



Questionnaire!

“Friends, Romans, dance-enthusiasts
- lend us your voice...”

2009 is going to be a big year for Dancing for Dessert as we expect to move into our new home sometime in late spring or early summer. This is exciting for everyone as we look forward to a better floor, better hours, better washrooms etc., etc.

The transition to a new studio is the perfect time for us to reflect on the studio we have, and the studio we will be. We want to make Dancing for Dessert the best it can be, and while a new facility will be a big improvement in itself, we think other improvements could be made as well.

Our students are the life-blood of our studio, and so we'd like to get your input. We've created a questionnaire to help get you started but nothing is off limits. We want to hear your suggestions, your complaints and your praise. What do you like? What could be improved? If you've got something to say now's the time to say it! Please feel free to attach more paper to the questionnaire if you need it.

Thank you in advance for your contribution!



HORIZONTAL LEARNING

Horizontal learning means that, in general, students should strive for a mastery of steps and ideas in at least a few dances at one level before progressing on to higher levels.

The main reason for this is that dancing is a learned physical skill that requires repetition to do well. Working through a single level at a time allows you time to achieve a depth of learning that ensures the greatest success. Consider that:

- We teach similar steps and concepts in similar dances at the same level.
- It is ideal for students of similar ability and experience to be taking classes together.
- It takes many repetitions to retain a physical skill.

An important part of our horizontal system is repeating classes:

- We try to vary the focus of the class depending on the ability and dance maturity of the students in the class.
- Learning takes place in layers. It is very difficult to focus on lead & follow if you're not sure where your feet are going. With repeated exposure you are able to focus on the things that make the difference between good and great.

Although we do a quick review of the previous level on the first class of a given level it should serve as a refresher and not a first time learning experience.

If you have any questions about your path to dancing greatness, or are unsure whether a class is appropriate for your ability please let us know.

DancingforDessert

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009



Studio Construction Progress

Building continues at our studio site. A concrete foundation has been poured and forms for the walls are currently being built. We expect the building itself to be completed in late March or early April! Then after a couple of months to set up the inside we should be in our new home.



203rd Street is under construction and hopefully it will be paved soon.

You can see the latest photos of what's happening at dancingfordessert.ca/future-home.htm.

604-957-9192

www.dancingfordessert.ca



Valentine's Party

Tuesday February 10th



Romance will flood the ballroom at our Valentines Party on February 10th. Wear red to show your spirit. Dress as Cupid and get free admission and the scorn of your peers!

St. Patrick's Day Party

Tuesday March 17th



2009 is the year to Go Green! Buy a hybrid, use CF lightbulbs and break out your leprechaun gear! We'll celebrate St. Paddy's day in style on the 17th.

April Showers Ball 'That 70's Party'

Tuesday April 21st, 8 - 10 pm. Tickets: \$10

The 3rd annual April Showers Ball is a 70's party! This is a costume party! **NOW** is the moment to unleash the polyester shirt, the bellbottom jeans and the fat sideburns that you've been storing in your closet all these years. You knew they'd come in handy!

Themed performances, games and prizes are all part of the fun! We look forward to seeing you there.



Spring Showcase

Tuesday, May 26th. 8 - 10 pm. Tickets: \$10

Our 2nd Annual Spring Showcase will be a grand dance concert! This is your night to take center stage! Here are a few ways you can get involved:

Solos Routines: We will have many student performances at this event. For more information about solo routines please talk to us.

Jack and Jill Competition: This will be our 3rd Jack and Jill at Dancing for Dessert. The Jack & Jill is a light-hearted dance competition open to all of our students in Level 1 or above. The basic idea of a Jack and Jill is that you don't know who your partner is until right before the competition. It is not as scary as it sounds! You could be our next King Jack or Queen Jill! Ask us or other students who've participated for more details.

Cheering: A great performance is never as good without a rowdy, appreciative audience to cheer on the performers. Bring your noisemakers and your rowdy attitude. Bring your friends. Bring your family. Most importantly bring yourself!

Dance Jokes!

Woman: "That didn't work too well."

Man: "Sorry, I'm not a very good follower."

Man: "I think you're leading."

Woman: "Well, somebody's got to do it!"



Etiquette Tip

PEER TEACHING

Unsolicited advice is something that we get a lot of complaints about. Obviously students who offer their classmates advice are simply trying to be helpful. Unfortunately the best intentions don't always translate into a positive effect. In fact, most attempts to teach peers are confusing at best and humiliating at worst.

Keep in mind that most students are focused either on what the teacher is saying or on trying to apply that information. More suggestions on top of that are usually just an unwanted distraction.

While there are certainly circumstances where both people could be happy about peer teaching, in general it is best to avoid offering advice altogether *unless you are specifically asked for it.*

For more etiquette tips please visit:
dancingfordessert.ca/etiquette.htm

PAYING FOR CLASSES

Thank you to everyone for paying in advance for the group classes. Gender balance and class size are obviously important to the success of our classes and prepayment makes it much easier for us to ensure that success.

Please note that we cannot reserve a place in any group class until it is paid for. We have had numerous full classes lately and simply showing up on the first day of class may be disappointing if the class is full.

Thanks in advance for helping us to ensure that everyone enjoys their class.