



The Star

Volume 17, Issue 2

Term 2, 2010

Steps 2 Stardom Performing Arts Academy Newsletter

*****Public Holiday Monday 26th April – classes are still on*****

2011 S2S Europe Tour

If you are in Primary or above Jazz this year and are interested in going on our London & Paris tour in 2011 but do not yet have the information, please email us and we will email you the information package. This once in a lifetime opportunity is not to be missed. Fundraising will be starting very soon for this wonderful event! For everyone interested in going on this tour, we will be holding our first meeting on:

Tuesday 1st June 8pm @ Ambarvale studio.

This meeting is not with Ros (The Dance Around The World organiser), but will be with Cathryn & Annette to touch base with everyone and answer any questions in relation to what is happening on the trip, rehearsals, fundraising etc.

Anyone interested in going on this tour needs to be there for this meeting.

Keep up the support for our tours by having breakfast & Lunch at our BBQ every Saturday @ Ambarvale. Glenn, our BBQ- man would also love some help. ALL profits go towards our next tour.

Our fantastic Adult Class Schedule @ S2S

We now have the following fantastic classes to offer Adults @ S2S.

Each class is casual and costs \$12. Or you can buy a booklet of 10 tickets for \$100

(valid for 6 months) which can be used for any of the following classes:

Tuesday Ambarvale

7pm - 8pm Beginners / Intermediate Hip Hop Studio A (16yrs & above)

8pm – 9pm Intermediate / Advanced Hip Hop Studio A (16yrs & above)

6pm - 7pm Pending Zumba® class- coming soon if numbers continue to grow.

7pm – 8pm ZUMBA ® Studio C (Adults + high school students are welcome)

Wednesday Narellan

8pm – 9pm Pilates (Starts Weds 21st April - Adults + high school students are welcome)

Thursday Narellan

8:40pm – 9:40pm ZUMBA ® (Adults + high school students are welcome)

So grab your friends and treat yourself every week with a class or 2 @ S2S.

No joining fee. Classes are for all fitness and ability levels.

NEW ACRO & CHEER CONDITIONING CLASS

A brand new Acro & Cheer Conditioning class with Miss Rhiannon is starting on Fridays from 5:30pm – 6:30pm from Week 2 @ the Narellan studio. Anyone who does Acro or Cheer (especially the Acro & Cheer Teams) are highly encouraged to attend this unique class which focusses on conditioning the body specifically for Acro & Cheer. The class is only \$10! Book in at the desk today.

NEW TRAMPOLINE CLASS

Due to such popular demand, a new Beginners / Intermediate Trampoline class is being held on Friday afternoons from 6:30 – 7:30pm @ Narellan starting in Week 2. It only costs \$12! So come on down and see why this amazing sport has become so popular at S2S.

NEW SINGING CLASSES

Singing is back at S2S on Thursday nights from 6:30pm and Saturdays @ Ambarvale Studio starting in Week 2.

More details on your wonderful teachers, Miss Annaliese & Miss Jodee will come soon. Please book in at the desk today to secure your spot.



S2S Open Week Monday 17th - Saturday 22nd May

In week 5 of this term, Monday 17th until Saturday 22nd May, it is Open Week. This is a wonderful opportunity for all parents & family to come along and watch their child in class. All classes will be open to view, even troupe and solo classes. There will only be a limited number of chairs available so please feel free to bring one with you.

Whilst watching, please ensure noise is kept to an absolute minimum and young children are not running around. There is to be no food or drink in the studio's. Remember to bring along your video camera or normal camera. Open week gives you the opportunity to see what happens in class each week but do remember that some children can become very shy or can even "show off" in these types of situations. The teachers aim to show you during open week a lot of different steps the children have learnt in class and will not give the same amount of time to corrections in comparison to what is normally given in class each week.

Please ensure you are extra careful when driving and parking in the area during this week as there will be quite a lot more traffic & parked cars. At Ambarvale, please use our underground ground level car park, Crispsparkle Drive or the council carpark (only after 5:30pm). At Narellan, please park in the back carpark (not in the labeled Ultra-Tune Car Parking until after 5pm) or in the cul de sac.

