

Spotlight News



Parents' Night

We have two great shows planned for Parents' Night this season, one for each studio location. The Corning studio will demonstrate on Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30pm at the Corning High School Auditorium, and the Creston studio will make the presentation on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30pm at the Southwestern Community College Performing Arts Center.

Students should arrive to the performance venue at 6pm and locate their classmates. Students participating in more than one routine should locate the class that performs first. After students finish dancing, they will be dismissed to their families in the audience to watch the older students perform.

Audience members may leave their donations to the food pantry at the door of the performance venue.

Take note that the Corning studio will be closed on October 21 and the Creston studio will be closed on October 27 for the Parents' Night demonstrations.

The students have been working very hard for this evening, and we appreciate your support and attendance.

Visions of Sugar Plums...

Seven Spotlight dancers auditioned for the Iowa Dance Theatre's *Nutcracker Ballet*. In late August, dancers from across the state met in West Des Moines and auditioned for various roles in the popular holiday performance.

Congratulations to the following Spotlight dancers and their cast roles: Carlea Schuler, White Soldier and Dragon; Leah Schuler, Golden Angel; Olivia Hartman, Red Soldier; Savannah Hartman, Golden Angel; Eli Hartman, Page; Abbie Cook, Golden Angel; and Maya Struhar, Red Soldier. These young dancers will perform on the weekend of December 12 at the Civic Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Contact Miss Adonica for ticket information.

From the Desk of Miss Adonica

As we approach our third month of lessons, I am pleased with the amount of growth I see in the students. I am amazed at how well our young dancers retain information. One of my favorite parts of my day is listening to my three-year-old students shout ballet terms at the top of their lungs. As they bend their knees and round their arms, their mouths scream various words in French. How rewarding! We also skip and gallop with fun ribbons and hoops, learning life skills such as: how to take turns, how to stand in line, and how to share.

The KinderCombo and MiniDance students have been busy learning ballet terms and basic tap rhythms, but most importantly they are learning how to behave as dance students. We have learned how to cross the floor in lines, how to stand at the ballet barre, and how to execute skills in groups. We will even be able to demonstrate formation changes in our Parents' Night routine. This goal was accomplished months ahead of schedule.

Beginner and Intermediate level students have mastered basic fundamentals, and we are now learning how to combine a list of skills in short and long patterns. Students are learning a new element or trick at each lesson, and after practicing this new move, we are encouraged to present it in a pattern with previously mastered skills. The dancers are becoming familiar with this approach of learning, and we are now using it in various methods of development: in the center of the dance floor, with the whole class, across the floor with small groups, or from the corner with a partner or individually.

At the highest level of instruction, our Junior and Senior students are encouraged to learn short and long combinations within a couple of minutes. They are given 16 to 32 counts of choreography to learn very quickly, which the students are expected to present in small groups. Students at this caliber love sharing their mastered skills with their peers and are learning auditioning skills. The Junior and Senior level students are not only learning advanced skills, but they are learning how to present previously mastered material without any demonstration. I have been able to compile a list of moves I would like for them to be able to present without demonstrating. It has been my dream to do this!

While the students have delighted me with skills and accomplishments, I must admit their rehearsal attire disappoints me. The dress code printed in our first newsletter reads as follows: Female dancers wear **leotards and tights**. Hot shorts or ballet skirts are allowed. Solid colored leotards are strongly recommended. Male participants should wear plain t-shirts and solid colored gym shorts or jazz pants. No street clothes or cover-ups! No extraneous jewelry. Belly-button rings and tattoos must be covered. Hair must be properly contained for dancing: buns, braids, or pony tails. Dancers participating in hip hop classes may wear athletic apparel.

Students persistently attending class in street clothes or wearing loose hair will be asked to view class from the side. Attention to the dress code prepares our students for the costume selections made during our Spring Production. I would appreciate parental support with this matter.

The dance season is off to a great start, and I am planning a rewarding and entertaining Spring Finale for the dancers and their families. Working together... ~ Miss Adonica

Happy Thanksgiving

The Spotlight School of Dance will be closed Tuesday, November 24 through Sunday, November 29 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Classes resume Monday, November 30. Enjoy the holiday with family and friends!

