



VICTORIA
ACADEMY
of BALLET

TO THE POINTE - September 2016



Director's Welcome

Dear Parents and Students,

As we move into the Fall season, I hope that you settle into your school routines and that you and your families have a smooth transition back into all of your after school activities.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and love to seeing returning students come back for another season at VAB. Additionally we are excited to see new faces in all of our classes next week.

For those of you who have not been with us through the summer we have had some exciting changes happen to our staffing and dance faculty. In addition to our full time faculty (Mr. Pronger, Principal and Ms. Turner, Bridge Program Director) I am excited to announce that Sarah Megee will be taking on the role as General Program Director. In addition to her now part time position in the office Ms. Megee will be teaching regular classes throughout the week and will be overseeing the General program. I hope with Ms. Megee's guidance and energy our already strong General Program we will be able to develop a more active sense of community for our young dancers and their families.

In addition to Ms. Megee taking on a new role in the school, we are pleased to welcome Elise Wren to the VAB family. Ms. Wren comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in both dance and marketing/development. We are honoured to have her join the staff as Communications Manager. More information about Elise can be found in the body of this newsletter and I encourage you to drop into the office to meet her and welcome her to the VAB community.

The end of summer is always a little bittersweet but if the progress made by our students throughout our numerous summer programs is any indication of our year to come, then I

am confident we are going to witness great things from our talented and dedicated students..

In the weeks to come I look forward to meeting all new parents and seeing everyone in their appropriate classes this Fall.

Bleiddyn Bellis
Artistic Director VAB

#BacktoDance

It's September, and that means it's not only back to school, but back to dance as well.

Classes start the week of September 12th - here's what you need to do to prepare.

- [Register](#) (if you have not already done so)
 - Visit [Toes n Taps Dance Shoppe](#) to purchase all components of the [uniform](#). Just let the TNT staff know when level your child is in, and they'll know exactly what you need!
 - **Know the Gate Code: 3251.** The gate will be open on the first week of classes.
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2016/2017 Registration

Still need to register? Fill out the registration form online and [email](#) it back to us.

[Foundational Program Registration Form](#)

[General Program Registration Form](#)



Visions of Sugar Plums...

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet is looking for students to audition for their 2016 production of Nutcracker. The company is looking for students between 7-15 years old (as of Dec.31, 2016) and between 3'8" and 5'3".

Auditions: Saturday, Sep. 17
Dance Victoria Studios
2750 Quadra Street



Those selected will participate in rehearsals led by VAB's very own Ms. Turner.

[Check out the Dance Victoria website for more information.](#)

Taking Care of Business

VAB is pleased to announce the promotion of **Sarah Megee** to General Program Director.

Ms Megee joined the VAB team last year. She is currently an American Ballet Theatre certified teacher in levels pre-primary through 3 through the ABT National Teacher Training Curriculum. She is now working to complete her Cecchetti Associate examination, with the hopes of one day becoming an examiner of the method. Ms. Megee also holds a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Mathematical Science from the University of Alberta.



Wearing two hats, Ms Megee remains as the school's hardworking Office Manager. **Congratulations, Sarah!**

Hello, My Name Is...

This month VAB welcomes **Elise Wren** as Communications Manager.

Ms Wren has been active in the Victoria dance community since her very first ballet class at age four. She trained exclusively in ballet until age 18 and, in recent years, has enjoyed contemporary and tap training.

Once she completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of Victoria, Ms Wren knew that she wanted to continue a path in dance. Mentored by local impresario Stephen White, she learned the business of dance administration, festival curation



and production as the Associate Producer for Dance Victoria. She coordinated the first five years of the annual "Dance Days" - a city-wide festival of 100+ events spread over ten days. Ms Wren also was responsible for administration of the Nutcracker ensemble - providing local children the opportunity to rehearse and perform with the visiting Alberta Ballet professional company.

Ms Wren has a keen interest in youth audience development and encouraging young people to attend the theatre. She was actively involved in starting the "Pay Your Age" program for youth and the "Night Moves" program to provide accessible tickets and pop-up party experiences for young urban professionals through Dance Victoria.

Ms Wren has been a long-standing board member of the Victoria DanceWorks festival. Additionally, she sits on the City of Victoria Arts and Culture committee, providing advice and direction to City Council and staff on the planning, development and implementation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan.



VAB Scholarship Society: A Registered Charity

The society is excited to start a new dance season and look forward to meeting new students and their families. **VABSS was able to provide \$2000 in summer program bursaries and \$7000 in financial aid to students for their Fall fees.**

Your support is greatly appreciated as always. This past summer our **Corner Concession** was a great hit with students and we will be continuing to sell a variety of snacks, juice and bottled water throughout the year.

Fundraising Initiatives Beginning this Fall:

- The **VAB clothing sale** in October: Watch for the order form and sample sizes in the lobby.
 - Our first ever **Gingerbread Tea is Nov 26**: The General Program students will be demonstrating their progress to friends and family and after you can enjoy a visit, tea and goodies with your dancer
 - Our **Candy Cane Christmas Show** is Dec 17 : This show will feature new dances, solos, costumes and is a VABSS Bursary Fundraiser and Xmas Food Drive for the Rainbow Kitchen in Esquimalt.
 - And finally, the VABSS also raises funds through the **Thrifty Foods Community Card program**. When you shop at Thrifty Foods and use the card to pay for your purchases 5% is credited back to VABSS to benefit students for costumes, transportation to events, entry fees for competitions and special purchases. If you would be able to help VABSS by using the card contact the office to get yours or email vabss@telus.net.
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VAB Important Dates

Date	Event	Program
Sept 6 - 8, 2016	Registration Nights (3PM - 6PM)	Whole School
September 9, 2016	PTP Orientation	PTP
September 12, 2016	First Day of Classes	Foundational/General
October 10, 2016	Thanksgiving - No Classes	Whole School
October 23, 2016	Vancouver Cecchetti Workshop	General/PTP/Bridge
November 11, 2016	Remembrance Day - No Classes	Whole School
November 26, 2016	Family and Friends Watch Day	Foundational Program
November 26, 2016	GP Gingerbread Tea	General Program
December 5 - 8, 2016 (TBD)	Cecchetti Examinations	General/PTP/Bridge
December 10, 2016	Last Day of Classes Before Break	Foundational/General
December 12, 2016	Optional Thanksgiving Makeup Class	Foundational/General
December 17, 2016	Last Day of Classes Before Break	PTP/Bridge
December 17, 2016 (TBD)	Christmas Performance	PTP/Bridge

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Victoria Academy of Ballet is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter! Follow [@victoriaacademyofballet](#) and [@vaballet](#) for the latest updates, information and behind the scenes pics!

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