Australian Ballet Excursion

Thursday 6th May, 11:30am – 1pm, Opera House Sydney. \$12 a ticket.

This program, full of great dancing, gives you the opportunity to see the dancers of The Australian Ballet in practise and performance. To demonstrate the dancers' training the company will conduct a shortened class, and then, accompanied by the orchestra, they will perform a fully stage performance of Act 2, of the ballet "Coppelia". We have pre-purchased 30 tickets for this wonderful event. Miss Cathryn & Miss Annette will take students in by Train. This excursion is open to all students from Grade 1 Ballet & above. Pay at the desk today to secure your ticket. They will sell out quickly!



WESTSIDE STORY MUSICAL

Treat yourself and come and see one of the worlds most famous and successful musicals with our group booking to see Westside Story. Please book in at the desk with full payment of \$100 per ticket. Held at Star City, 3pm Sunday 25th July. Payments must be received by 23rd May 2010.

DID YOU KNOW.....

- All Grade 1 & 2 Tap Students are eligible to start Glenn Wood Tap #1 for under \$5 a week.
- All Primary students can do Primary Modern for no more than \$5 a week.
- All 5 – 8yr olds can do Beginners Hip Hop on Saturday for under \$6 a week.
- All Beginners & Pre-Primary Students who do 1 class a week can do a 2nd dance class for only \$5 a week!
- Pre-Schoolers can do more than 1 class week. The 2nd class is only \$7.50

OUR FANTASTIC PRE-SCHOOLER CLASS SCHEDULE

Ambarvale - 42 Lightwood St.

Tuesday 3:45—4:30pm (nearly full)
Thursday 3:45—4:30pm (Limited spots)
Friday 4:15—5pm (NEW CLASS)
Saturday 11:00—11:45am (nearly full)
Only \$8.50 a class or \$7.50 for your 2nd class.

Narellan Business Park - 6/9 Yarmouth Pl

Tuesday 3:45—4:30pm (Limited spots)
Wednesday 3:55—4:40pm (NEW CLASS)
Saturday 9:15—10:00am (nearly full)

Dance Exam Information

Students will receive a note before the end of May to let them know which exams they are ready to attempt. Examinations will be held at either our Narellan or Ambarvale studio during Week 4 of Term 3 (Sunday 8th—Sunday 15th August). Times for these exams will be made available at the end of this term. These dates can not be confirmed until all entry money has been received and handed in to the B.A.L. We highly encourage all our students from Kindy to do exams. They are not “scary” or harsh which used to be the case in the “olden days”, instead the examiners are very encouraging and patient with all age groups. Official B.A.L examiners are very experienced and show great understanding of children, especially at a very young age. They try to put the students at ease so they can see their full potential. It is a wonderful experience for the students and gives them a sense of completion and satisfaction. Students who sit for an exam also receive a certificate & report on presentation day for their great effort. Exams are an important progression for students studying dance and allows them to progress to the next grade the following year. We try as much as possible to keep nerves away and treat the exam as just another class but showing how good they can do it. Pre-Schoolers do not sit for an exam, but they do receive an assessment report on presentation day.

Each year, students are eligible to sit for examinations. There are two types of exams available:- B.A.L examinations and In-Studio examinations. The B.A.L exam is an official exam taken by an approved B.A.L examiner and students receive a B.A.L certificate and report when passing this exam. An In-Studio exam is an examination taken by an outside dancer or teacher who marks student ability to their own standard and is not an official B.A.L examiner. The In-Studio exams are for students who have not yet reached the level to do an official B.A.L exam but are at a standard to do an exam.

