

CARA SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

(A DIVISION OF THE MCDADE-CARA SCHOOL)

www.caraschool.com

WELCOME to our new students and welcome back to everyone who is returning to the McDade-Cara Championship class. We hope you will all participate in all of the exciting events that are planned throughout the year! In this letter, we are including a few general reminders that you have probably already seen in previous welcome letters, but that we think are worth repeating.

CALENDAR

We are distributing a calendar of the holidays for the year 2010-11 prior to the first class. Please check the webpage ROUTINELY for calendar updates. Classes resume on Saturday September 11, 2010.

STUDENTS

Students will be expected to develop the physical skills associated with Irish dance: body control, coordination, good posture etc. In addition, students will be encouraged to improve their listening skills & attention spans, increase self-confidence, and perform to the best of their ability. Students should expect constructive criticism and feedback.

Students will be expected to respect their teachers and their classmates at all times. Continuous disruption of class will not be tolerated, as it is unfair to the other students. Injury to another or defacement of property will result in immediate and permanent dismissal. We have had no such incidence since we started teaching!

Students will be expected to practice (with music) between sessions- so that class time can be spent mastering what has already been presented and learning new material. Regular attendance at class is expected and is critical for those who wish to advance.

Students wearing a cast of any type will not be permitted to dance but are encouraged to observe their class until the cast is removed.

Students must come properly outfitted for class--- fitted shirt, and shorts/skort that allow free movement, dance socks and **shoes**, hair pulled away from the face.--absolutely no bare feet. No one will be permitted to dance in socks. Dancers who show up at class without their shoes, or who are not properly outfitted, will be asked to sit and observe the class. It is not possible to participate without the proper attire (much like a child who goes to basketball practice without sneakers or wearing jeans....). Dancers will be exercising and will need to move about freely. Dancing in socks is unsafe....we are not insured if a dancer is wearing socks and slips and gets hurt. We ARE insured if dancers are wearing shoes. Also, we can not properly access timing and trebles and other hard shoe skills if dancers do not wear their hard shoes in class (we can not hear them in sneakers). Dancers who practice without proper dancing shoes will not likely dance well in shoes on a stage.

****Dancing shoes and Cara tees/shorts can be purchased at the Open house on Friday, Sept. 10th at the Drexel Hill Studio****

PARENTS

Parents will **not** be allowed to remain in the same room where lessons are being conducted. It is a distraction for the students if Parents are continuously peering through the windows too. The material is difficult to learn and breaks in concentration will hinder the progress of the dancers.

Parents will not be allowed to take photographs during class-- without the expressed permission of the Teachers. We need to respect and protect the privacy of our young children. On occasion, photos of the McDade-Cara dancers will appear in the local press (a snapshot from a nursing home show, parade etc.). Your participation in such events will serve as consent for those photos to appear.

Parents should remind their child to use the bathroom before class starts. Students will, of course, be permitted to leave class to use the bathroom but it is helpful if Parents remind children to use the bathroom before class begins.

Parents should check that your child's shoes are tied securely before they enter the classroom.

Parents should encourage at-home practice.

Younger siblings are welcome to wait in the waiting rooms and lobby areas but are not permitted to run or wander through the studio hallways, parking lots, bathrooms etc. They must be supervised at all times. We appreciate your efforts in helping us maintain a quiet and safe learning environment. Please watch your children closely.

ATTENDANCE

When a holiday falls on a scheduled class day no substitution class is issued. Attendance is taken at every class -- teachers will have a record of missed classes. (The teaching staff really appreciates the efforts of Parents who keep track of their own child's missed classes and "make-ups"). Please note that missed classes during the traditional school year (Sept.-May) can be made up at any location in a class of the appropriate level. Classes do not need to be made up in the month missed but must be completed by May 31.

TUITION

Tuition is due three times a year-- at the first class of September, December and March Please visit <http://www.caraschool.com/registrationform.html> and make all of your payments using Paypal.

EMAIL

Email is the primary medium for correspondence between teachers and Parents. Please check your email regularly so that your child does not miss any opportunities or critical deadlines We PREFER that you check your email for weather-related cancellations and important notices but, Parents may also call the School phone number (484)461-8877. There will be an outgoing recorded message by noon on questionable weather days.

