

WELCOME TO MERRILEE STUDIOS!

This is our 35th year of teaching excellence in dance and tumbling. We're happy to have you as a part of our studio. Please remember that if you have a question, there is only one way to get an answer - ASK. If your child's teacher, the receptionist, or Lida doesn't know, then a note will be written to Mary, and you will be called with an answer. Communication is very important - let's keep the lines open so we can give your child the best possible training in dance and tumbling. Mary is in the studio on Tuesdays and Thursdays (she teaches dance at ICC on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays), so if you are there on Tuesday or Thursday, please ask her in person. You can also email Mary with your questions at mld@mtco.com

To catch you up on our summer... Our Dance Team Camp students marched in the Old Settler Parade and received a first place in their category. They also performed in the Old Settler Show along with other children from the Studio.

In July Dan, Lida, Laura, and Courtney attended the Chicago Dance Connections' innovative Jazz Camp at the Chicago Hilton Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Illinois. Over three days, they studied current choreography and techniques in jazz, hip hop, contemporary, lyrical, jazz funk, Latin jazz, and modern dance from instructors, all experts in their field, Reginald Harris, Connie Fagan, Kasper, Nick Pupillo, Jay Fagan, David Petro, Viola Elkins, and others. While attending, Courtney was selected by Dance Camp instructors to receive a scholarship awarding her free classes at future Chicago Dance Connections' workshops. The advanced techniques learned at this camp have energized us. Expect to see many new things in our jazz program.

Later in July students performed in Eureka for the Eureka Public Library Day Camp. Then in August we had a basement dewatering system put in. Because the concrete needs time to fully cure, you may see that the one wall in the downstairs teaching room has not yet been painted. If it isn't, it will be soon.

I hope your summer was as good as ours.

CLASSES THAT WE OFFER – The Core Subjects

BALLET AND POINTE - Ballet for the early beginner student in 30 minute classes, late beginner and intermediate students in forty-five minute classes, for the advanced students (two levels) in sixty minute classes and the top level in seventy-five minute classes. Pointe classes are only for advanced ballet dancers.

This will be the sixteenth year that Merrilee Studios is teaching exclusively Vaganova (Russian) ballet technique. This technique has a goal of teaching your child complete body control in the same way the schools teach your child to read - one step at a time. The results are phenomenal. **If your child is in first grade or older and is enrolled in a ballet class, I would highly suggest a second class each week.** The children who take two classes per week advance much more quickly than those who take class only once a week. If your child is serious about ballet, you should consider this second class.

BOYS ONLY DANCE – This is a FREE class open to all boys 8 years of age and older. It includes some ballet and jazz technique and other skills to get your boys in good physical shape. It was first offered in the summer of 2008 and during the past two school years. This class is only on Tuesdays at 4:30-5:00 and it taught by Courtney.

BOYS ONLY TUMBLING – This class is taught by Dan and open to all boys first grade and older. It is only on Tuesdays from 4:00-4:30.

JAZZ – Jazz for the beginner in two levels with level one a thirty minute class and level two a forty-five minute class and for the intermediate and advanced students in forty-five minute classes.

KINDERGARTENERS AND PRESCHOOLERS - Tap, ballet, and tumbling

We limit these classes to 12 children taught by the teacher, one assistant, and possibly one helper. If children are making up from another class, the number may go over 12 for that particular lesson. Preschool classes are on Monday mornings and evenings, Tuesday mornings, and Wednesday evenings. Kindergarten age classes are on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

TAP – Tap for the beginner student in two levels in 30 minute classes and for intermediate and advanced students in forty-five minute classes.

TUMBLING - This is the thirteenth year that all of the tumbling classes are taught according to the guidelines set up by the American Athletic Union and the United States Tumbling Association. This will encourage your child to tumble with more precision. All first grade and older classes are forty-five minutes. We also have High Level Tumbling classes for those who are working on back handsprings and harder tricks. This class is offered on Thursdays from 6:45 -7:30. **As in ballet, a second class each week will help your child progress at a much more rapid pace.**

OTHER CLASSES THAT WE OFFER

CONTEMPORARY DANCE – beginning in early to mid October, we will be offering a contemporary dance class on Tuesdays from 4:15-5:00 and taught by Lida and Margaret. This class focuses on expressing emotions through dance using innovative choreography. This class is open to students who are currently registered in a level 4 or higher ballet class. This class will help your child grow as a dancer, artist, and performer.