All parents will be receiving a note before the end of this term, to tell you if your child will be doing an exam and what type. Please do not ask us prior to this date what exam your child will be doing. We watch the children very carefully and choose the type of exam for each child right up to the last minute to make sure it is correct. **No** earlier notice can therefore be given. All examinations require a fee and this must be paid by **Saturday 5th June**, so please make sure that you read the table to see examination costs so you can have the money in on time. If payments aren't made by the closing date your child will be unable to do an exam as this money is sent directly to the B.A.L. to comply with their closing date.

All exam money is non-refundable, no exceptions!

The pass marks for exams are as follows: Pass: 65 - 69; Pass Plus: 70– 74; Commended: 75 - 79 : Highly Commended: 80 - 84 ; Honours: 85 - 89 Honours with Distinction; 90 or over. The average pass mark is said to be around Pass Plus.

BAL EXAMS

B.A.L exams are for students who attend 2 lessons per week for a style and who we feel are very talented in a dance style and are at an acceptable standard to sit for the B.A.L exam. Students who attend only 1 class per week for a style will not be considered for B.A.L exams except under rare circumstances as their knowledge, detail and standard of work is generally not strong enough for this exam. Once a week students can be asked for B.A.L exams under exceptional circumstances if the student shows the required standard necessary for a B.A.L exam without the need for extra classes, private lessons etc—as this puts too much pressure on the student too close to the exam. Students need continuous and repetitive work, not a crash course at the last minute. For example, if a Primary Tap student attends 2 classes per week for Primary Tap and can do all the steps at a high standard, they will be eligible to sit for a B.A.L exam.

Also, all students sitting for a B.A.L exam will need to wear an official B.A.L leotard & shorts which can be hired for \$10.00 or \$20 for a family, and will be given to the students on the day of their exam.

In-Studio Exams

In-Studio dance exams are for students who we feel are ready to do an exam but have not quite reached the ability to do a B.A.L exam. It is still an achievement to pass this exam and is good preparation for B.A.L exams in the future. All Kindy dance students will sit for an In-Studio Assessment.

All In-Studio exams cost \$25.00 and students wear their purple leotard for ballet, Black Shorts & Studio Singlet for Jazz & Tap, & the appropriate shoes and tights. We usually hold the exams in the middle of August but this date can not be confirmed until all B.A.L exams have been confirmed. The exam will be held at either Narellan or Ambarvale studio.

TERM 2 FEE'S —PLEASE READ!!!!

- Term 2 is an exact 11 week term.
- The preferred method of payment this year is by internet banking direct transfers.
- Eftpos is only available at the Ambarvale Studio.
- To avoid congestion at the office please pay your fees by internet transfer if you can!

Here are our details:

Account Name: Steps to Stardom
BSB number: 082 494
Account number: 47 258 5895

Please ensure you write you child's name and what the payment is for on your transfer. For eg: Sally Jones wk1 fees

IMPORTANT PAYMENT RULES TO REMEMBER

- 1) Fee's are payable before your child's lesson. All fee's must be paid whether attended or not, except for the following circumstances: *Your child is sick and a Doctors Certificate is sited. *Troupe Performance. *Funeral
- 2) A Late fee of \$20 is automatically charged if your account is 4 weeks overdue and \$20 for every 4 weeks thereafter. No exceptions.
- 3) We must have one weeks written notice if you are going to change classes or discontinue with any classes otherwise you will be charged for your enrolled classes. If you decide to discontinue your child's lessons altogether, one week's written notice is required.
- 4) You can also make up any missed dancing classes with any other age / level appropriate classes.

2ND HAND SHOES & CLOTHING—If you have a pair of dancing shoes or uniform that are in good condition but do not fit anymore, then why not put them in our 2nd hand box. Simply hand the items in at the desk and we will try and sell them for you. 2nd hand or new items can be put on hold for 2 weeks. There is now a \$2 office / handling fee for all 2nd hand items given in to be sold. Please note that it is at your own risk putting shoes for sale, we do not take responsibility for them.

Why we encourage 2 lessons per style per week for ballet, tap & jazz

It is very important to us that children have as much fun and learn as much as they can in all their classes. 2 lessons a week for ballet, tap & jazz have amazing benefits. Children remember and refine their work much more easily and therefore enjoy their classes more as they do not have to struggle to remember what the steps are, they can simply enjoy getting better at them. The key is repetition.

