

Dear Dancers and Parents,

Welcome to Weehawken Dance Winter/Spring Semester 2020!

Where is the time going? I can't believe we are already half way through the school year!

First things first!

A very HUGE thank you to two people.

Mark Clutts-- he made our very fancy, very expensive dance floor all come together last semester. He spent countless hours after work and on the weekend installing our floating dance floor. This floor keeps our dancers safe while leaping and jumping. Thanks, Mark! We so appreciate you!

Erika Story-- Erika took videos with her camera of each cast of the Nutcracker and uploaded these videos for your viewing pleasure to youtube for FREE! Lucky you! Give her a hug when you see her and feel free to share these with family, friends, and your Grandma (hopefully Grandma can use youtube. ha!)

Sweets: <https://youtu.be/xqpJXWcadns>

Show 1/2: <https://youtu.be/GpdL47rXYXs>

Show 3/4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTBbSJykAaw&feature=youtu.be>

Every semester our teachers, staff, show volunteers, and show staff discuss ways to make our program and performances more fun and effortless for everyone. Last semester we decided to focus on the individual dancers in our program, as a way to make the show experience the best possible for everyone. With that choice came the decision to basically cut the Nutcracker 3 ways, across 5 performances. We created "Nutcracker Sweets" to accommodate Weehawken's youngest dancers, and also to give a chance for more of our dancers to get lead roles. We had 2 separate casts for the full Nutcracker, and we were thrilled with how beautiful and effortless the show experience was for our level 1 and older students. We could not be happier with the outcome of our Nutcracker season and are so proud of our staff, teachers and students. Because of this success, we plan to make "Nutcracker Sweets" a bi-yearly tradition. Look forward to "The Nutcracker" and "Nutcracker Sweets" 2021!

Now get excited for.... "Dancing Down the Yellow Brick Road"!

Welcome to Oz! We can't wait for you to see how fun this will be!

This semester we plan to split the show down the middle (as much as possible). 4 shows, with a 2 way split cast.

What does this mean for you, your dancer, and possibly for your family if you have multiple dancers?

- If your dancer takes multiple classes -- it's possible their dances could be split between shows. We know this is not ideal, and I will make every effort to make this easy and effortless for everyone, but we also want the show exercise to be GREAT for the audience. Right now the shows are lopsided, with one cast having a much longer show than the other. It's just not a great experience for our dance families and patrons who attend the shows. We want to try and improve that!

- If you have more than 1 dancer in our program in different classes, it's possible they will be in separate casts. This will mean a separate dress rehearsal as well. I know this is not ideal, but even with school or sports, the likeliness of both children in 1 household being on the same soccer game or class in school is unlikely. And that would mean separate games or fields trips anyway. On the bright side, it's only 1 weekend. Not multiple weekends in different towns like sports games can be.
- Pre and Primary level dancers should plan to perform 1 time only. Although we aren't doing we sweets, we did learn with sweets how calm, collected and fun backstage experience can be! We want that--- every show! We loved how much fun everyone had, and our tiny dancers rocked it! One performance vs two just seems so much better for these little sweethearts.
- Show information will be sent to the email address we have on file for you. A tremendous amount of energy is spent creating personalized emails for you with your dancer's specific show information. The best way to ensure you get those e-mails is to make both Trish and myself contacts (programs@weehawkenarts.org & natashajeanne@weehawkenarts.org). It will be a very confusing show experience if you don't receive these emails. Also-- please read them. I know it seems like a lot of information, but if you don't read the information we send you will just have a lot of questions. To avoid confusion just grab a beverage and take 5 minutes to read these emails thoroughly. You will be glad you did.

As always, we take great integrity in what we do and do our best to make this experience memorable, fun, and relaxed. Our goal is to create a long lasting love of dance for students, parents and patrons.

Remember to check out our "dates to remember" page on the website and put those dates in your calendar. And reminder, most anything you need can be found on the dance resources page on our website too.

If you are really just confused or have a nagging question, please feel free to e-mail me. My teaching schedule is busy, but I usually respond within a day or two.

Side note-- we are always looking for older boys/teenagers to come partner our ballerinas in the performance. If you have a teenage boy at home, please encourage him to come to the partner audition time and date listed on the dates to remember page. It's a really fun way to be a part of Weehawken's performances without being a "dancer". We are even looking for some smaller partners for Munchkin land! But please plan on rehearsals if planning to partner. Rome wasn't built in a day, and a partner isn't made in 1 rehearsal. Check the audition form for information regarding extra rehearsals and leads expectations.

We can't wait to see how much your dancer learns this semester and watch them shine. Put on those ruby slippers and get ready to dance your heart out!

Natasha Pyeatte

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