



October 2017 newsletter

Welcome dancers and parents to another exciting year of classes at Defy Gravity Dance Co. After a successful year of classes, competitions and performances last year, we anticipate another amazing year of learning, laughing and growing! We look forward to teaching each student and will enjoy sharing with you the progress they make throughout the year. We appreciate your support of the studio and hope that you are as excited about the upcoming year as we are!

defy gravity
dance company inc.

11th Season

The 11th Season of Defy Gravity has arrived and with it brings a renewed sense of passion from the DG faculty both in our Richmond and South Surrey locations. We are so pleased to have your dancer join us for what is sure to be a benchmark year for the studio! We look forward to motivating your dancers to work harder, show their studio pride and get stronger, more articulate and artistically authentic each class! We know your dancers benefit from our integrated approach to teaching, and can't wait to share more innovative ideas for training and injury prevention this year! We're setting goals with your dancers and helping them achieve them – their success is our success! It's going to be a great season!

Congratulations

Over the summer our Pre-Professional Program (PPP) 1/2/3 Dancers competed at the Crystal Classic Grand Championships in Kelowna and our work was awarded many Gold, High Gold and Diamond medals, Plaques, Trophies and Choreography Awards as well as Choreographer of the week to Miss Amy, a Scholarship for Margarete and Miss Rishell.

Last season, our PPP and Competitive dancers performed beautifully throughout the Competitive season earning many trophies, medals, scholarships & Judges Awards. Our Faculty were also awarded several Choreography awards. All trophies are on display at the Richmond studio along with lists of our Competition results for the 2016-17 season.

New Faces at Defy Gravity

Our fabulous faculty are returning for our 11th season including Kristyn, Amy, Carolyn, Tamara, Riley, Kirsten, Adam, Taylor and Rishell. We have added three new faces to the DG team in our South Surrey location – Miss Gillian is teaching all Jazz & Lyrical classes, Miss Emilie is teaching Ballet to our PPP dancers and Miss Meghann is teaching our littlest Ballerinas. Miss Rebekah is assisting Miss Taylor with Musical Theatre in Richmond.

Each instructor at DG is one of the best trained, most experienced and highly sought after professionals in the Lower Mainland. Many of our instructors are working performers and continue to take classes and teacher training to be relevant and inspired choreographers/educators. We all love dancing, performing and sharing our passion with the DG dancers. Want more info? See our website Bios ☺ From time to time we will have Guest Instructors teach our students. Our students benefit immensely from different approaches to teaching, so the more dance influence the better!

In the office we have Riley & Elyse in our Richmond location and Elyse & Shelly in our South Surrey location. They are there to help, so please ask for anything you need!

Class Times

We recently changed a few class times to make the schedule work for students and instructors. Thank you to all families who have made changes to their schedule!

Studio Policies

- We remind all students that **food and water are not allowed in the studios. GUM IS NOT ALLOWED ON THE PREMISES AT ANY TIME!** We are a NUT FREE studio as we have several students with life threatening allergies.
- **Street shoes and street clothing are not permitted in the studios.** It is very important that your child wear the appropriate footwear and attire for each class so that instructors can correct posture and movement. Dress code is available here: <http://defygravitydance.ca/classes/dress-code>
- **Dance slippers/shoes are NEVER to be worn outside!** Our professional dance floors are expensive and easily ruined by dirt, rocks & moisture...
- *The studio will be open 10 minutes before the beginning of classes to provide sufficient time for dancers to prepare for class. We remind parents that children 8 years and under are not to be left unattended at the studio before or after classes.*
- Please respect the class schedule! The instructors teach multiple classes back to back. If you have something urgent to tell us, please do so quickly at the beginning of your child's class otherwise, please leave a message for us at the office.
- **Absences?** Please call or email the office ahead of time if your child will be away so that we are prepared for absences.

Studio Care

We have the nicest studios in the Lower Mainland and we are happy to share them with you. Students & their families have a responsibility to keep the space clean and in good condition.

- Food & drinks brought to the studio should reflect what we do here – please help your dancers make healthy choices!
- **Clean Up after yourself:** please put food wrappers and waste in the garbage and tidy up any toys or books/magazines left out in the lobby.
- **RECYCLING:** Recyclable drink/food containers need to be rinsed and put in the appropriate bins! Paper in the paper bin and plastics in the Plastic bin please! Paper towels in the bathrooms are recycled so please make sure they go in the recycle bins in the bathrooms!
- Please stay off the grass in Richmond and wipe your feet at the door in both locations.
- Please keep your hands & feet off the walls - especially tap shoes and avoid placing hands all over the mirrors/windows!
- Keep quiet in the hallways and change rooms....we don't want to interrupt the important work of other students!
- **Take your water bottles and jackets home with you!** They live with you and they miss you when you leave them behind (oh and we will donate them if they are left to live at DG!)

