occur. Registration payments are due January 31st. Payments can be made by cheque or debit at the office. Electronic payments are possible, but you need to arrange these in advance with our secretary Sue Lakeman. I suggest contacting her by phone or email, lvrclerk1@sd8.bc.ca, before you make an electronic payment. Payments can be made at <https://lvr.sd8.bc.ca/pay>. Please include your dancers first and last name and the words "Shine Dance Festival".

Third, the reduction to three pieces may also mean that we may not have to stay more than one night in Penticton, but we will have to wait to find out more about scheduling before I can confirm this. I will keep you posted as soon as I receive more information. The total room rate at the Coast Hotel, based on quad occupancy, is \$165.60 per room per night, including taxes. Hotel fees will not be due until early May. Families are responsible for food costs.

Once I receive more information on the performance schedule, likely late March or early April, we can begin to finalize carpooling arrangements. I have heard from a couple of parents that they would be willing to drive, but if there are any others, I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible.

Thank-you for your ongoing support,

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Festival Philosophy

Dance festivals can be an outstanding opportunity for students to showcase their work. Additionally, festivals provide a venue for growth because they take students out of their comfort zone and students may receive feedback that may differ from regular teachers'. For some students, festivals can also be stressful. Adjudication can be clear and direct and there is a perception that all festivals are inherently competitive. While placements and awards will invariably occur, it is more important to focus on what you can learn, instead of where you placed. Take some time to review the tips and tricks below to maximize your success.

Tips and Tricks for Success

- 1) Organize yourself ahead of time. This means knowing your performance schedule, planning for proper nutrition and hydration, and having all costume/make-up items with you. Remember to plan some kind of organizational strategy so you don't lose anything or accidentally leave it behind as you exit from your performance.
- 2) Self-discipline is essential. It might seem like a great idea to stay up late and chat with your friends, but that decision will be reflected in the following day's performance. The same concept applies to managing injuries. It is the dancer's responsibility to warm-up, cool down and have all supplies they may require to successfully manage any conditions they have.
- 3) Support every member of our group and other groups as well. This includes fellow dancers, chaperones, parents and teachers. Offer to help one another if the need arises. Please consider that every person has to commit to one another to make festivals and travel possible. Do your best to be pleasant with every person you meet while traveling,

be it a staff member at the festival or someone who works at the hotel lobby. Say thank-you as much as possible.

- 4) Be positive! No one gains from adding negativity to the group. In fact, negative energy impacts everyone. If there is an issue to be addressed, please do so calmly and constructively. If you receive direct, constructive feedback from the adjudicator please consider it carefully. The ability to receive feedback and reflect on it is key for growth, both as a dancer and as a person.
- 5) Avoid comparisons with other dancers. It is inspiring to watch others have fantastic performances. Celebrate others' successes too! Rather than focusing your results, focus on your personal growth.
- 6) Time management is important! Invariably you will have homework that needs to be done, rehearsals to attend, as well the need to eat and have some fun! Consider planning a study time with your roommates so that everyone can be productive. Do the same with respect to rehearsals at the venue itself. Plan ahead – see #1.
- 7) Be present with those around you. Take some time to get to know people you may not know as well as others. Technology is great, but you can always check your social media accounts and texts later. As much as possible, and especially at the festival itself, turn off your digital devices.
- 8) There will invariably be something that will not go exactly as planned once you hit the stage. It happens. Your ability to improvise and problem-solve is key. Instead of focusing on the problem, see how quickly you can come up with a solution. When in doubt improvise!
- 9) The effort you put forth in rehearsal will be reflected on stage. If you do not consistently attend rehearsals it is unlikely that both you and your group will attain your full potential. Success is the result of planning, commitment and continuous hard-work.