As a courtesy to the teachers and their families please refrain from making calls to home phone numbers. Written notes to teachers can be placed in the tuition mailbox. Email questions should be directed to info@caraschool.com. Except for urgent matters, please do not expect to have lengthy discussions with the Teachers during class time. We will be happy to schedule time to meet and answer your questions but it is simply an interruption to another dancer's class if we have discussions during the change of classes. We appreciate your consideration in this area. We try to check and reply to email very quickly.

PARADE AND SHOW PARTICIPATION

Parades.....

All students are encouraged to participate in the **St.Patrick's Day parades**. The School has historically participated in the Springfield parade and the Philadelphia parade and expects to continue in that tradition. Students will be participating in various capacities, with the more advanced dancers usually performing at the judging/ reviewing stand. Everyone will be dancing along the parade routes. This is a great opportunity to share our talents and to celebrate our heritage.

Post-Parade Party..... is planned for Saturday, March 12th from 2-6PM at Cardinal O'Hara High School. Many more details to follow but mark your calendars now! The date and location are firm.

Shows.....

Dancers are also encouraged to volunteer for **shows** throughout the year.--concentration of show performances occur in February and March. Sign-up sheets are posted on the website. We try to participate in a mix of community service events, paid performances, festivals and so forth. Monies raised from these "Dance Outs" are used to offset travel expenses to Major Championships.

Note-----Beginner level dancers who elect to participate in the parades/shows will need to wear a navy blue skirt/skort, white blouse, navy tights and white sneakers—boys wear dark pants with white dress shirt. **SOME** of the more advanced students may be required to wear the school costume. We have learned from past experience that the navy skirts/skorts are easily found at several "back-to school" sales during the fall season. It would be wise to buy a skirt now if you plan to participate—they become more difficult to find in February. Show "sign ups" are posted at www.caraschool.com (bulletin board tab, schedules and sign ups....). You will need to type the username "cara school" and password "Jiggy123" (capital J) to access this area of the website.

Recital.....

We plan to hold a recital in November. This will also serve as a final "dress rehearsal" for all Oireachtas championship solo and team dancers. Date and location are currently being firmed up. We are hoping to include all dancers at all levels.

COMPETITIONS

We think you will find the webpage information about Irish dancing competition very useful. Please take time to review the sections related to the **feis (pronounced fesh) experience**. Eligibility/minimum requirements for entering a feis are also explained on the webpage. A complete listing of upcoming feiseanna (dates and locations) can be found at the North American Feis Commission (NAFC) website—see link from Cara webpage.

UPCOMING MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Ireland Championship

Killarney, Feb. 19-27, 2011

entries due October 2010

ages: under 10 and up

World Championship

Citywest, Dublin

April 17-24, 2011

entries Due January, 2011

ages under 11 and up (dancers must qualify via Regional Oireachtas or North American Championship)

www.clrg.ie

North American Championship

Gaylord Opryland Hotel Nashville, TN
from July 1 - 5, 2011.

www.idtana.org

This year we are selecting the All Ireland Championship as our main overseas trip (Killarney, Feb. 19-27, 2011). As such, there will (hopefully) be fundraising efforts to support dancers who travel to this Major Championship. . With the support of the Parent's Associations (please join!!), we hope to raise funds for the All Irelands, the World Championships and the North American Championships this year. Next year, we may select a different overseas trip so that dancers can have a different overseas experience. Dancers should be in open championship or consistently placing high in preliminary championships in order to enter international competitions. If you are interested please email a Teacher before the end of September.

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OIREACHTAS

Philadelphia Marriott

Friday November 26th- Sunday November 28th

<http://www.mid-atlanticregion.com/----2010%20OIREACHTAS.html>

The syllabus has been posted. Details regarding room reservation are expected in mid-September. The schedule will be posted after all entries are received. Entries are due on October 1st and must be submitted by TCRG's. The qualifications for solo dancers are listed on the syllabus. We will be collecting all entry fees in advance of the entry deadline, via paypal. Please look for a reminder in mid-September. Solo entry fee is \$40 and ceili entry fee is \$10 per dancer per dance.

