

# NEWSLETTER TERM 2, 2021

PO Box 545, Heathmont VIC 3135

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## Mrs Frost's Message

Hello everyone

What a great start to our 60<sup>th</sup> year with our return to the stage for our Gala in April. It was wonderful to sense the excitement backstage and observe such delightful performances. I congratulate every performer and thank all who supported me and contributed their time and expertise to create such a smooth running, excellent show!

After a short break we have started term 2 with preparations for exams and you would have received forms via Operoo regarding your child's readiness. Because the last year was so tumultuous we are offering options in SFD exams such as a full exam or a progress exam for those finding it more difficult to catch up or retain all their class work. This way each child can participate fully and have an achievable goal to work towards. Please check with your class teacher to discuss options! In this newsletter you will find additional information, dates and schedules.

In March at the AGM I announced the choice of ballet for our annual production in December. What better way to celebrate 60 years than the most magical, beloved ballet ever – The Nutcracker! Perfectly suited to every age, our production is a delight with magnificent sets and costumes and of course Tchaikovsky's wonderful music! Classical classes from current level 4 up will be cast in it. Our kinder to level 3 classical classes will enjoy a new ballet (not yet titled) but concerning all things heavenly – stars, moon, clouds etc while jazz and tap will be themed around celebrations and diamonds! The show will also include our contemporary and character classes.



On May 2<sup>nd</sup> I was very honoured to be part of an international roundtable discussion on classical ballet as part of the virtual ebook launch of a delightful book "Let's learn Ballet". The book was the brainchild of an amazing woman Nina Anonas who was once a student in my pointe class at the Frankfurt Hochschule für Darstellende Kunst many years ago! It was amazing to share our knowledge with so many passionate teachers and dancers.

I look forward to a busy term and wish you all good health and for our students good learning and progress towards exams!



### **SFD Masterclasses**

Sunday 16th May - Classical Masterclasses Sunday 23rd May - Jazz Masterclasses Sunday 30th May - Tap Masterclasses

Venue: Transit Dance - 64 Dawson St, Brunswick

(Parking is available along Dawson St)
Timetables for each style can be found on the studio noticeboard.

# IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION: Students should:

- 1. Check in using the venue's QR Code upon arrival.
  - 2. Be temperature checked in reception.
- 3. Stay at home if they have Cold or Flu Symptoms (refunds can be claimed through SFD with a doctors' certificate or a Covid-19 test)
  - 4. Bring Water bottles and their bags into each studio

The venue has a large green room area that will be supervised with SFD staff where they can warm up and meet their teachers.

Parents will not be able to accompany students past the reception area. Students will be escorted out to meet parents outside reception at the end of each Masterclass.

### **Fundraising**

Term 1 fundraising involved a number of smaller events to start the year, including BBQs at open day and during rehearsals, our Guess the Easter Eggs competition and our raffle which we drew at our 60<sup>th</sup> Gala concert. Congratulations to all winners!

Special thanks must go to our major supporters of the event who generously donated raffle gifts;

Dance Art Croydon https://danceart.com.au/

Alchemy Distillers https://www.alchemydistillers.com/

MDM Dance <a href="https://www.mdmdance.com/">https://www.mdmdance.com/</a>

Please support these businesses who support us here at RBG.

Thanks also to our BBQ kings – Glen, Vince and Cam - and Lisa Mirtschin and committee for their support on these activities.

For term 2, we will have our Cadbury Chocolate drive – more details to follow soon!

We are always looking for helping hands during events, so please let us know if you are able to spare a few hours or would like to support our fundraising through donations.

### Fundraising Term 2 - Cadbury Chocolates

The fundraiser for this term is *Cadbury Chocolates*!

We are selling Goody Boxes of variety bars and mixed boxes of Freddo's and Caramello's. Every box contains 60 pieces, so costs \$60 per box.

Boxes can be picked up from the studios or will be given to students during class on the week beginning **10<sup>th</sup> May 2021** If you are able to take any extra boxes, to sell at workplaces etc, please just let the office know.

Collected money is to be returned by 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to the RBG office or you can pay via invoice.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us raise funds for the Ringwood Ballet School.

