

June 1, 2020

Dear Dance Families,

We are busy planning our 2020/2021 dance year. The schedule and registration will open June 20.

I want to share some information ahead of this, to help prepare you for registration and let you know our plan.

Placement recommendations – now called Pre-Approved classes – will be sent to you via email. This is your recommended classes/level for the new dance season. You have advanced registration privileges for these classes. Due to required small class sizes, space is limited for registration. I recommend you register right away. Payment and payment plan are required to hold your spot. We can not hold openings for you after July 5.

The new dance season will not be business as usual. Dancers, staff and family safety is our first priority. We will be following all Health Canada guidelines. This means only a limited number of dancers can be in the studio at a time.

To accommodate more dancers and help make this financially feasible for the studio, all classes will alternate weekly in class instruction and Zoom instruction. There will be a maximum of 4 dancers upstairs and 5 downstairs for in class instruction. The studio will be portioned into 6 feet minimum areas for each dancer. Class will be live Zoomed every week for the alternating home classes. It is one class, with dancers alternating weekly in studio and home instruction. If a student is unwell, they can stay home and take class via live Zoom.

If any dancer prefers all home Zoom instruction, this option is available.

If at any time we are required, or feel it is best, to not hold in person classes, all classes will continue via Zoom for all dancers.

All Zoom links are by registration/payment and are locked so can not be shared.

Every class will have their own Studio run Facebook group to share information, instructional materials, questions and answers.

Ballet classes will transition during the year to their new level up. All ballet classes Grade 1 and up must take class 2x/week. One class of the week you will be in studio, the second class will be your Zoom class. We are looking into Fall exams via video, to be decided once we get the details from the Royal Academy of Dance. If you are still planning on participating in Exams, we highly recommend June classes and Summer Camps.

We are offering shorter registration periods: three 3-month terms for less commitment in uncertain times. There is a one-time, annual, non-refundable, registration fee per family of \$30.

**Term 1** September, October, November

Wednesday, September 9 – Monday, November 30 (No dance October 10 & 12, November 11)

**Term 2** December January February

Tuesday, December 1 – Saturday, February 27 (No dance Dec. 22 – Jan 3, Feb. 15)

**Term 3** March April May

Monday, March 1 – Saturday, May 29 (No dance March 16 – 26, April 2 – 5)

Withdrawal with up to **30 days written notice prior to Term start date**, a full refund will be given.

There are no refunds for any reason once the Term starts.

Students registered in Term 1 will have priority for Term 2 registration but must commit 1-month advance of the new term to allow us to fill the spot if you are not continuing. Same for Term 2 to 3.

All registration and payments are online. Term payments may be paid in full via etransfer OR credit card or preauthorized debit monthly payments.

We are not accepting costume deposits at this time. Our year end show will be on a 'wait and see' basis.

Company/Crew is postponed. We hope to have it up and running at a later date in the dance year when we can safely group choreography.

There will be no Nutcracker Performance this year.

#### NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES & POLICIES:

All Sooke Dance Studio dancers/guardians must read carefully and follow the Sooke Dance Studio Covid-19 Guidelines and Policies **AND sign the Safety-First Agreement, Waiver and Assumption of Risk**. These are attached to this email and can be found at our website.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Carole directly. Communication is important.

We are always ready to adapt to any changes and circumstances to stay safe and well.

Families, parents, teachers, studios all have different needs and ways of handling this situation. Our studio policy is to respect each and BE KIND.