



# Welcome to Project Dance

## Getting Started

Whether you are new to Project Dance or are a returning family that needs a refresher on the first few weeks, welcome! You have chosen a studio that is quickly gaining a solid reputation for its quality teaching, its attention to the needs of growing bodies and minds, and its winning results!

## What Does my Child Wear to Class?

In the Mini Dance Program, pink ballet bodysuits and tights are the requirements (t-shirt and shorts for boys). These items are available at dancewear shops and at a number of department stores. As the wee ones love to look the part of a ballerina, girls may add a "tutu" to their ensemble of their choosing. Footwear for the very youngest (ages 2-4) may be a soft fabric ballet slipper, but beyond the age of 4, a leather ballet slipper is preferred. Stocking feet are too slippery, so either one of these types of shoes is required.

For the older children out of the Mini Program and into Recreational classes, for ballet and jazz tight fitting shorts or leggings are required so that teachers can see the "turn-out" of the legs when turning and jumping to ensure that the alignment is correct. Bare feet, foot "Undiez" (partial shoe available at dancewear shops) or jazz booties are fine (if already purchased). Some teachers may prefer a specific shoe, but please hold off on specific shoe purchases until instructed to by a teacher. RAD ballet footwear and clothing are mandatory and outlined on the PD website. Baggy clothing (sweats) is acceptable for hip-hop, but please no jeans.

## Where Do I Go?

While Project Dance has a lot of parking, with three studios often running at once, the parking area and the lobby can get extremely congested. While it may be necessary to walk your young child in to attend class, if possible please refrain from bringing other family members along. Signs will be posted the first week outside of the studio doors indicating class information.

And remember - you are responsible for the supervision of your child before and after class. Please teach your children to stay inside the studio until they see you and not to wait in the parking lot area. **And, please do not park in front of other businesses.** Parking is available immediately in front of Project Dance and the entire row on the west side by the trees is open as well.

## How do I Find Out About Upcoming Events?

Email is a major source of information, so be sure to check your email often. Also - be a regular viewer of the PD website at [www.projectdancechilliwack.com](http://www.projectdancechilliwack.com) In addition, a monthly newsletter is published. To help avoid confusion, this year, a separate mini/recreational newsletter will be published as well as a competitive program newsletter. Both will be available in the studio and posted on the PD website. And - **be sure to join the PD Facebook Group for regular updates!** Also - make a point of dropping into the lobby from time to time to see what is posted on the bulletin boards. **Please make it a point to be in the know!**

## When do Classes Run?

Dance classes follow the public school system year, September - June. Payment is due on the first day of every month. If the studio is closed for a statutory holiday, every attempt will be made to arrange for a make-up class. Please see the list of Important Dates that follows.

In the case of inclement weather, **check the PD website as you will not be notified individually.** An announcement will be published on the PD website as early as possible if there is a need to cancel classes due to safety concerns.

## Why are Costume Deposits Required October 1?

As we have nearly 400 students and many of them are in multiple dance numbers, this equates to literally thousands of costumes that need to be ordered or sewn. As the major suppliers are out of country, ordering needs to be done very early in the dance year to ensure adequate time for ordering, delivery and alterations. And - they must be paid up front when the order is placed. A deposit of \$50 for each costume is required by October 1, with a small balance owed upon receiving the costume in the spring.

## What If I Have a Concern?

If you have a concern about your child's dance program, please contact your child's teacher via email at [projectdance@shaw.ca](mailto:projectdance@shaw.ca) att: teacher's name. Classes run promptly on a schedule so there is no capability of teachers to discuss concerns between classes. Via email, the teacher then has the option of either emailing you, contacting you by phone or setting up an appointment at a later date. In many instances, the office manager can address your concern if it is not related directly to teaching.

## How Can I Get Involved?

Volunteers are always in great demand. There is simply not enough staff to police events such as the Christmas party or year-end rehearsals and shows where hundreds of children are involved. Each class needs a Parent Sponsor and other volunteers to act as a conduit for information, to help with structuring events for children and for organizing supervision. Please sign up on the volunteer sheets available at the studio. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Also - Project Dance also has a **Parent Committee**. Parents of children in the recreational or competitive stream are welcome. Fund-raising through the Parent Committee is a good way to offset the cost of dance, and provides valuable support to the students. Information on the Parent Committee is available on the bulletin board in the main lobby beside the entry door.