### Invoices

Just a reminder that term 2 invoices are almost due. If you are having any difficulties or wish to organise a payment plan for your fees please feel free to contact the treasurer via email at <a href="mailto:invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au">invoices@ringwoodballet.org.au</a>

### **Help Required**

### **WORKING BEE**

We will be having a working bee at the ballet studios on Sunday 20th June 2021, between 10am-4pm. The purpose of the working bee is to give the studios a good clean and tidy prior to the exam period. If you are able to assist during this day, please see the Working Bee List that is up in the ballet foyer. The list sets out what jobs are required, by how many people, and when you would be required. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email us at office@ringwoodballet.org.au

### **EXAM HELPERS**

Your help would be appreciated during the holiday exam practice days and official exam days, either by providing food or helping supervising children during changeover of classes. A roster of days, times and what sorts of food is required will be available online soon. You can access this with a google doc link that will be emailed out to all families, if you are unable to access this you can come into the office and ask one of the office girls to add your details or contact Cassie Bowman on

### secretary@ringwoodballet.org.au.

\*\*\*Please remember any assistance provided at the working bees or during exam time, goes towards your 4 hours of assistance at the ballet school, and families will be reimbursed their \$50 Maintenance Fee the following term, once assistance has been provided.

### **EXAM CATERING**

Every year the Ringwood Ballet community likes to show their appreciation by not only providing food and refreshments for the (external) examiners, but also for the teachers and helpers during both the holiday classes and exam period - home made soups (minimal added salt) and slices/cake will be needed.

The periods these will be required are: the school holiday classes and mock exams (3 or 5 July and 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 July), RAD exams (still to be confirmed) and SFD exams (Sundays 18 and 25 July and 1 August).

If you are interested in showing off a favourite family recipe for soup or a special slice/cake please email the Secretary, (secretary@ringwoodballet.org.au), suggesting which period would suit you best as well as the type of soup/slice/cake (if possible). Please bear in mind that we will need to take into account dietary requirements and that soups that are not too spicy are preferred, especially during the exam periods.

Further details regarding dates and arrangements will be distributed to respondents once numbers and other requirements are known, and lists will be put up showing 'gaps' where further volunteers are needed.

### Scenery Help - What is this and what does it involve?

Each year we need volunteers to assist with scenery for our annual concert. There are three main areas where parents can assist, as:

- Stage crew,
- Painting and repair of sets and backdrops, and
- Helping move scenery for rehearsals and to and from the Karralyka.

This year we are really needing extra people to put up their had to assist as we have had a number of long term 'crew' move on as their children have now finished dancing.

Geoff Kitchen, our Scenery Co-ordinator, has put together detailed information about what is involved in assisting in each area with our scenery for the concert. This information was sent out via Operoo and is also up in the studios on the noticeboard. If you think you could assist in any way please contact Geoff via email gwkitchen@optusnet.com.au .

Looking forward to your response and assistance!

### **RBG Committee 2021**

I would like to welcome our new committee for 2021, which was appointed at our AGM in March. The current 2021 committee are as follows:

President: Carolyn Callanan Secretary: Cassie Bowman

Vice President: Jo Floyd Treasurer: Jodie Kilworth

**General Committee:** Simone Morgante, Alison Little-Hales, Karalyn McDonald, Cathy Davidson, Michelle Tilden, Andrea Halden

I would like to take this time to welcome a new members Michelle Tilden and Andrea Halden to our committee. I would also like to thank our outgoing members Caitlin Bryson who is stepping down from the committee but still assisting us as part of our stage crew. If you have any questions for any of our committee members please do not hesitate to contact us, our details are listed at the studio on the noticeboard.

### **Competition Dress Rehearsal**

This will be held on Sunday 20 June from 9.30 a.m. to approx. 4 p.m.in the neighbouring Community Centre hall. A timetable will follow soon. All students and families are welcome to watch – we as for a gold coin donation to help cover costs.

### **Snacks for sale at the Studios**

We are now selling food items such as chips, muesli bars and Instant noodles, which range in price from .50c to \$1 in case student forget their snacks or get hungry.

### **HOLIDAY EXAM PREP SCHEDULE**

SENIOR LEVELS -SFD 6-7-8-9 AND RAD GD 6-7-8
DATES: SAT 3/7/21 & MON 5/7/21

SFD JAZZ AND TAP LEVEL 6	3
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2.15-3.30 TAP 6 3.30-3.45 BREAK 3.45 - 5.00 JAZZ 6