It has come to our attention that the majority of junior students (Beginners / Pre-Primary & Primary) are only attending one lesson a week for each style of dance. We are quite concerned at this as it will not only inhibit the students normal progression through their grades but will also lead to a weaker foundation on which the students can improve from. Students who attend one class per week are extremely unlikely to be ready to attempt an official B.A.L exam and therefore may not be ready to advance to the next grade the following year.

It is much more beneficial for example for a student to take 2 classes of Beginners Ballet instead of taking one class of Beginners Ballet and one class of Beginners Jazz. The difference is quite remarkable and becomes a necessity as students reach higher in their grades. A few years ago, 2 lessons a week was considered compulsory. This rule changed due to the increase of people who had work or family commitments or financial problems that could not allow their child to attend a 2nd class. Please try as much as possible to allow your child to attend 2 classes per week in the styles of Jazz, Tap & Ballet as it will benefit them enormously.



S2S Drink Bottle & Shoe Back Sacks

Now available at the desk: S2S Drink bottles for \$10, and S2S Bags (great for shoes) for \$12. If you buy both at the same time, you only pay \$20!!!

NEW NARELLAN PHONE 0448 766 577: This phone will be switched on during Narellan Office hours only. Please call the general studio office phone or mobile outside these times.

UNIFORM INFORMATION

- *All students should now have their correct uniform if you enrolled with S2S in February.
- *As many of you have probably already seen, we have some new uniform items for sale. The only place you can get S2S uniform is from our Offices at Ambarvale & Narellan. If it is not from us, then it is not uniform as no where else supplies our uniform.
- *Thick strap, old style leotards, available at some retail shops such as Target, are not uniform. The purple thin strap leotard are the only leotard that are uniform.
- *Everyone should have camille tap plates on their tap shoes (not the Bloch ones). You can buy these plates from Bloch and they will most likely last for your child's entire tap dancing career. The sound of the Camille tap plates are way superior to the ones that are already on the shoe and it is to your child's advantage to have a better tap plate. Competition students MUST have Camille tap plates on their tap shoes (Or Capezio if you have black lace ups).

BALLET STUDENTS

- *Remember that ALL ballet students need to wear a leotard to class.
- *No singlet tops, shorts, or dance pants allowed.
- *The **only** students allowed to wear a purple ballet skirt is senior ballet students (Gr 6 & above) as we need to see the hips of our junior students for technical corrections. No exceptions.
- *Ballet students from Grade 1 & above need a theory a book which you can purchase from \$15.

HYGENE – This is a really important issue for the comfort and well being of all students and teachers at Steps. Please ensure that at the appropriate age, both girls and boys use deoderant and preferably take deoderant to class with them. Stick and roll on deoderant is preferred due to asthmatics who are in the classes and waiting rooms. Please make sure socks or stockings are worn with all shoes. Acro & Cheer students are reminded to take clean socks to wear especially if coming straight from school.

2010 CONCERT SEASON - Our end of year concerts are the highlight of the year and will be held at Glenquarie Community Centre, Harold Rd Macquarie Fields on Sunday 12th & Saturday 18 h December (TBC). It is extremely important that if you can not make these concerts or would not like your child to be involved in these concerts, to let us know now. Preparation for these concerts happen at different times throughout the year so it is imperative that we know if your child will not be involved. Acro Performance Students and Competitive Cheer students will be involved in the end of concerts, all other Acro / Tumbling, Fun Cheer & Trampoline students will perform in a display for the parents at the end of the year at the Narellan studio. Singing, & Piano will all have their own separate recital.

CONCERT COSTUME HIRE—At the end of year concert, your costumes will be supplied by us. Each class has a concert routine and therefore will have a costume. Their may be some small things you may need to purchase, but if this occurs, the cost will be minimal. The concert costume hire is usually between \$15—\$35 depending on how elaborate the costume is. This is instead of buying costumes which would generally cost \$70—\$150 each. Each costume also has a bond of \$10 (maximum of \$50 if you are in more than 5 routines) which is refunded when the costumes are returned to us. Please check the back page of the newsletter for the dates that costume hire money is due.