## Have you Signed and Returned Your Waiver/Terms and Conditions?

Parent responsibilities are further outlined on the Waiver/Terms and Conditions. This must be completed and signed prior to your children beginning their dance year.

**Reminder:** Payment is due on the first of each month. Payment can be made by **post-dated cheques**, in person by **Interac**, **cash** or via **credit card online** at [www.projectdancechilliwack.com](http://www.projectdancechilliwack.com) (follow the instructions online to set up a secured account).

## **Can I Watch my Child's Class?**

Having parents in the studio is distracting to children, and as they are eager to please their parents, children often become more inhibited and end up watching their parents rather than their teacher. There are special parent viewing weeks, where parents are invited into the last 15 minutes of the class. These dates will be advertised in the newsletters and on the website.

For our tiniest dancers, in consultation with the teacher, sometimes it is necessary to accompany a very young dancer into the room at the beginning but in most cases, children are secure in knowing that their parents are nearby in the waiting area or have arranged to pick them up directly after class.

## **Respect Yourself, Respect Your Studio**

While the goal of dance is to have fun and learn valuable skills while doing so, it is important that PD students are respectful of their teachers, their peers and their studio. Female teachers are to be called "Miss" in front of their names, and students are to thank their teachers at the end of class. They are expected to use their manners at all times, just as they would in "regular" school.

Theft and vandalism will not be tolerated. Parents of younger siblings in the waiting areas are reminded to keep a close eye on their young children - over the past couple of years toilet repair bills were high due to objects being thrown in them, and walls were vandalized often. We appreciate your cooperation, as these are unnecessary costs that eventually need to be reflected in fees.

## **No Nuts, Please**

We have some dance students in our studio identified with life-threatening allergies to nuts. Even traces of nuts that are left behind in crumbs and touched by these students, or even inhaled via residual fumes can trigger severe anaphylactic reactions. Please do not bring in any products with nuts into the studio, and if nuts were ingested at home, ensure that hands and faces have been washed. Thank you for your cooperation as we want to keep our students as safe as possible!

## **The Year-End Show**

In addition to the various activities during class, part of your child's dance class is devoted to learning a dance routine for the year-end show. Students will get to wear their costumes for picture day in May (exact date to be confirmed) for the dress rehearsal for the year-end show at the new Cultural Centre, and the year-end shows themselves (early June - to be confirmed shortly).

## **Important Dates**

**Tuesday, Sept. 6** - Project Dance Opens for 2011-12 Season

**Saturday, October 1** - Costume deposits due

**Monday., October 10** - Thanksgiving. No classes

**Friday, November 11** - Remembrance Day. No classes

**Monday, Nov. 14** - District Pro-D Day - Studio Open

**Saturday, Dec. 10** - 4th Annual Christmas Party - Location TBA 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
(tickets are free of charge but will be limited)

**Monday, Dec. 19 - Monday, Jan. 2** - Winter Vacation. Studio closed

**Friday, Feb. 17** - District Pro-D Day - Studio Open

**Mar. - 18** - Spring Break. Studio closed

**Friday, April 6** - Good Friday. Studio closed

**Saturday, April 7** - Studio open for regular classes

**Monday, April 9** - Easter Monday - Studio closed

**May** (exact date to be confirmed) - Photo Day

**Friday, May 18** - District Pro-D day - Studio Open

**Monday, May 21** - Victoria Day - Studio Open

**June** - Dress Rehearsal for Year-end show (dates/times TBA) - Chilliwack Cultural Centre

**June** - Mini Dance Year-End show s (dates/times TBA) Chilliwack Cultural Centre

***Thank you for choosing Project Dance -***

***It's going to be an awesome year!***

**[www.projectdancechilliwack.com](http://www.projectdancechilliwack.com)**