### RAD GD. 6 AND SFD JAZZ/TAP LEVEL 7

9.30-10.45 TAP 7 10.45-11.00 BREAK 11.00-12.15 JAZZ 7 12.15-1.00 LUNCH 1.00-2.45 GRADE 6

### RAD GD. 7 AND SFD JAZZ/TAP LEVEL 8

11.00-12.30	GRADE 7		
10 00 10 15			

12.30-12.45 BREAK 12.45-2.00 TAP 8 2.00-2.15 BREAK 2.15-3.30 JAZZ 8

### RAD GD. 8 AND SFD JAZZ/TAP 9

9.00-10.45 GRADE 8 10.45-11.00 BREAK 11.00-12.15 TAP 9 12.15-12.30 BREAK 12.30-2.00 JAZZ 9

# JUNIOR LEVELS SFD CLASSICAL 1-6 AND JAZZ/TAP 1-5 (NO LEVEL 4P) DATES: TUESDAY 6 JULY TO THURSDAY 8 JULY INCLUSIVE

### LEVEL 1 CLASSICAL – JAZZ AND TAP

1.00-2.15 CLASSICAL 1 2.15-2.30 BREAK 2.30-3.15 TAP 1 3.15-3.30 BREAK 3.30-4.15 JAZZ 1

### **LEVEL 2 CLASSICAL - JAZZ AND TAP**

10.15-11.30 CLASSICAL 2 11.30-11.45 BREAK 11.45-12.45 JAZZ 2 12.45-1.30 TAP 2

### **LEVEL 3 CLASSICAL - JAZZ AND TAP**

9.00-10.15 CLASSICAL 3 10.15-10.30 BREAK 10.30-11.30 JAZZ 3 11.30-11.45 BREAK 11.45-12.45 TAP 3

### LEVEL 4 CLASSICAL - NO JAZZ OR TAP

11.30-1.00 CLASSICAL 4

## LEVEL 5 CLASSICAL – LEVEL 4 JAZZ AND

<u>TAP</u>

1.30-2.30 JAZZ 4 2.30-2.45 BREAK 2.45-4.15 CLASSICAL 5 4.15-4.30 BREAK 4.30-5.45 TAP 4

## LEVEL 6 CLASSICAL - LEVEL 5 JAZZ AND

<u>TAP</u>

1.30-2.30 TAP 5 2.30-2.45 BREAK 2.45-4.00 JAZZ 5 4.00-4.15 BREAK 4.15-5.45 CLASSICAL 6

### **EXAM INFORMATION**

### **Mock Exams**

**All** CLASSICAL exam candidates are required to do a mock exam which is run exactly like an exam and we set aside 3 days to cover all the exam groups. They have not yet been timetabled but will be conducted on :

FRIDAY 9 JULY - SFD CLASSICAL LEVELS 4-5-6 SATURDAY 10 JULY - RAD HIGHER GRADES 6-7-8 SUNDAY 11 JULY - SFD CLASSICAL LEVELS 1-2-3

### **Exam Dates:**

### **RAD EXAMS:**

We have requested dates between Monday19 and Friday 23 July for the RAD Higher Grades but cannot confirm we will get these dates until they contact us.

#### SFD EXAMS:

These dates have been confirmed but a timetable with exact times cannot be worked out until we have all the entries back.

Below is a list of days – examiners to be confirmed

SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY
ALL JAZZ LEVELS
SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY
CLASSICAL 1-2-3
TAP 4-5-6-7
SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST
CLASSICAL 4-5-6

### **Uniform Requirements for Examinations**

TAP 1-2-3-8-9

#### CLASSICAL SFD LEVEL 1 (Girls)

We provide an aqua leotard and circle skirt and ballet pink ankle socks for each candidate. THEY WILL NOT BE WEARING TIGHTS! We will fit each child before her mock exam and she will wear a beautiful fresh leotard both for the mock exam and for her examination. Hair will be worn in crossed plaits over the crown of the head with aqua bows (we provide these as well). You need to provide pink ballet slippers with elastic over the instep, and flesh coloured ballet undies (available from the dance shops) – no "normal" undies are permitted as they are visible.

### CLASSICAL SFD LEVEL 2 (Girls)

We provide a lilac leotard and circle skirt. We will fit each child before the mock exam and she will wear a beautiful fresh leotard both for the mock exam and for her examination. You need to provide the correct ballet tights (pink not flesh) and ballet slippers with elastic over the instep (as worn in class). If you wish you may also provide flesh ballet undies (normal underwear is not permitted as it is visible). Hair is to be immaculately groomed in a FLAT bun just behind the crown of the head (the top should just be visible from the front. We will provide a flower comb so no other decorations are to be worn.



### **CLASSICAL LEVELS 1-2 (Boys)**

We will provide navy lycra shorts. You need to provide white short sleeve leotard or close fitting T shirt (<u>Tucked in</u>) -- white ballet shoes with white elastic over instep - white socks.

### **CLASSICAL SFD LEVELS 3-6 (Girls)**

We have a full set of exam leotards for girls (provided from a grant we received several years ago). If your child is taking one of these levels we will fit her before her mock exam and she will wear a beautiful fresh leotard both for the mock exam and for her examination. Level 3 and 4 will wear lilac and levels 5 and 6 purple. You will still need to provide new clean ballet shoes with elastic over the instep and pink ballet tights.