HIP HOP OR STREET JAZZ - These half hour classes are open to those who are at least seven years old and are taught by Dan. We highly recommend all hip hop students to take a jazz class and/or a tumbling class.

MODERN DANCE – This 45 minute class is open to those ten and older who are currently registered in a ballet class and is taught by Laura on Tuesdays and Courtney on Thursdays. Modern dance is an offshoot of ballet and therefore, requires a ballet background.

PRIVATE LESSONS - Dan, Lida, Laura, and Courtney will have time in their schedules for private lessons in jazz, tap, or tumbling. If you are interested, please leave your name at the desk. Those who take a private or semiprivate lesson each week from Period 1 through Period 9, will be eligible for a solo or duo in the dance recital upon payment of a \$50 recital fee (due February 1) and if the children taking the private or semi private lesson accumulated three points over the past summer. They must also be enrolled in a ballet class during the 2011-12 school year.

Attendance at private or semiprivate lessons must be regular and absences must be called in by noon of the lesson day or the parent will be charged for the class.

THEATRE DANCE – This half hour class learns dances to Broadway show music and incorporates dance with acting skills. It is taught by Dan on Mondays from 7:00-7:30 for 1st through 4th graders and on Tuesdays at 7:30-8:00 and Thursdays 8:15-8:45 for 5th graders and older and is open to children eight years and older who are also enrolled in a ballet and/or jazz class

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

DANCE SUPPLIES - Dance supplies are sold in the studio. We have all of the shoes and leotards that your child will need in stock. We also have tights, legwarmers, wrap sweaters, socks, shorts, camis, tutus, skirts, and Merrilee Studios logo T shirts and dance bags. All merchandise is 10% off during one week in October (Midnight Madness – October 24-27), during the month of December, and during the summer classes. Please check out our closeout/discontinued box. There will be some great buys.

WEB SITE & FACEBOOK - Please visit the website at www.merrileestudios.com If you are on Facebook, “like” the Merrilee Studios page to receive information and reminders, and see photos from camps and other studio events.

MERRILEE STUDIOS CALENDAR FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2011-12

Please record the following dates on your calendar.

- August 29** 1st day of classes, Period 1 tuition due
- Sept. 5** Labor Day, no classes. Classes may be made up through May 20
- Sept. 26** Period 2 tuition due
- Sept. 26 - 29** “Bring a Friend to Class” Week – bring someone to class who is not currently enrolled at the studio
- Oct. 24** Period 3 tuition due
- Oct. 24-27** Midnight Madness – all merchandise including leotards, 10% off
Notes go out for solos, duos, trios for Showtime 2011
- Nov. 17** Last day to hand in form to do a solo, duo, or trio in Showtime 2011
- Nov. 21** Period 4 tuition due
- Nov. 24** Thanksgiving Day, no classes. Classes may be made up through May 17
- Dec. 5-8** Costume pictures available for viewing
- Dec. 16** Studio closed through Jan. 1. No one pays tuition for these weeks.
- January 2** Period 5 tuition due
- January 5** Costume payments due (If you would like to pay some each month on costumes, I can keep a running record for you)
- January 30** Period 6 tuition due
- Feb. 9** Tumbling leotard payment due (The tumbling classes wear a leotard that is ordered later than costumes.)
- Feb. 27** Period 7 tuition due
- March 26** Period 8 tuition due
- April 23** Period 9 tuition due
- May 12** Picture Day at the studio, 11:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m. (time approximate)
- May 16** Last day of classes for school year 2010-11 (no class May 17 – dress rehearsal)
- May 17** Dress Rehearsal: Levels 3 & up, 6:00 p.m. MTHS theatre
- May 18** Dress Rehearsal: Levels Pre, K, 1, and 2, 6:00 p.m. MTHS theatre
- May 19** Show for Pre’s, K’s, Levels 1 & 2, 1:00 p.m., MTHS Theatre
Show for levels 3 and up, 7:00 p.m., MTHS Theatre
- May 20** Studio closed through June 3
- June 4** Summer classes begin