If you would like to be placed on a ceili team you should have already signed up at <http://www.caraschool.com/schedules/> The practice schedule for teams appears on the sign up page. There is a \$100 practice fee for teams. This covers September 11th through November 25th.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

HALLOWEEN PARTY

.....at the Media Community Center, Friday October 22nd from 7-10PM. This will be a costume party for dancers and siblings (siblings must be over 5 years old). It is not a fundraiser, just a PARTY!! There will be tickets available when classes resume. Tickets will only cost \$5 and will include snacks, drinks etc. There will be contests and lots of music and dancing for the kids. Another date to put on your calendar!!

IRISH OCTOBERFEST

The Parents Associations are working together to organize an adult beef-beer at St. Laurence School Hall (Upper Darby) on Saturday, October 23rd. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends. Proceeds will be used by the Parent's Associations to support our dancers. Committee are being formed soon.

TUTORING/OPEN PRACTICE SESSIONS If your dancer would like to use the studio for practice or would like to work with other dancers in small practice groups, please email a Teacher to arrange a session. There are often times when the studio is available but a Parent must supervise and there is a nominal fee for utilities.

2010-2011 TUITION AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Registration \$25 per family Due via Online payment before the first class

Pre beginner—this class is for dancers new to Irish dance, ages 3, 4, 5. Tuition is \$100 per trimester

Drexel Hill Studio Tuesdays 1:00-1:45

Beginner, Grade level 1 – this class is for students new to Irish dance in September 2010 or who completed intro summer camp 2010 age 5+.

Tuition is \$120 per trimester

Drexel Hill Studio---Mondays 6-7:00, Friday 5-6:00, Saturday 10:30-11:30

Springton Studio --- Wednesdays 5-6:00

Parquesburg -- Monday 4:30-5:30

Oxford -- Friday 6:15-7:15

Advanced Beginner , Grade level 11 this

class is for students who have completed the beginner class and who plan to compete at the advanced beginner level if entered feiseanna.

Tuition is \$120 per trimester.

Drexel Hill Studio---Mondays 6-7:00, Friday 5-6:00, Saturday 10:30-11:30

Springton Studio --- Wednesdays 5-6:00

Parquesburg -- Monday 4:30-5:30

Oxford -- Friday 6:15-7:15

Novice/prize winner, Grade level 111 --this class is for dancers who have completed the grade level 11 classes and who eligible to compete at

the novice and prize winner levels if entering feiseanna.

Tuition is \$150 per trimester.

Drexel Hill - Mondays 6:30-8:00, 7:00-8:30, Fridays 5:00-6:30, 6-7:30, Saturdays 11:30-1:00

Springton - Wednesdays 4:30-6:00, 7:00-8:30

Parquesburg - Mondays 5:50-7:00

Oxford - Fridays 5:00-6:30. 6:00-7:30

Young Champ/ Competitive Grade

This class was developed to train young dancers who

wish to pursue the most competitive side of Irish

Dance. It is by invitation only and meets on

Saturdays from 11-1:00. Dancers in this class are

expected to enter and compete in one feis per month.

Dancers in this class must also attend their regular

grade-level class each week. Dancers are aged 6-9

and will immediately focus on competing as a soloist

at the Regional Championship (Thanksgiving

weekend). Tuition is \$100 for Sept thru Nov.

Preliminary and Open Champs— this class is for dancers who have reached the championship level of competition. Visit our Champs section by clicking on the icon at the bottom right side of the www.caraschool.com homepage.

Adult Classes –This class is for ages 17 and up.

No Irish dance experience necessary but if you are

looking to dust off your Irish dance shoes and get a

little exercise...Tuition is \$100 for the 8-week

session.

Drexel Hill Studio Session 1 --Mondays 8-9:00PM --September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25 November 1, 8

Drexel Hill Studio Session 2-- (get ready for St. Pat 's!!)--Fridays 8-9:00 --January 7, 14, 21, 28 February 4, 11, 18, 25

Additional weekly classes are available at all levels. Dancers who wish to take multiple classes per week will receive a discount on additional classes. Each additional hourly class is only \$55 per trimester (grades 1 and 11) and each additional 1.5 hour class is \$75 per trimester (Grade level 111)

Multiple dancer (same family) discounts are available and are dependent on class hours and level of each dancer