### **CLASSICAL 3 UPWARDS (Boys)**

You will need to provide Navy footless tights/well fitted leggings, white cap sleeve leotard – white ballet shoes and white socks. Once boys start wearing tights they also need a support belt – Energeticks do make smaller sizes for younger males.

### **RAD HIGHER GRADES 6-7 (Girls)**

Students provide their own navy thick strap camisole leotard- Pink ballet tights – pink ballet slippers with elastic/ribbons (check with Mrs Frost) - black canvas Cuban heeled Character shoes. We will provide navy chiffon skirts and black character skirts as well as the long silk scarves.

### **RAD GRADE 8 (Girls)**

Navy leotard any style may be worn that is flattering and well fitted (please check with Mrs Frost)- Pink ballet tights – pink ballet slippers with elastic- black canvas Cuban heeled Character shoes We will provide navy chiffon skirts and black character skirts as well as the long silk scarves.

### **JAZZ AND TAP (Girls)**

Levels 1-5: Cobalt Blue, sleeveless, gathered front Leotard, Light tan tights (Energetiks matt – mocha matt or fiesta matt tan) – tan tap shoes –Tan jazz shoes (full or split sole) – plain black hot pants (Energetiks brand) for jazz only – Plain Black tap skirt for tap

Levels 6-9: as above but with the double strap cobalt blue leotard

### JAZZ AND TAP (Boys)

A black and cobalt leotard will be provided by RBG – black bike shorts for junior boys – black ¾ tights for seniors – black ankle socks and black tap or jazz shoes. Black Jazz pants are **not** permitted in any examinations.

### **GROOMING:**

Hair must be immaculately groomed (use gel and hairspray to tame wisps) off the face – no fringes – in a bun or crossed plaits. NO decoration to be included – we will provide the correct hair decoration on the day. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the correct hair pins and nets are provided – RBG does not provide these items for you. The fine French pins are useless so please don't waste your money buying them. The medium length thick HAIR PINS (NOT BOBBY PINS) can be found in some chemists and at Target. Hairnets must match as closely as possible the hair colour – fine bun nets are not usually successful as they are too small – large fine nets for children with very fine – or not much – hair and slumber nets for those with lots of heavy hair are recommended and can be found in most chemists or once again at places such as Target, Big W and some supermarkets. BUNS SHOULD BE FLAT AND NOT PROTRUDE OUT FROM THE HEAD WHICH DISTORTS THE LINE OF THE NECK AND HEAD. We also have hair pins, bobby pins and hair nets for sale through the office – please ask!

Boy's hair must be neatly groomed and not distracting – long hair may need to be secured with a headband.

A NOTE ABOUT SHOES: new shoes have <u>got to be worn in</u> and must fit closely – "room to grow" is not only detrimental to safe dance but also prevents staff or the examiner from seeing the correct use of the feet thus likely to affect the final outcome of the exam. New shoes MUST be worn for the mock exam and classes leading up to the exam so if buying do so now! This includes ballet shoes, character shoes, jazz and tap shoes!

### **Examination Day**

Due to the need to avoid crowding we require parents/carers to bring their dancer in and then to leave the premises and return when the exam ends to collect.

RAD higher grade examinations are conducted on week days so students will need to be excused from school for their examination. This is the responsibility of the parent to arrange. We have requested between Monday 19 July and Friday 23 July as our preferred dates but this cannot be confirmed until Mrs Frost receives the running sheets. Exams often run early and there is nothing worse for a child than to be rushed into the room unprepared because he/she arrived late. Therefore candidates must arrive at the studio 45 minutes to 1 hour before the start of his/her exam with all uniform requirements and the hair already correctly groomed if possible. If you expect us to groom the hair you will need to arrive as early as possible (minimum 1 hour before the exam). Do not expect us or another mother to provide

your child with the required items and due to Covid we cannot allow sharing of personal items. As a parent you can help your child by encouraging a calm approach and reiterating that this is something to look forward to not something to fear. Having all their uniform requirements in hand and ensuring cleanliness and perfect fit will make the child feel special and supported. Once at the studio Mrs Frost and the teaching staff will be there for each candidate – and will do all that is possible to ensure their exam is a special occasion. We want the candidates to value the whole experience and remind you that the greatest value is to found in the motivation and commitment over the whole year not just in the end result or mark achieved on the day.

