



SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

7910 Perry Highway • Pittsburgh, PA 15237 • (412) 635-7478

<http://www.bellschool.com>



FEBRUARY MEMO



FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12*	13*
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19*	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28							28	29	30	31			

*3/12 - Sat. classes will be held
 *3/13 - St. Patrick's Day Parade
 *3/19- Greensburg and Saturday classes will be held
 *3/20 & 3/21 – Dress Rehearsal/Showcase
 *3/30-4/5 – Easter Break

Please remember: All classes are mandatory until the Showcase!

	Monthly Payment
One Student	\$48.00
Two Students	\$83.00
Three Students	\$100.00
Four Students	\$111.00

Schedule for Friday, 3/12 and 3/19 for Saturday beginners: Because of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Dress Rehearsal, we cannot have the beginner classes on Saturday 3/13 and 3/20. We will be having these classes on the Friday before instead. The schedule is below:

4:30-5:15 – Down (10 am Saturday class)
 5:30-6:15 – Meath (11 am Saturday class)

IMPORTANT: The **Black Bell Parade Sweatshirts** that were recently delivered by the embroiderer are incorrect - specifically the blue thread used in the Bell Logo. It is important that anyone who purchased or received a black sweatshirt in January check the

embroidery - **these sweatshirts cannot be worn in the Parade.** Please return the sweatshirts with the incorrect embroidery to the school **in a bag and include the name, phone number, and dance class on a paper in the bag.** Replacement sweatshirts have been ordered and will be received in time for the parade. Please contact Jane Miller at jmiller@bellschool.com or 412-788-2533 if you have any questions. I apologize for any inconvenience. Jane Miller

Shows: With St. Patrick's Day around the corner, we have a number of shows booked for the coming months. Meaveen will be sending out e-mails to get sign-ups for these shows. It is really important that we have good participation, so please sign up if you are available. Thank you!

Message Board: Our message board has had a lot of new posts with items that are either for sale or being looked for. I hope this is helpful for everyone. If you have a post on there that you would like to have removed, please let me know ASAP so that I can keep the posts and confusion to a minimum. You can find the board through our Students page of www.bellschool.com or www.voy.com/208767/

The West Virginia Feis is open for registration at www.efeis.com. The feis will be held at Hyatt – Pittsburgh Airport on March 27 and 28. PC/OC are on Sunday and all others are on Saturday. There is a cap of 50 for OC and 120 for PC and they are very close to reaching both of those caps. The cap for all others is 500. Registration is being done through www.efeis.com.

Winter weather cancellations: If the weather is questionable, cancellation information will be available on the Bell School studio voice mail (412-635-7478), www.bellschool.com, www.wpxi.com and WPXI TV. **YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A PHONE CALL OR E-MAIL.**

Beginner class: We are currently enrolling for a Beginner class starting April 12, 2010. The class will be Monday 4:15-5:00 and registration information is on our website. Thank you!

3rd Quarter Extra classes: We will be enrolling for these classes on a monthly basis for the 3rd quarter (March, April and May.) February classes were signed up for with January and are already in process.

These classes are an optional second class for the dancers. In these classes, we focus on basic technique exercises and applying those exercises to the dancers' steps. In master class, we do a lot of the same dance exercises as in technique classes but add flexibility, strength and stamina training for the more advanced competitors. We have seen great improvement in the dancers that have done both technique and master classes in the past. The classes are offered to the dancers in the classes next to the class time on the schedule below.

Monday – Lesson Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Studio A

4:00-6:00 – Galway, Sligo, Wexford, Antrim and Armagh (no balls and mats needed)

6:00-8:30 – Majors Class (All-Irelands/Worlds/Nationals)

Studio B

5:00-6:30 – Cork, Tyrone, Kerry, Monaghan, Offaly, Derry, Kilkenny, Kildare
(Students who don't do hard shoes will finish a bit early.)

