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Message from John....

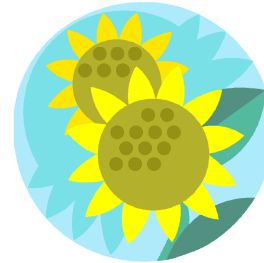


Dear friends and families,

*Northwest Ballet will be wrapping up the regular year in just a few weeks. I hope this has been a rewarding year for our students and parents. Again, I would like to thank all of our volunteers for the time and sweat they put in to this year's program and our productions of Daphnis et Chloe, The Nutcracker and Aladdin. All that we have remaining is our Year End Performance in **Studio A**. It would be a great way to end the season if **all** of our students and parents could join us on **Saturday, June 20th** at 1:00 pm. Some fun and exciting dancing awaits all. There will be more summer information for those attending our Summer Intensive and schedules, pre-registration, and other information available for the Fall Session, which resumes our regular classes. We will also be saying, "Farewell" to Miye, who has worked especially hard the last few years teaching our younger dancers. I think everyone will miss her a lot, including me. Next year, we will have Amber Johnson, Noelle Wessman, Celeste Lordan and myself trying to fill Miye's shoes. Wish us luck!!!*

Year End Performance

Northwest Ballet's **Year End Performance** will be held on **Saturday, June 20th** in Studio A. Please bring your relatives and friends to this enjoyable afternoon of delightful ballet, modern, lyrical and jazz pieces by our students choreographed by John Bishop, Miye Bishop and Diane Williams. The event will last from 1:00 pm to about 2:30 pm.



Summer Intensive and Summer Workshops

Thanks everyone for getting in your summer paperwork and tuition! If you haven't please try to get it in soon as possible. We have an exciting four week schedule of classes (see attached) for Intermediate up as well as the mini-camps for the younger dancers. We are also offering **10% off a**

students' tuition for the intensive if they bring a new student!

Other **exciting news** is that we will have three girls from Japan will be arriving for the intensive. John used to be a guest teacher at their ballet academy when he was teaching in Tokyo. This means we will have an **international** intensive this year!

On the last day of the intensive, our students will be performing David Lichine's classic one act ballet *Graduation Ball*. It will be held at the **Whatcom Community College (Syre Hall)** on **August 14th at 7:30pm**. Tickets are available to purchase at the office.

Preparing for Fall

As we are preparing to soak up the summer sun, we will also be trying to get a jump on the fall by getting schedules, class/teacher profiles, and revised school and performance handbooks, all to prepare students and instructors when they resume regular classes on **Thursday, September 3** (two days after Labor Day). Thankfully, we will have a full staff of excellent teachers for ballet, modern, jazz, tap, lyrical and hip hop.

Also, we will be having the **auditions** for our December performances of ***The Nutcracker*** on **Saturday, September 5 at 1:00 pm**. As every year, we will need a number of parents to volunteer, aid and promote our annual holiday event. Please do not hesitate to sign up to help. It really turns out to be very satisfying for our volunteers and our dancers are very grateful for their service.



Collaboration with Bellingham Chamber Chorale

Saturday, June 13 @ 8pm WWU Concert Hall

Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Unicorn, The Gorgon and The Manticore*, a dramatic work featuring dancers, chamber choir, instruments, and sung narrative, is being performed Sunday, June 13, 8:00 pm, at Western Washington University's Concert Hall. Sometimes referred to as a ballet, *The Unicorn* combines the collaborative efforts of the Bellingham Repertory Dance, Northwest Ballet choreographer John Bishop, Bellingham Chamber Chorale, and WWU instrumental faculty and students. Miye (*Unicorn*), Alona Christman (*Gorgon*), Brooke Evans (*Manticore*), and Seth Weatherby (*Man in the Castle*) are the principals. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students/seniors, and **free** for 18 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the WWU Box Office, (360) 650-6146, online at www.tickets.wvu.edu, at Village Books, The Food Coop, or Piper Music. For more information: (360) 738-8982 or [bellinghamchamberchorale.org](http://www.bellinghamchamberchorale.org). <http://www.bellinghamchamberchorale.org/>

Aladdin DVD

DVD's of *Aladdin* will be available soon. If you pre-ordered one, your dvd will be labeled with your name on it. Others can purchase them on a first-come first-served basis in office. If we run out, you

can place your order in the office. Ren did a nice job of editing, copying and doing the cover. Cost of the DVD is \$25.

Spring 2010: The Little Mermaid

The new backdrops for last year's *Nutcracker* really gave the production a new look, and this year we might have a few more additions with set pieces. All of the enhancements are paying off with even greater appreciation from the audiences we entertain.

We are also a year away from another spring production. Creating a ballet that can incorporate more dancing for our younger dancers is always challenging, but next year Mr. Bishop intends to do just that with the staging of a new original ballet of ***The Little Mermaid***. It will be based on the Hans Christian Anderson story and will feature an exciting underwater kingdom with mermaids, dancing pearl and other sea creatures. We have a talented group of dancers, young to old who will no doubt find this production very exciting and enjoyable to perform to audiences that will be delighted to see it. Designing the set, costumes and lighting will be very challenging as well, so we will be enlisting some professional as well as in-house help and a corps of painters and seamstresses. Therefore, if you are interested in helping with this project...please see John! If your expertise might be in marketing or promotion (always need more of that), please see Mike Farkas or Chris Wise.

Alyssa Hamilton's Guatemala Trip

Alyssa will be going to Guatemala this summer to bring her gift of dance and community service to needy people in Guatemala. Her church, Christ the King Church is organizing the trip. This is an awesome experience and could use our support. Northwest Ballet has donated to Alyssa's trip and we are also asking our parents to perhaps give a donation of any amount as well. If you would like to contribute to Alyssa's trip please call Nancy Hamilton at 647-0239 or email ken.hamilton@comcast.net. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

June 13, 8pm -- *The Unicorn, The Gorgon and The Manticore*, WWU Performing Arts Center

June 20, 1pm-- *NWB Year End Performance*, Studio A

December 4-6, 9-13, 2009 – *The Nutcracker*

May, 2010 – *The Little Mermaid*