

Dear Parents and Dancers,

Wow! What a crazy year this has been, and it seems to be continuing on and on... **but so are we.**

This year is the first year since I was a teenager I haven't participated in a winter dance performance. From dancing the role of Sugar Plum Fairy with a live orchestra, to helping tiny ballerinas with wings and halos in Nutcrackers past, or my dad setting up the train he created at the Montrose Pavilion for Weehawken's first production of "The Polar Express", I have been a part of a winter show complete with falling plastic snow. But not this year, and that's ok.

Weehawken Dance isn't going anywhere, and we will see winter shows again.

While my heart feels sad for the lack of winter production, *I'm grateful.* I'm grateful to our dancers for working hard, I'm pleased to see the progress they've made this semester focusing on technique, I'm happy to see their faces (even masked) full of determination, and I've enjoyed just sharing the love of dance with our students because really, that's why we are all here. The joy of movement, the artistry, the technique.

And we are persevering.

We have great plans for next semester, but if covid has taught us anything, it's learning to adapt and be ready for change.

Right now, our plan is this:

The last week of dance classes for this session is November 16, the week before Thanksgiving. The studio will be closed for regular classes but open for private lessons November 23-January 31.

We hope to have some kind of winter workshops the week of January 25-29.

Regular Classes will begin February 1st. **Note- if we end up with some kind of lockdown during that time, we will push back the start date. We left some flexibility in the schedule in case of lockdowns or snow days.**

We will take off winter blues and spring breaks.

The semester will be 14 weeks with a performance at the end

To keep things adaptable in case of anything-- we have chosen to do a recital with the theme "Dance Legends". Each class will learn about a legend (think dance history class) and learn choreography that showcases their legend. We do have the Montrose Pavilion on hold for the performance, but depending on what restrictions look like in May, we may choose to perform outside on the stage at Ridgway Town park. Both would be great locations, and we will make the decision of where to perform closer to production time.

Instead of leads and auditions, we welcome dancers to sign up for solos, duets or trios, and work with one of our instructors to create a dance piece, using the same dance legends theme.

We think this will be a great opportunity for our students to learn more about the art of dance as well as hone their skills. We encourage them to use our winter break to work with instructors to create the choreography.

For the full dates to remember page for winter/spring semester 2021 click below:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vgWb9772OWiStULCvdPfrW1M4J_2bK2GVFMABc9k3yc/edit?usp=sharing

For the full recital information for spring 2021 click here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hl4usAtNoIEx74oL8bHrOd9M0cN8yiAAFIOPnXa188w/edit?usp=sharing>

From all of us at Weehawken Dance and Weehawken Creative Arts, we want you to know how much we appreciate your flexibility, encouragement and support throughout 2020. We are truly grateful to each one of our dance families.

Thank you for being a part of the Weehawken Family.

Natasha Pyeatte Artistic Director of Weehawken Dance, & the whole weehawken staff and dance teacher team