AUGUST CHANGE OF TIMETABLE—After our exams in August, the timetable adjusts slightly to accommodate groups that join together for the end of year concert items. This timetable becomes available at the end of Term 2. We do try to keep our timetable as much the same as possible, but some changes have to be made.



YOUR CLASS MUSIC ON CD—You may purchase your child's class music on cd. Cd's start at \$8. All Solo Eisteddfod students need to purchase their cd for \$6 from us.

Are you good at making costumes?

Some of the concert costumes this year will be hired and we are looking for sewers who would like to make some bulk BASIC costume items such as leotards, skirts, dancepants and bikepants / hotpants. If you are interested in making some of these items, please see the lady at the desk. Of course you will be paid for your time and all patterns / materials will be supplied.



Easter Raffle winners!

Alicia Allen, Debra Freestone, Maria Louise Baccay, Abbey Vennell, Ariaah Lawson, Leana Golledge, Charli Smith, Grace Tutunoa, Renae North & Brianna Nettleship.

TOP HAT SUCCESS

What an amazing four days of solos we had at Top Hat Dance Eisteddfod in the holidays. Our students performed brilliantly with every single one receiving an award!!!!

A special congratulations goes to Hannah Pike for winning the Theatrical Scholarship & sister Kristie Pike for not only winning the Senior Jazz & Modern Championship but also winning the most Promising Dancer of the Eisteddfod.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our wonderful Solo students!



ULTIMATE DANCERS WORKSHOP

Our brilliant winter workshop will now be in the Sept/ Oct School Holiday period due to many of the teachers being involved in musicals and the SYTYCD tour. It is an amazing opportunity for students to attend workshops as the skills, motivation and experience they gain from industry professionals is invaluable! We were extremely disappointed to have to cancel the April workshop due to lack of interest as the teachers were from the renowned "THE EDGE" dance centre in Los Angeles. On the cutting edge of dance and 2 of the most sought after dancers and choreographers in America. We are certainly hoping this will not be the case for our Ultimate dancers 3 day workshop. All competition dance students who are old enough, are expected to attend at least one or two workshops a year.

CAN YOU HELP US OUT????

- Does anyone have an old mattress they can bring down to the Narellan studio? If you do, please see Jodie to organise if it would be usable for class.
- We are in need of a Gardener for our Ambarvale premises. This could be an older brother or dad etc. We need to them to maintain the gardens. If you are interested in this job, please see the lady at the desk.
- TRADESMAN - Plasterers, Electricians, and Carpenters etc – at the end of this year we are moving into new premises in Narellan. If you would be able to donate time and / or any materials you can get cheap or for free, please email us on administration@steps2stardom.com.au Most work will be done during January 2011.



Pr Teachers: Jodie Anthony, Jodee Battistuzzi, Linda Klaassen, Shane Cook, Michelle Cope, Melanie Cossar,

Annaliese Drieman, Brooke Hawkings, Kerrie Hawkings, Jerrika Howley, Charlotte McLeod, Heather Miller, Natalia Reutt, Warren Roma, Rhiannon Stapley.

Student Teachers: Emilia Banic, Elisha Dunn, Jenna Howley, Kristie Pike, Paula Thomas, Laura Ward.

Office Staff: Pamela Hill, Lynda Leigh, Megan Pike, Vivienne Russell, Andrea Ward, Abbey Bowling, Renae North.