6:30-8:00 – Clare, Tipperary, Mayo, Dublin

Fees for MONDAYS IN MARCH only -

2 and 2-1/2 hour class fees - \$10 for the first child, \$8 for the second and \$5 for the third

- 1 child - \$50
- 2 children - \$90
- 3 children - \$115

1-1/2 hour class fees - \$8 for the first child, \$6 for the second and \$5 for the third

- 1 child - \$40
- 2 children - \$70
- 3 children - \$95

Thursday – Lesson Dates: **March 4, 11, 18, 25**

Studio A

7:00-9:00 – **Master Class** – (Galway, Sligo, Wexford, Armagh, Antrim)

(These students will need yoga mats, balance balls and jump ropes.)

Fees for THURSDAYS IN MARCH only -

2 and 2-1/2 hour class fees - \$10 for the first child, \$8 for the second and \$5 for the third

- 1 child - \$40
- 2 children - \$72
- 3 children - \$92

There is a minimum of 8 students/class for these classes. If the minimum is not met (i.e.. full payment is received for 8 dancers/class,) the schedule will be changed or the class may be cancelled. This will be decided after the first class. We will do our best not to cancel the classes by combining classes, but please be aware that this is not always possible.

2010 SHOWCASE

Please read the following information very carefully. Your attention to these details will help the Showcase run smoothly.

The Showcase is **Sunday, March 21, 2010** at 1:00 and 5:00 at Marshall Middle School. Mandatory dress rehearsal is Saturday, March 20 at noon for the early show and approximately 4:00 for the late show - also at Marshall Middle School.

Dress Rehearsal Schedule

Saturday, March 20

Marshall Middle School

12:00 – 3:30 Early show rehearsal

4:00 – 7:30 Late show rehearsal

Showcase Schedule

Sunday, March 21

Marshall Middle School

12:00 Early show dancers arrive

1:00 Early Show

4:00 Late show dancers arrive

5:00 Late Show

The list of classes per show is as follows:

1:00 Show:

Armagh
Cavan
Cork
Derry
Fermanagh
Leitrim

5:00 Show:

Antrim
Carlow
Clare
Donegal
Down
Dublin

Limerick
Longford
Mayo
Monaghan
Roscommon
Sligo
Waterford
Westmeath
Wicklow

Galway
Kerry
Kildare
Kilkenny
Meath
Offaly
Tipperary
Tyrone
Wexford

I apologize to the families that are in two separate shows. I tried my best to keep families together. I keep track of the families that are separated and try not to separate them 2 years in a row. For those families that are in two shows, we will provide pizza between shows for you. Please let us know how many people will be attending. Thanks!

Tickets: NEW THIS YEAR!!!! Because of the confusion that has occurred in past years before each show, we are going to have assigned seating this year. We are still working out the logistics of this, and a separate e-mail will be sent with details. If anyone has any experience with this process (good or bad), please e-mail me with your comments. We would appreciate any help on this to make it run as smoothly as possible for everyone.

Tickets will go on sale by mid-February. We anticipate that the price of tickets will remain \$7/seat as in the past.

Costumes for the showcase are:

Girls wearing school costumes:

1. **Dresses or jumpers** – Please be sure to try your costume on and make sure it fits. We are having the last merchandise sale before the Showcase on Sunday, February 28 from 1:00-3:30.
2. **Short-sleeve Peter Pan collar blouses** – You need these with the jumper. These can be found in the Penney's catalog or any uniform store.
3. **Shoes** – Ghillies are needed for all classes. If you need a pair, you can order them at a variety of places on-line. We suggest www.rutherfordshoes.com.
4. **Poodle Socks** - All girls will need poodle socks. The Boosters purchased a quantity of socks and will have them available for sale once the shipment arrives. We anticipate them to arrive the week of February 8. The price is \$7.50 for Booster members and \$9.00 for non-members.
5. **Spankies** - All girls need white spankies (these are like cheerleading trunks). They can be found at most dance stores and at Dicks or other sporting goods stores.
6. **Hair** - The most recent wig order has been placed with our supplier, but we will be doing one last one before the Showcase. The deadline for this order coincides with the dress sale Sunday, February 28. You can find the form on the Students page of our website – www.bellschool.com.
7. **Tiaras** – All girls will need a tiara. They can be purchased through the Boosters.
 - Girls with scrunchie need a small tiara (in stock, \$8 – member, \$10 – non-member)
 - Girls with any of the “larger” wigs need an embroidered headband (in stock, \$25 – member, \$30 non-member)

Boys wearing school costumes:

1. **Blue Tie** – These can be ordered on the same form as the dresses, jumpers and headbands. These forms can be found at the studio or on our website.
2. **Black slacks** – All boys will need black slacks without cuffs.
3. **Black shirt** – All boys will need a black long sleeved dress shirt.