Fundraiser Packets

The PartyLite Packets will go home with students in early November, and they are due back November 30. Participating students receive a 50% commission, which is directly deposited into their costume savings accounts.

Calendar Check

October 21: Corning Parents' Night
Corning Studio Demonstrative at CHS

October 27: Creston Parents' Night
Creston Studio Demonstrative at SWCC

November 9: Fundraiser Begins
Fundraiser packets distributed.

November 24-29: Thanksgiving Break
Both studios CLOSED. Celebrate Thanks!

November 30: Classes resume, Fundraiser Ends
Return fundraiser packets to studio.

December 22, 2009 thru January 4, 2010:
Winter Break

March 12-21:
Spring Break

April 25 & 26:
Block Stage Rehearsals

April 28 & 29:
Dress Rehearsals

April 30:
Corning Recital - 7:00pm at SWCC

May 1:
Corning Matinee Recital - 1:00pm at SWCC

May 1:
Creston Recital - 7:00pm at SWCC

May 2:
Creston Matinee Recital - 1:00pm at SWCC

View the calendar: www.spotlightx2.com

Candles Create Costumes

We take pride in our professional Season Finale performed every Spring. This season will conclude with a showcase performed in cost-friendly uniforms. We realize many students will perform multiple numbers in the Season Finale and multiple uniforms may be necessary. To aid students with this expense, we have established an annual fundraiser. Students sell candles during the Thanksgiving Holiday in return for direct deposits into their uniform accounts. In seasons past, students have been able to use this fundraiser to pay for uniforms in full. Fundraiser packets will be distributed November 10. Many customers use their candles for Christmas gifts, making this a popular fundraiser for us.

Parents' Night - Order of Performance

Below is the order of our Parents' Night Demonstrations. Please note the style of shoes needed for each dance routine. Each showing will last approximately forty-five minutes. Dancers report to assigned stations backstage at 6pm on their night of dancing. Students are dismissed to their parents immediately following their stage time.

Corning Parents' Night Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30pm Corning High School Auditorium

Class	Shoe Style
1. PreDance (Wednesday 2:45pm)	Ballet Slipper
2. PreDance (Wednesday 3:30pm)	Tap Shoe
3. Kinder Combo (Wednesday 4:15pm)	Tap Shoe
4. Beginner Dance (Wednesday 5:15pm)	Ballet Slipper
5. Intermediate Dance (Wednesday 6:45pm)	Tap Shoe
6. Mini Hip Hop (Thursday 5:30pm)	Black Jazz Shoe
7. Senior Hip Hop (Wednesday 8:30pm)	Black All Star Sneaker
8. Acro Passes (all Acro students)	Bare Feet

Creston Parents' Night Monday, October 21 at 6:30pm Southwestern Community College Performing Arts Hall

Class	Shoe Style
1. PreDance (Monday 3:00pm)	Tap Shoe
2. PreDance (Tuesday 3:15pm)	Ballet Slipper
3. PreDance (Wednesday 11:15am)	Tap Shoe
4. Kinder Combo (Monday 4:00pm)	Tap Shoe
5. Mini Dance (Thursday 4:00pm)	Ballet Slipper
6. Beginner Dance (Tuesday 5:00pm)	Black Jazz Shoe
7. Intermediate Dance (Thursday 5:15pm)	Tap Shoe
8. Junior/Senior Dance (Monday 7:00pm)	Ballet Slipper
9. Mini Pom (Wednesday 4:30pm)	Black Jazz Shoe
10. Boyz Hip Hop (Wednesday 5:00pm)	Black Jazz Shoe
11. Intermediate Pom (Thursday 7:30pm)	Tan Jazz Shoe
12. Junior/Senior Hip Hop (Tuesday 7:30pm)	Black All Star Sneaker
13. Acro Passes (all Acro students)	Bare Feet

Reminder: The Corning studio will be closed on Wednesday, October 21 and the Creston studio will be closed Tuesday, October 27 for our Parents' Night Demonstrations. We will not run classes on these nights. Enjoy the show.