



Abbott's Performing Arts Center

ON YOUR TOES

August 2006



Welcome to Abbott's Performing Arts Center. We know that is a mouthful-so we just call it APAC! This is our 19th year in business and are so happy that you have decided to join our dance family. My name is Paula Abbott Barry, and I am the owner and Artistic Director of the school. I am so excited about the team of wonderful dance teachers we will have on staff this year. Most of our teachers were one time APAC students, and liked it so much they have stuck around for YEARS! Ms. Kristen Vickers, Amy Pannagl, Traci Carpenter and Mrs. Christi Voag were long time APAC Dance Team dancers, and have been here since they were little girls. All went off to dance after graduation from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) here in Houston. You will hear a lot about this outstanding HSPVA, as we still continue the tradition of having our serious dancers, who hope to have careers in dance, attend there. We have had several of our dancers leave APAC and jump straight into professional careers. This year past June, we had Kyle Santolini graduate and he is now performing with Royal Caribbean. We have had lots of dancers dance with the cruise lines- what a great way to see the world when you are young- and perform and get paid! We are also so sad to see our graduating seniors go off to college, but we know they will be back. Kristen Stanley is dancing at Oklahoma City University, Page Leahy is dancing at SMU, Kelsey Johnston is off to Ole Miss, and Allysen Hooks is off to Julliard!! I am proud of all of them! One Day it will be your babies we will be seeing off to college- but let's not rush things!

We are also lucky to have Ms. Dawn Dipple, Allison Stanley, Jessica Thayer, Holly Stripling, Natalie Eramo, Lindsey Georgalas, Alison Richardson, Hillary Walker and Haley Link on staff again this year. Ms. Laura Stanley is our office manager- and she has just sent her dancer off to college- so after 14 years as an APAC mom- she can help you with ANY questions you may have! Someone is always at our desk M-F 4:30-7:30, and on Saturdays from 10-noon. Be sure to check out our outstanding staff on our website www.apacdance.com . We use this website A LOT- so be sure to check it for updates. This year, your recital info, and costume order forms are available to download from the website. We also send out our newsletters "On Your Toes" with important information. Please watch for notices to advice for you to check the website.

APAC DANCE TEAM WON THE TITLE OF GRAND NATIONAL SHOWCASE CHAMPIONS for the 7th YEAR IN A ROW!!!! It was pretty exciting and very unexpected. We had an outstanding showing at the Starbound National Talent Competition. You can check out the results at www.starbound.net after entering the site, click on NATIONALS, and then click on WINNERS, and click on San Antonio. WOW! WE SWEEP NATIONALS. It was pretty unbelievable how well we did. I'm very proud of our dancers, and hope they have another successful season. The dance team members are comprised of dancers between the ages of 8 (3rd grade) thru 18 years old. They are selected by audition in April. We attend several events throughout the year. Last year we even got to dance at the Comets Game at the Toyota Center- that was a blast!! If you are interested in becoming a competitor, let your teacher know!!

Kristen Stanley was selected as a “Future Star of Tomorrow” by Dance Spirit Magazine. Dance Spirit Magazine is a kid friendly, dancer publication and I highly recommend my serious dancers subscribe. Kristen will be pictured in the Oct. Issue. You can also pick up an issue at Barnes and Noble. Congrats to Kristen- we know you are already a STAR!

FYI: There is a phone in our studio lobby for the convenience of our customers. This phone does not ring for incoming calls, but you can make outgoing calls. Please limit these calls to 3 minutes. FOOD AND DRINKS are for sell in our vending area. We ask that food and drink be kept back in that kitchen area. It is not permitted in the dance rooms, hallways or lobby. Your cooperation is appreciated

We do not allow unsupervised kids in our hallway, lobby or kitchen area. Please keep all waiting siblings seated next to you and not running in the common areas. Please not coloring or jumping on the furniture!

Dancers are allowed to be dropped off 5 minutes before their class is to start, and are to be picked up no later than 5 minutes after class is over. **WARNING- OUR PARKING LOT IS QUITE BUSY AND DANGEROUS.** We would like all children to wait in the lobby until their parents arrive to pick them up. We DO try to watch all the kids, but occasionally one slips by us. PLEASE educate your child on the rules of staying in the lobby- until you arrive. If you are running late, just give the front desk a heads up, and we will have your child sit behind the desk until you arrive. If you will be longer than 5 minutes, you need to check with the front desk worker for their babysitting rates!

Our Business Hours are Mon-Fri 4:30-7:30pm, and Sat mornings from 10-12. Our business answering machine does not take messages. If you need to contact us, please call during business hours, or email us at apac@houston.rr.com

A REMINDER: We are strict with our older dancers (3rd grade and up) on our dress code- especially in ballet. Ballet is a strict discipline and steeped in tradition. Students are permitted to wear black leotards, pink tights NO BARE LEGS, SHORTS, OR T-SHIRTS are allowed. Hair MUST BE UP IN A BUN. We are counting on you parents to help support us in upholding this tradition, and help encourage their dancers to come to class dressed appropriately.

In addition to this newsletter, we are sending home info on our spring recital concert and costume order forms, and important dates and studio holiday sheet. Dress codes and a guideline for manners for dancers and dance parents. If your dancer doesn't make it home with this info- LET US KNOW ASAP!

A VERY SPECIAL Hello to all the new APAC dancers. We hope to see you all featured on our “STUDENT SPOTLIGHT” on the website in the future. Our staff is excited to welcome you. They are all wonderful dancers that come from performing backgrounds, and have all been teaching for several years. You can all rest assured that your dancers are being taught by qualified DANCE PROFESSIONALS, we have very low staff turnover rate at APAC. We are just one big happy family!

I know this is going to be a wonderful year. It will be our great pleasure to work with your kids and watch them grow into beautiful, artistic dancers and people! Here's to another great year!

LOVE YA KIDS~Ms. Paula