Studio Addresses: 42 Lightwood St, Ambarvale; 6/9 Yarmouth Pl, Narellan Business Park;

Phone: (02) 46251761

Mobile: 0414 619 125

Fax: (02) 46250951

Narellan Office: 0448 766 577

Email: administration@steps2stardom.com.au

Website: www.steps2stardom.com.au

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	Ambarvale 3.30-8.30pm	Narellan 3.45-7.30pm
Tuesday	Ambarvale 3.30-8.30pm	Narellan 3.45-8.15pm
Wednesday	Ambarvale 3.30-8.30pm	Narellan 3.45-8.30pm
Thursday	Ambarvale 3.30-8.30pm	Narellan 4.45-7.30pm
Friday	Ambarvale 3.30-8.30pm	Narellan 5pm – 7pm
Saturday	Ambarvale 8.45-3.15pm	Narellan 9.00-1:00pm

2010 Dates to Remember

<i>Sunday 2nd May</i>	<i>Top Hat Troupes (Comp Cheer, Acro & Dance students)</i>
<i>Thursday 6th May</i>	<i>Australian Ballet Outing</i>
<i>Mon 17th – Sat 22nd May</i>	<i>Open Week</i>
<i>Tuesday 1st June</i>	<i>London / Paris Meeting 8pm Studio A Ambarvale</i>
<i>Saturday 5th June</i>	<i>Dance Exam Fees Due</i>
<i>Sat 12th – Mon 14th June</i>	<i>Aus Cheer NSW Regionals - Homebush (Comp. Cheer Students)</i>
<i>Sat 19th & Sun 20th June</i>	<i>Dance & Dazzle Festival (All Dance Troupes)</i>
<i>Sat 26th & Sun 27th June</i>	<i>City Of Wollongong (Dance Troupes)</i>
Saturday 3rd July	Last Day of Term 2
<i>Fri 16th & Sat 17th July</i>	<i>Exam Private Lessons (Optional for exam students)</i>
<i>Sunday 18th July</i>	<i>All Star Winterfest Cheer & Dance - Newcastle (Comp. Cheer Students)</i>
Monday 19th July	1st day of Term 3
<i>Sunday 25th July</i>	<i>Westside Story Musical Outing</i>
<i>Saturday 7th August</i>	<i>Aus Cheer NSW Regionals DURAL (Comp. Cheer students)</i>
<i>Sunday 8th August</i>	<i>Diamond Star Troupe Day (Campbelltown P.A High School)</i>
<i>Saturday 8th August</i>	<i>Concert Costume Deposits due</i>
<i>Mon 9th – Sun 15th August</i>	<i>Dance Exam Week</i>
<i>Saturday 4th September</i>	<i>Aus Cheer State Championships Homebush (Comp. Cheer Students)</i>
<i>Sunday 12th September</i>	<i>NSW State All Star Championships Sydney (Comp. Cheer & Dance Students)</i>
Saturday 25th September	Last Day of Term 3
<i>Sunday 3rd October</i>	<i>ACT State All Star Championships Canberra (Comp. Cheer Students)</i>
<i>Wed 6th – Fri 8th October</i>	<i>Ultimate Dancers Spring Workshop</i>
Saturday 9th October	1st Day of Term 4
<i>Sat 30th & Sun 31st Oct</i>	<i>National All Star Championships - Melbourne (Comp. Cheer Students)</i>
<i>Sunday 14th November</i>	<i>Presentation Day</i>
<i>Saturday 20th November</i>	<i>Concert Tickets Go On Sale</i>
<i>Saturday 27th November</i>	<i>Concert Costume Money Due</i>
<i>Sunday 28th November</i>	<i>Acro / Cheer / Tramp Demonstration Day</i>
<i>Mon 29th Nov – Sat 4th Dec</i>	<i>Dress Rehearsal Week</i>
<i>Sunday 12th December</i>	<i>Dance Concert A</i>
Friday 17th December	Last Day of Term 4
<i>Saturday 18th December</i>	<i>Dance Concert B</i>
<i>Mon 20th & Tues 21st Dec</i>	<i>Concert Costume returns, 4pm – 8pm @ Ambarvale Studio</i>
<i>Narellan Performance Day and Piano recitals, Christmas Party are yet to be confirmed.</i>	
<i>*Please note that Term start and finish dates may be subject to change if needed.</i>	