4. **Shoes** – All boys will need jazz shoes.

Classes wearing solo costumes have been notified in class.

Photographs: Pictures for the Showcase will be taken once again during dress rehearsal. Forms will be at the studio in early March.

Volunteers: We will be asking for volunteers for help at the rehearsal and actual Showcase in many areas. We will have sign-up sheets at the studio in March. Any help is appreciated. You don't have to work both shows. There are enough parents that if you can only work one shift than that would be fine. Look for the sign-up sheets next month. And thank you in advance for any time you can give.

Flowers will once again be offered for sale. Just as last year we will be giving tickets for a free bunch of flowers for each Booster member dancer. Others can be purchased at a cost of \$7.00 per bunch.

Video: You are NOT allowed to take flash photography or videotape the show. (You may however video the dress rehearsal.) A professional video will be available. Marince Associates will be at both the dress rehearsal and the Showcase and will produce a multi-camera shoot of the event. Order forms will be available soon. You can order the video before and after the show; however, it will be advantageous to order before the show as the price will be higher after.

Food and drinks are not permitted in the building. Water will be provided for the dancers backstage.

Procedures for both Rehearsal and Showcase:

To ensure that the upcoming Showcase is a success, we are asking that everyone please show consideration to the dancers and their families by adhering to the procedures outlined below. We ask for your support for the volunteers who are providing an enjoyable and orderly show for all.

You will soon receive information from your Class Leader regarding your class' meeting place for the Dress Rehearsal and Showcase. Please be sure to check your e-mail. These will also be posted in the lobby of the middle school outside the auditorium.

There will be three (3) rooms utilized for dancers to wait during the show. This will help facilitate the release of dancers after the show.

Please arrive dressed and ready to go at your assigned place and time. This is extremely important because the Dress Rehearsal and Showcase can't start until all the dancers have arrived. Remember, there are others relying on your child and the dancers have worked hard to prepare for the show.

No parents are allowed in any of the holding rooms. If your child needs assistance getting ready, please take them to the restroom before entering their assigned room. These rooms are extremely crowded with dancers, at times trying to get changed into their dresses, please be respectful of their privacy and leave your dancer at the door.

Make-up is only permitted on dancers 12 and older or dancers wearing solo dresses. If a child who is not permitted is wearing make-up they will be asked to remove it. This is extremely embarrassing for the dancers, so please don't allow it to become an issue.

No food or drinks will be allowed in the holding rooms or the auditorium. In the past, there have been beverage spills and garbage left for others to clean up.

During the show, please be considerate to those around you by not standing up or leaving in-between dances. There will be no entering or exiting the large doors in the back of the auditorium once the show has started. These doors will not be opened during the show. If you must leave the show, please exit only through the side back doors.

All dancers must check in and out with their Class Leader at their assigned meeting place. This is to ensure the safety of all the dancers and guarantee everyone is accounted for.

Group and individual pictures will be taken at the Dress Rehearsal. Once your dancer has completed their dances and had their class pictures taken they may leave the Dress Rehearsal after checking out with their Class Leader.

No dancers will be released until the show is over. Please do not come to the doors of the holding rooms requesting your child until the end of the show. While we understand that they are your children and you may want to take them after their last dance, the confusion and chaos this creates is extreme: parents getting up and leaving the show while others are trying to watch their dancer, parents congregating around the doors while we're trying to move dancers in and out of the room to the stage, and searching for an individual dancer while trying to manage hundreds of others.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

There are many details included below. Thank you in advance for your attention to these details. We will have a very large group in the parade and everyone's cooperation is necessary.

