

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Claddagh School. We all have survived our first weeks of Irish dancing. I am excited this year with the progress of each of the dancers. . Their enthusiasm to learn the dance and music of Ireland is wonderful.

My goal is to help each child learn and appreciate the music and dancing of Ireland. During the year, we will be listening and dancing to many different types of music. I will be teaching reels and jigs to each student. Some of the students will be learning solo dance steps and some will also learn figure dances. Many of the dances the students will learn are Traditional Irish Dances as well Choreographed routines.

I know that the classes are large this year. Please allow us to evaluate your child for a few weeks and then we will be able to break them into smaller groups.

During the “St. Patrick’s” season, the school will be performing at many area nursing homes, church functions and other “Irish parties”. I would love to have every child perform, but I do understand that not all children may wish to do so. These performances are optional and you should not feel that your child must dance. As this time of the year draws closer, I will provide more information regarding these shows.

For the 10am and 11am students that wish to perform in the shows, a simple costume will be required. The costume for girls will be a white, short sleeve “school” blouse, a plaid kilt, poodle socks and Irish soft shoes. For the boys, the costume will be black dress pants, a white short sleeve dress shirt and boys soft shoes – “boys Jazz shoes”.

For the 12pm girls, the costume will be the green dress with gold Claddaghs. The 1pm class may choose between the Green dress with the Claddagh or the Black Velvet costumes. . The 2pm class can wear either the black velvet dresses or a presentation costume.

On Saturday, Nov 12th I will hold a shoe & costume sale between 10am and 2pm. Please plan on attending after your child’s scheduled class time. Each child will be measured for shoes and/or costumes, if needed . If your child has shoes (soft or hard) that do not fit, please place them in a Ziploc bag with their name and shoe size on the bag and get them to me **no later than October 29th**. I am hoping that this will alleviate a large order of new shoes. Also, **please try on all costumes.** If your costume does not fit – let me know. Seamstresses will be available on that day to measure the children that will require new costumes this year.

At the end of the dancing year, in May 2012, a recital for the entire school will be held followed by a Ceili -- a party and dance for everyone. The date of the recital will be announced after the first of the year.

Holiday Gift Cards - Once again we are selling Gift Cards to a wide variety of stores. Cards may be purchased by anyone, not just students and their families. An abbreviated order form will be available beginning Saturday Oct 22. This will be at class as well as online. Orders may also be submitted directly from the gift card supplier: www.shopwithscrip.com. Please use our enrollment code so the school receives credit: CF91ECB828257

Please, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to speak with me just before or after your child’s class or call me at home. My number is: 567-6729.

Thank you and I am really excited about sharing a fun-filled year of dance and music with your child.

Sincerely,

Mary Quinn

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Cancellations will be posted on our web site and on WGGB’s web site. The local TV stations WILL NOT show the cancellation.
- The first Saturday of each month will be “Watch Week”. This is the only day that spectators will be allowed in the hall to observe the classes. I would ask that you please adhere to this. This will minimize the distractions for the children.
- The school has a web site with a calendar of shows, lessons, cancellations along with many of the steps being taught and other information. The address is: www.claddaghschool.com
- All Dancers must wear shorts, leotards or skirts to class.