



# Steppin' Out SPOTlight

Steppin' Out Studio of Dance 12844 Coldwater Road, Suite D Fort Wayne IN 46845 260-637-9660

January, 2012

[www.steppinotstudioofdance.com](http://www.steppinotstudioofdance.com)



## Mark Your Calendar!

### Zumba® and Strength & Conditioning Classes:

Each Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. See article on Page 2 and registration form attached with this e-mail.

### Encore DCS Competition:

Friday-Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Fowlerville, Michigan (near Lansing).

**Spring Break:** Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>-Friday, Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on Monday, Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Hall of Fame Competition:

Thursday-Sunday, Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Columbus, Ohio.

### Last Day of Classes:

Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Recital:** Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> (Saturday Dress Rehearsal), Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday Dress Rehearsal and Saturday Recital), and Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sunday Recital).

### Parent Exit Interviews:

Monday-Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

### Hall of Fame National Competition:

Monday-Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. St. Charles, Illinois (near Chicago).

## Welcome Back From Winter Break!

I hope you are off to a great start in 2012! As we head into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the dance year, it's important for me to stress that students continue to have **regular attendance** in classes, as well as follow our **dress code**. Attendance is so important. Teachers are moving forward with technique work in each class and choreography for the recital. Dress code information can be found on our website, in our brochure, and our welcome letter that you received at the start of the dance year. It is imperative that all Ballet students show up to Ballet class in a leotard, tights, Ballet slippers, and hair pulled back. We do allow tight booty shorts or a Ballet skirt to be worn over a leotard.

I have ordered costumes for the recital. Your costume invoice will be sent out by e-mail later this month. Paper copies will also be available at the front desk. As in prior years, I order costumes in good faith that payment will be made by the last day of February. A late fee of 10% will be assessed on all unpaid costume bills after February 29, 2012.

Costumes will arrive after Spring Break — Competition costumes a bit earlier. The studio is not responsible for alterations. Costumes are not custom made, so they may not fit perfectly on each dancer. We typically do not have problems with costumes fitting properly, but I need to make you aware that alterations are the responsibility of each family.

The 2012 recital will be held at Carroll High School on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 3:30 p.m. A mandatory dress rehearsal for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> recital will be held on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> (late afternoon-evening), and a mandatory dress rehearsal for our June 3<sup>rd</sup> recital will be held Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 9 a.m. Both rehearsals will be held at Carroll High School. Each dance will perform in only one recital, with the exception of our production dances, which perform at both recitals. If your child is in more than one dance or you have more than one child dancing in the recital, I will do my best to schedule the dances on the same night. Please realize that it is impossible for me to accommodate all families with this, so if you have more than one dance performance in the family, they might be performed on different days. Please put the recital dates on your calendar. More information will be provided in future newsletters, and a recital information packet will be sent home with dancers in May.

As a reminder, the studio does not follow NACS for weather-related closings. Call the studio after 3 p.m. to see if the studio is open. If we are closed, we will have the message on our voice mail, as well as a note on the front door. The studio will keep the same nightly dance schedule, regardless of any 3-hour delay for NACS. We have students from several school systems and cannot accommodate one school system's delay schedule over another. For more information, refer to our studio closing policy that was first included in the December, 2011 newsletter, but is also Page 3 of this newsletter.

I wish you a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year! Thank you for your commitment to Steppin' Out!

Sincerely,

*Beth Berry*  
Beth Berry  
Studio Director

**Tuition Past-Due?** If so, be watching for an e-mail and phone call from us this month. Now that everyone has completed all adjustments to their class schedules — adding, deleting, or changing to different classes — we want to make sure our tuition records are accurate. If our records indicate that tuition is past-due, we will send you an e-mail detailing tuition due, payments received (with check #'s, etc.). We will also be making follow-up phone calls. If you have any questions, certainly give us a call or e-mail reply, and we will resolve any differences noted. Thank you!





## Studio Reminders

**Tuition is due the first week of each month.** A late fee of \$10 will be assessed if payment is not received by the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Tired of writing tuition checks every month?** Stop by the front desk to set up automatic monthly tuition payments...from checking or debit/credit card.

Please **DO NOT PARK** in the row of parking spots in front of the building across from the entrance to Steppin' Out. There are two offices that have business hours during the afternoon and evening.

**Help us keep the studio clean.** Please remind your dancers to clean-up after themselves if they have meals or snacks at the studio. Food wrappers and empty or partially-filled food and drink containers often don't make it to the trash cans. Let's get the year off to a good start by keeping wrappers and food OFF the floor. **THANKS!**

facebook

**Become our facebook friend!** Just type *Steppin' Out Studio of Dance* in the search bar on **facebook**, and you'll pull up our page. Then click *Like*. You can keep up to date on upcoming events and holiday breaks and more. We'll also be able to post when we're closed for severe winter weather, etc.



