

Dear Happy Feet Students and Parents,

Nov. 2, 2017

We are very excited about our end-of-year, June performance as we celebrate Happy Feet's 40th Anniversary! We will be bringing back some of our most cherished tap, jazz, and ballet suites including the Magic of Mary Poppins and we look forward to an audience full of alumni, friends and family as well as all of our current Happy Feet families! We are in the process of selecting music, costumes, and setting choreography at this time. Our June recital is always an exciting and memorable experience for our students and their families. The recital does involve a great deal of preparation and we want to take this opportunity to explain the process, costs, and time commitment involved for each family.

Please read this letter in its entirety and if you would like your student to participate, please fill in the two forms, for each child participating, on your parent portal and please submit a \$40.00 partial costume payment by Friday, November 10th. Your family's partial costume charge has been added to your account balance on your portal. If your child is not participating, we will remove the charge. We apologize in advance for the length of this letter. After many years of producing our recitals, we've learned that it is important that we are as clear as possible in advance of your commitment to participate.

SHOW AND REHEARSAL DATES AND TIMES

Our 2018 recital is scheduled for Sunday June 3rd, at the Marin Center Veterans' Auditorium. We are producing two shows. Our younger students will perform in the early afternoon show and our older students in the late afternoon show. Advanced students perform in both shows. We will announce the exact times soon. As soon as we have set the final program with regard to older and younger students, we will let you know. As was the case in previous shows, some families will have students in both shows, and those particular families will be receiving special instructions as soon as we know who they are. We cannot take any requests regarding which show a student is in, as it is a very complicated process, and we will share the final decisions with you as soon as we can.

Our dress/technical rehearsal days will be held on Tuesday, May 22, Wednesday, May 23, and Thursday, May 24, 2018. The dress/technical rehearsals, also held at the Marin Center, are mandatory. The **mandatory attendance policy** is as much for safety reasons as it is for staging our dances in this new setting. There are no exceptions to this policy so please check your calendars to be sure that your student is able to attend dress rehearsal on these dates. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be sent home in the early spring. Each Happy Feet class is assigned a rehearsal slot on one of the three days. Families with more than one dancer, or students who attend more than one class, may need to be available on more than one day. We schedule each class into a specific time slot, but because each class must rehearse our all-school finale with other dancers, there is generally some waiting time involved at dress rehearsal. We encourage you to enjoy the rehearsal and take photographs or videos at this time. Please plan to be there for approximately two hours.

COSTUMES

Costumes will be ordered during the month of December. We must pay in full for each costume at the time that we place our order. Your total costume cost, which includes costume, tights, any necessary props, shoe ribbons, hats, or hair bows cannot be finalized yet. At this time, we are asking for a partial costume payment of \$40.00 per dancer, per class. Costume totals are approximately \$50 to \$100. Generally, we have found that the younger the dancer, the less expensive the costume. We will ask for the balance of the costume payment in February. If our costume order is not placed by December, costumes will not arrive on time. If we do not receive your forms and partial costume payment by Friday, November 10th, we will assume that you are unable to participate in this year's recital and a costume will not be ordered for your student. There will not be another notice regarding this deadline.

We are asking that each parent measure his/her own child for costumes. Please view our short video demonstrating how to measure your child. The link to the YouTube video is at the bottom of this letter. The link to the video clip is also provided in the form titled "Measurements and Additional Sizing Information."

Costumes sizes will be selected based on the measurements that you provide on your parent portal so please read and measure carefully. **In order to obtain accurate measurements, be sure your child is dressed in a leotard, bathing suit or underwear when you measure him/her at home and use a soft cloth tape measure.** Please also be sure that your child is dressed in proper dance attire at all classes in case we need to recheck or verify measurements.

TICKETS

The Marin Center requires that we hire their union stage crew, lighting, and sound technicians. In addition, we have rental fees for the Veteran's Auditorium for performances and rehearsals as well as editing costs of our master music CD'S used for the performances. We cannot make a final calculation of ticket prices until all of our costs are finalized, but this year we are estimating the cost of tickets to approximately \$25.00 to \$27.00 in order to cover all costs. Everyone attending the performance will need a ticket with the exception of the dancers and the individual parents who sign up to help with their child's class. Tickets will be on sale at the Marin Center box office during the month of May. Families who are involved in both shows will be getting special instructions regarding tickets. Also, please note that all dancers will sit with their class in the dancers' section of the audience. Volunteer group parents, who will receive detailed instructions, are in charge of their group of dancers throughout the entire performance.

ATTENDANCE AND HOME PRACTICE

We want to be sure that parents and students understand that attendance at class is essential between the months of January and June. A great deal of class time is spent on learning and rehearsing the performance piece and it is difficult for the class to progress if individual students are absent. All dancers need to practice at home as well. Practice music will be sent home in April. Also, please note that if your student cannot participate in the show, we really hope that he/she will continue to dance with the class throughout the year!

HOLIDAYS

Happy Feet will close for the Thanksgiving holiday from Monday, Nov. 20th, through Friday, Nov. 24th, and will close for the December holidays from Monday, Dec. 25th, through Friday January 5th. Classes resume as usual on Monday January 8th, 2018. Please note: our classes continue through the recital. We do not reschedule classes after the new year.

FORMS

Please fill out separate forms for each dancer participating. You will see the forms for each child as incomplete on your parent portal. Please fill in the following two forms:

1. June 3rd Recital Information and Intent to Participate
2. Measurement and Additional Sizing Information

Please fill out forms carefully. Once you submit, you will not be able to edit your response. Please submit the \$40.00 partial costume payment for each class that your student is enrolled in. You will see the invoice for your family's partial costume charge(s) on your parent portal. Feel free to pay with a credit card through the portal or you can bring a check or cash to Happy Feet by **November 10th**. If paying by cash, please hand directly to your student's teacher.

The recital is a wonderful experience and we hope that you are able to participate! Our students absolutely love the excitement of preparing for, and participating in our "big show." We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to an exciting spring at Happy Feet!

To view the YouTube video with our measuring demonstration click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT7IXx-oZmk&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please sign in to your parent portal to fill in forms: https://happyfeetmillvalley.herokuapp.com/parents/sign_in

Sincerely,

Cece Bechelli and Caitlin Bechelli
Co- Directors, Happy Feet Dance School