- 1. Meeting Time:** Parade begins at **10:00 AM on Saturday, March 13.** All participants must report in uniform no later than **9:30 AM** at our meeting location. The reason for the early time is that once the parade begins, it is nearly impossible to get into town and park.
- 2. Meeting Location:** We have not received our specific number assignment yet, but will post it at the studio and on our website and send it via e-mail as soon as we receive it. All participants **MUST** check in with their assigned **CLASS LEADER** upon arrival. Each class leader will have a sign with the class name on it, and a flag with the class colors.
- 3. Uniform:** The uniform is as follows: **white** turtleneck, Bell School sweatshirt, and black pants. You will be told in class what color shoes to wear – black or white. All adults can wear black or white shoes. **New this year:** As mentioned in previous memos and e-mails, a ski headband with our embroidered logo on it is now part of the required uniform. These have been ordered in quantity and will be distributed through your class leader. **There is no order form necessary!** Prices are as follows: Booster member dancers – FREE (as a token of our appreciation for your membership and support), Booster member non-dancer - \$8, ALL Non-Booster members - \$10. **Please remember that any parent or child who is not wearing the designated uniform cannot march in the parade.** They may follow the group along the sidewalk, but not in the ranks. **There will be no exceptions made.**
- 4. Sweatshirts:** The order for sweatshirts has been placed with the embroiderer. Be on the lookout for notification of their arrival.

5. **Check Out:** The end of the parade can be very confusing. For this reason, children **MUST** stay in their groups until their parent or guardian has checked them out with the group leader. **There will be no exceptions.** This way, we can make sure that your child is **SAFE**.

We will be having the After-Parade Party again this year. See the Boosters section for details.

From the BELL SCHOOL BOOSTERS.....

Costume Committee

Next Costume and Used Merchandise Sale is **Sunday, February 28th from 1:30 - 3:00**. If you are a seller, you must be present to sell your merchandise. Neither the Boosters nor the School will assume responsibility for your payment or merchandise. If you are looking to buy, please bring your checkbook (you will need to write several checks to various people, depending on what you buy). If you are paying with cash, please make sure you have small bills.

Merchandise Committee

We expect arrival of the sweatshirts by the end of February or beginning of March. If you ordered a sweatshirt, you will be contacted once they have arrived. If you have not ordered one, please place your order form with payment in the Boosters Merchandise Box as soon as possible. If you have questions regarding merchandise, please contact Jane Miller – jmiller@bellschool.com.

Class Leaders: Thank you to all parents who have already volunteered to be the class leader for your child's dance class. You will be receiving further information via email soon. We are **still in need of class leaders for several classes**. It is a great way to get involved in your child's dance with a minimal commitment of time. The main responsibilities include emailing information to parents, supervision of dancers during Showcase weekend and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We **still need** leaders for the following classes: Clare, Down (Saturday Beg. 10am), Meath (Saturday Beg. 11am), Tyrone, and Longford. In addition, for the classes with younger dancers it is best to have 2 class leaders to help with supervision/security. The following classes have 1 volunteer but we still need a second person: Offaly, Limerick, and Donegal. If you are unsure of the class your child is in just email your child's name and I will match you with the appropriate class. If you can volunteer or have any questions please email Julie Bradley at jbradley@bellschool.com.

After Parade Party

Please plan to join the Bell Boosters at our Annual After Parade Party at the Gateway Towers Cafe on Saturday, March 13th . **AGAIN this year: The Boosters will provide each Booster Family with one (1) free ticket (worth \$10.95!)** The remaining ticket pricing is as follows:

Booster Member Dancer	Free
Booster Member (6 years to adult)	\$11.00
Booster Member (5 years and under)	Free

Non-Booster Dancer	\$15.00
Non-Booster (6 years to adult)	\$15.00
Non-Booster (5 years and under)	\$5.00

A limited amount of tickets will be available for purchase at the door. They will be \$20.00 each. **Back by popular demand will be Bell School's own Sarah Marince performing live!**

As a courtesy, please let us know if your plans change and you are unable to attend after you have RSVP'd. By not doing so, the Boosters pay for some of these unused meals unnecessarily.

Our menu includes: tossed salad, chicken marsala, rigatoni, hamburgers, french fries, rice pilaf, chicken fingers, cookies, cake and drinks. Reservations will be accepted via email to Jennifer Flaherty closer to the event. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Flaherty at jennflah@consolidated.net.