DG Dance Gear Store is OPEN!

For your convenience, we now stock all dress code items in both locations at competitive prices. Check out the store during office hours for bodysuits, tights, leggings, shorts, sweats, dance bras, tanks, tees, crewnecks, jackets, bun supplies, water bottles etc.

Water & Snacks

We encourage all students to bring a water bottle with them to class. Water bottles must be kept in the change room or outside the studio doors and are not allowed in the studios. We encourage students in multiple classes in one day to bring a healthy nut-free snack to the studio to eat between classes....dancers need to keep their bodies fuelled – donuts, cookies, cupcakes and pop are not appropriate fuel for dancers! Please help your dancers make healthy food choices such as fruits & vegetables, proteins and WATER 😊

DG Awards

Congratulations to the following dancers that were chosen by the faculty last season to receive trophies for their achievements as outstanding dancers, role models and exemplary students in class:

Leaps & Bounds – Saanaa Dhillon
Love That Smile – Olivia Lyth
Together We Can – Brooke Lacroix
In It to Win It – Agatha Chiu
Dress for Success – Jennifer Lee
I LOVE DG – P3
Rising Star – Sophia Fletcher
Blood, Sweat & Tears – Hannah Sims
5 Point Star (Modern Improv) – Brenna Hagel
Make us Cry (Lyrical) – Isabelle Leong
1Hundred % (Hip Hop) – Connor Purghart
Eat Broccoli (Work Ethic) – Danny Ylaya
Nice Picadilla (Tap) – Sienna Allen
To the Pointe (Ballet) – Bridget Crawford
Liquid Awesome (Jazz) – Sarah Schwartz
Sing Out Louise (Musical Theatre) – Nicole Nagra
Fliptastic (Acro) – Linda Nyberg
Outstanding Dance Parent – Nicole Widdess (Murray)

We will continue to recognize our students for their unparalleled commitment to dance, positive attitude, solid work ethic and perfect attendance – working hard all year does not go unnoticed!

Workshops & Conventions

We are recommending several Workshops and Conventions to our PPP Dancers this year as part of our comprehensive training program. We can't say enough good things about exposure to many unique teachers and choreographers contributing to the success of our dancers. Workshop details will be emailed.

Viewing Week (Tues Dec 5–Mon Dec 11, 2017)

Family members are invited into the studio to watch the last 15 minutes of class to see what students are learning. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to see what happens in the studio and for students to show what they have accomplished!

Competition Rehearsal (Sun Mar 11, 2018)

Our Competitive and Pre-Professional dancers will perform for the Faculty to get final approval and prepare for competitions.

Recital (Thurs-Sat June 28-30, 2018)

We conclude the year with a professional Recital at the Gateway Theatre. Each class will perform a dance choreographed for them by their instructor. Family and friends are invited to attend this wonderful event that will showcase the accomplishments of each student! Please reserve the entire day for dance related activities! Additional dates in the weeks before the recital will be needed for Rehearsals and Photos as listed below.

The studio is closed the following days:

Tues Oct 31, 2017	Halloween
Tues Dec 19, 2017 – Fri Jan 5, 2018	Winter Break
Sun Mar 25 – Mon Apr 2, 2018	Spring Break–ONE WEEK!
Sun April 8 – Sun Apr 15, 2018	Peak Dance Competition
Tues May 8 – Sun May 13, 2018	Dance Power Competition

Other Important Dates:

Mon Feb 12, 2018	Family Day -Studio OPEN
Mon May 21, 2018	Victoria Day -Studio OPEN
TBA June, 2018	Cecchetti Ballet Exams
Sat/Sun June 9/10, 2018	Photo Day DG Richmond
Tues June 12, 2018	Photo Day DG S Surrey
Sun June 24, 2018	Dress Rehearsals
Thurs - Sat June 28-30, 2018	Tech Rehearsal & Recitals
Sun July 1, 2018	Canada Day Parade 😊

Office Hours - Richmond

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3:30pm-8:30pm
Saturday	9:45am-2:00pm

Office Hours - South Surrey

Mon/Wed	4:30pm-8:00pm
Thursday	4:00pm-8:00pm
Saturday	9:00am-2:00pm

Website, email & Student Information

This newsletter, along with all other important information, will be posted on the studio website. We send out studio updates via email. If you have not received an email from us, please email office@defygravitydance.ca to add your name to the list! If you have moved or changed contact info, please notify the office.

Thank You

A HUGE Thank You to all Defy Gravity families that have referred new students to the studio!! The greatest compliment we can receive is the referral of your family and friends. In recognition of your continued support of the studio, we continue to offer a \$20 referral credit for every new referred student registered.

We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year!

Rishell, Kristyn, Tamara, Amy, Carolyn, Riley, Kirsten, Adam, Taylor, Gillian, Emily, Meghann, Elyse & Shelly