SFD Examinations due to the inclusion of classical levels there will be a large entry. The dates have been confirmed and details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. You will receive exact times once we have all entries in and a running order. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the day is kept free for this occasion. Exams often run early and there is nothing worse for a child than to be rushed into the room unprepared because he/she arrived late. Therefore candidates are required to arrive at the studio 60 minutes for classical and 45 minutes for jazz and tap before the start of his/her exam with all uniform requirements and the hair already correctly groomed if possible. If this is not possible the candidate should bring all his/her hair things with (see grooming above) and it will be done at the studio - but you need to allow more time for this so must arrive at least one hour before. Do not expect us or another mother to provide your child with the required items and due to Covid we cannot allow sharing of personal items. The candidates will then be warmed up thoroughly and encouraged to feel confident and ready for the examination. As in previous years both studio 1 and studio 2 will be used for exams so all warm ups and changing must be done in studio 3. As a parent you can help your child by encouraging a calm approach and reiterating that this is something to look forward to not something to fear. Having all their uniform requirements in hand and ensuring cleanliness and perfect fit will make the child feel special and supported. Once at the studio the teaching staff will be there for each candidate - and will do all that is possible to ensure their exam is a special occasion. We want the candidates to value the whole experience and remind you that the greatest value is to found in the motivation and commitment over the whole year not just in the end result or mark achieved on the day.

### **Presentation of Certificates and Badges**

Every exam candidate will be given their result and their report as soon as they are received by Mrs Frost. Their Certificate and a RBG badge will be presented formally at the Presentation Evening – September 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

### **Assessments**

Our level 4P and Pre primary students will be offered an assessment to ensure readiness to move up into the next level. We will announce exact dates and times as soon as we can, to coincide with the exam period. The information and permission slips will be sent out through caremonkey as soon as possible. All those who are entered for an assessment are required to follow the same processes outlined above for examinations and to wear the same uniform etc. The arrival time for all styles is **45 minutes** before the scheduled start of the assessment so that candidates can be warmed up and made to feel confident and special before entering the studio. Each candidate will be issued with an assessment report as well as a badge. These will be presented at the Presentation Evening on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

Assessment Fee - \$28 per style.





### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY -2021**

MAY

SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>
SFD Classical Masterclasses
SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>
SFD Jazz Masterclasses
SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>
SFD Tap Masterclasses

**JUNE** 

MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> Queens Birthday – REDUCED TIMETABLE

SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> Comp Dress Rehearsal

MON 21<sup>ST</sup> – SAT 26<sup>TH</sup> Open Week

SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SFD Scholarship Technical Classes

SATURDAY  $26^{TH}$  End of Term 2 SAT  $26^{TH}$  – FRI  $2^{ND}$  (JULY) SFD Competitions

**JULY** 

SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> Higher Grades Exam Prep Classes (Compulsory for exam candidates)
MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> Higher Grades Exam Prep Classes (Compulsory for exam candidates)

TUES  $6^{TH}$  – WED  $7^{TH}$  – THURS  $8^{TH}$  Exam Preparation Classes (Compulsory for exam candidates) Mock Exams – Classical (Compulsory for exam candidates)

MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> Start of Term 3

SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> Exam Session Commences

<u>AUGUST</u>

SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> Senior Ballet Audition

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>

SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> Presentation Day/Evening

SATURDAY 18<sup>Th</sup> End of Term 3

SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> ONWARDS Southern Dance Festival Starts

<u>OCTOBER</u>

MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> Start of Term 4

SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SFD Choreographic Competition SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 60<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**NOVEMBER** 

MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> No Classes

TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> Cup Day - NO CLASSES SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> Concert Tickets go on Sale SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> Last day of ALL Saturday classes SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\* FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> Last day of ALL regular weekday classes SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> - SUN 21<sup>ST</sup> Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\* Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\* MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY 24TH Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\* SAT 27<sup>TH</sup> - SUN 28<sup>TH</sup> Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\* MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\*

**DECEMBER** 

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup>
SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup>
Junior Ballet Combined Rehearsals\*
Senior Ballet Combined Rehearsal\*

SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> Full Dress Rehearsal and Photo Day– Community Centre\*\*

MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> Final Senior Open Class and Theatre Bump-in

TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal - Junior Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Character

WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> Full Dress/Technical Rehearsal – Feature Ballet\*\*

THURSDAY g<sup>TH</sup> 11am Matinee – Feature Ballet Only

THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 7pm Performance
FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 7pm Performance
SATURDAY 11<sup>T</sup> 12.30pm Performance
SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> 7pm Performance
\*These rehearsals replace regular classes in these weeks.

<sup>\*\*</sup>These rehearsals are COMPULSORY. Failure to attend will result in being withdrawn from the production.