

May 2015

Dear Parents,

Once again, recital time is upon us! In the past, we have relied heavily on parent volunteers to help backstage taking care of children before and after they perform. This is a very important task that involves reassuring the children, helping with potty breaks and costume changes, maintaining a quiet and safe environment, and handing out a lot of “tender loving care”. We are asking for parent volunteers again this year, since the kindness and caring of previous volunteers has helped ensure that the recitals are happy experiences for all the children. Our Backstage Managers, Lynn Schab & Janet Smith, who are in charge of coordinating volunteers for the recitals and rehearsals, explain more of the volunteer chaperone process below.

Parent volunteers are one of the essential elements that make Buffa’s Dance Studio Recitals so special. Every class of younger children (generally ages 12 and below) needs at least one chaperone for the rehearsal and the show. The classes for 3 to 7 year olds benefit from having two chaperones.

The mandatory dress rehearsals are on Saturday, June 6th and Sunday, June 7th. The chaperones must be available approximately 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the scheduled time, as well as during the rehearsal time. One benefit of chaperoning the rehearsal is you get a sneak peek at the dances for that recital. Only scheduled volunteers are allowed in the theater during rehearsals.

Recitals are scheduled for June 19th, 20th and 21st. Each class needs 1 to 2 chaperones to sit with the class backstage during the show. The chaperones must be female due to the fact that many dancers must change costumes in the dancer holding room. If you are chaperoning, you will be able to see your child’s dance from the audience and do not need recital tickets! As soon as we line up your child’s class, we escort you to the audience section through a side door. Lineup is done 3 dances prior to the classes scheduled slot. Once your child’s dance is complete you will return backstage through the side door and escort the dancers to the large dancer holding area.

The role of the chaperones is very important. As a chaperone you will be watching over a group of dancers to be sure they are safe. Other tasks involve fixing make-up, bathroom escort, finishing touches on costumes as needed and getting to feel the excitement backstage.

In addition to class chaperones, we need people to act as security during the rehearsal and shows. The job of the security people is to prevent unauthorized people from entering the theater and backstage area. For each rehearsal and recital we need at least 4 security volunteers and these can be male or female.

If you are interested in helping with the dress rehearsal and/or recitals, please fill out the volunteer form and return it to the front desk by May 22nd. You will receive a phone call or e-mail confirming your time and duties. At the recital, we will make sure you are free to go to the audience and watch your child perform.

If you have any questions, please email: buffadance@msn.com or buffabackstage@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your help - - it is greatly appreciated!!!

Buffa Hargett, Lynn Schab & Janet Smith