## New Zumba® and Strength & Conditioning Classes



If you haven't had a chance to join your friends at our **Zumba® Dance Party**, now is the time to start! We've had terrific response to our Zumba® classes that began January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Classes are offered Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. They're taught by two of our staff instructors, Brittney Coughlin and Felicia Bolinger -- both are certified Zumba® instructors. On Saturday morning after Zumba®, we also offer a Strength & Conditioning class.

All ages, male and female, are welcome! Come once, come twice, or as often as you like! We have several class-quantity packages to accommodate everyone's schedules!

Please look over the Zumba® flyer (attached with this e-mail), and see what works best for you! We love our dance families and want to show you how much you mean to us by offering you (parents and students) a 10% discount on your Zumba® and Strength & Conditioning classes.

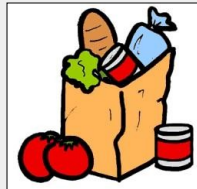
Dance your way into shape for 2012!



## February Food Drive at Steppin' Out

America is called the land of plenty, yet right here in our own neighborhoods there are families going hungry. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14.5% of American households do not have enough food to secure a healthy diet. This includes roughly 17 million children.

Due to government funding being reallocated, money that was once used for emergency food relief in Fort Wayne is down \$50,000. Therefore, the owners at Steppin' Out feel the need to help our community by holding a food drive during the month of February.



In 2010, we held our first food drive during November and December and collected nearly 450 food items. Some parents suggested that we wait until after the first of the year to do this, since schools and churches often do food drives during those months. We also learned that the food banks get far fewer contributions in the months following the holidays, so we thought now would be a better time for us to conduct our food drive.

Cans, jars, and boxed foods can be brought to the studio during regular studio business hours. We will have student volunteers help with sorting and boxing of all donations. And as we did in late 2010, Steppin' Out will match a dollar donation for every food item brought in.

Beth Berry, Brittney Coughlin, and Kris Laughlin ask that you consider helping those less fortunate and in need in our community. We hope you join us in this opportunity to be a blessing to others.

## Speaking of Food...We Now Have Some "HEALTHY" Snacks

New for 2012, we have some "healthy" snacks now in supply! Tangerines, sugar-free apple sauce, string cheese, Yoplait Gogurt®, and a variety of Quaker granola bars. All of these items are 50¢.

### Other Snacks Available at the Front Desk

Potato Chips/Cheetos/Sun Chips/Doritos/Bugles/Fritos	50¢
Fruit Roll-Ups and Fruit Snacks	50¢
Cheese Crackers with Peanut Butter or Cheddar Cheese	50¢
M&M Cookies	75¢
Skittles	75¢
Nutty Bars	75¢
Hershey Bars (with or without almonds)/KitKats/Reese's Cups	75¢
Bottled Water	\$1



## Weather-Related Closing Policy

Steppin' Out Studio of Dance **does not** follow Northwest Allen County Schools (NACS) for weather-related closings. Sometimes the schools close for overnight or morning snow or icy roads, but road conditions improve over daylight hours.

As a business, our goal is to remain open. However, the safety of our children is very important, so we will close the studio if we feel the roads are too dangerous to travel.

1. If schools are closed — or if schools are open, but the roads are becoming hazardous — we will make the decision to close the studio by 2:30 p.m. Please call the studio **after 3 p.m.** and listen to the voice message to see if we are closed. We also call the local television stations to have them post our closing. If you have “friended” Steppin' Out on **facebook**, you will also receive notification that the studio is closed.
2. In the event that the studio opens at 3:30 p.m. for afternoon classes, but the weather worsens later, we will give at least an hour notice before closing the studio. Please call the studio before heading out to make sure that we will be staying open. The local television stations will be notified, as mentioned in point #1, but when many businesses are contacting them, there may likely be a delay in getting our closing posted. We cannot have a set policy for closing the studio by a certain time because weather conditions vary and can change rapidly. Rest assured that we are monitoring local weather updates.
3. New this year to NACS is a 3-hour morning delay option. If NACS calls a 3-hour delay, the schools will stay in session an hour later. This will cause a problem for students in a 4:00 p.m. dance class. Fortunately, the studio only has seven classes throughout the week that begin at 4:00 p.m. Not all students in these classes attend NACS; therefore, we will begin dance classes at the regular time and ask that parents get their children to the studio as soon as they can. If a 4:00 p.m. dance class has been affected by a 3-hour delay two or more times, we will have a make-up class on a Friday in May.
4. If the studio has weather-related closings on the same day two or more times — for example, two Wednesdays — we will have a make-up day on a Friday in May and will follow that night's dance schedule. We will notify you about any make-up classes and times.

