

Things to know when Enrolling students at Over the Moon Yoga and Dance Studio

Basic Format of OTM (please visit our website www.overthemoonstudio.com for more detailed information about our program)

Over the Moon Studio was established in Castlemaine in 1990 by Edna Reinhardt.

It is a school of nearly 300 students who study a range of movement styles including yoga, creative dance, contemporary dance and ballet.

Each of these disciplines is taught by practitioners who are highly experienced and passionate about their art.

The teachers give their best to the class time and put in many extra hours of planning and choreography as well as their own professional development. (see the **about** page on OTM website).

Class sizes are limited to 10 student and parent in the 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 year old class

15 students in preschool classes with a teacher's assistant

16 students in all other classes.

Depending on the group there is at least one teacher's assistant in all prep to grade 4 classes.

Assistants in the school age classes are usually teenage students at OTM. They make corrections and demonstrate. They also act as young mentors for the younger students. We have found this to be a very beneficial model for supporting children.

There are no casual classes and students have to be officially enrolled to attend.

Performances

Since 1990 school aged students at OTM participate in an annual performance. Students who participate are from grade prep to year 12. Older students encourage and assist younger students. This performance is usually held on the weekend before the end of term 3. It is held at the Phee Broadway theatre and depending on the age of the students may take up the entire weekend; Friday through to Sunday. The OTM performances are of an exceptionally high standard and one of the joys of this event is the passion with which teachers, former students, parents and members of the community support this event. Teachers at OTM have an awareness of choreographing dances which are age appropriate. Music is chosen for its appropriateness for dance as well as part of a wider music education.

Parents are not expected to sew at all (unless they like to) but pay a performance levy for a small group of dedicated parents to refit and enhance past costumes as well as creating new ones.

Parents are expected to put in at least a couple of hours during at least one of the performances to supervise students backstage. There are 4 performances and 2 dress rehearsals in all.

The Phee Broadway Theatre is hired for 2 to 3 weeks prior to the performance to give students an opportunity to feel comfortable and at home on the stage. They attend classes and rehearsals there for the 3 weeks prior to the performance.

Students are encouraged to work hard and commit to the group and the project. There are several important artistic and life lessons associated with this. Students are encouraged to have an enjoyable experience of performing that is not judgemental about their skill level.

For many students since 1990, the OTM performances have had a profound impact on their understanding of performance and working with other kids and adults.

Punctuality

Punctuality in classes is important. Children who are late are disadvantaged by not getting the introduction and warm up to a well planned class. When a student arrives late, all eyes turn to the door for each late arrival. This can be disconcerting for all involved.

Focus

Teachers at O.T.M are passionate about the art and discipline of yoga and dance education.

Depending on the age range of the class we nearly always begin with a centring activity. With the teenagers we usually begin with yoga and with the younger students we do design followed by yoga.

We have found over many years that this enhances the quality of whatever activity we follow it with. There is an expectation that students are fully present once they walk into the studio space. It is an **integral** aspect of the culture of the school and it is a fantastic life skill. Whilst the ballet and contemporary technique classes don't formalise this in the same way, the expectation of mindfulness during the warm-up and throughout the class is there. Even though students will experience the class with their friends, there is little opportunity to engage on a personal level. The classes are about the experience of fully engaging in yoga and dance.

Dress code for classes:

Students need to have clean feet and clothing. Comfortable stretchy clothing such as leggings, track pants, leotards, shorts and t shirts are ideal. Jeans, denim shorts and belts don't work. Hair needs to be tied back off the face – stretchy headbands are excellent. If students are coming after school and likely to have dirty clothes some spare dancewear in the schoolbag is a good strategy.

Ballet students need black leggings, a sleeveless leotard, a black crossover and headband for girls. Boys need black leggings and a long or short sleeved t-shirt. Boys and girls need black ballet shoes. Parents should speak to their child's ballet teacher if unsure. In term 3, for our annual performance, school aged children are often asked to purchase: black leggings and t shirt for boys and black sleeveless leotard and leggings for girls. These are available at Target in Castlemaine.

Keeping children safe:

It is very important that adults take note of when classes begin and end. Teachers cannot take responsibility for students beyond class times. They are in the studio setting up, packing up or preparing for the next class. If you are dropping children off before a class begins it is important to make sure that care is assigned to a responsible adult. Note that there are many cars coming in and out of the little dirt road and there is a creek nearby.

Location:

OTM is located in a little brick church and weatherboard church hall on the corner of 30 Elizabeth St and Cunnock St in Castlemaine. The church is referred to as the front studio and the hall is the back studio.

Fees:

Families are invoiced prior to the beginning of each term. One terms fees are due at least one week before the beginning of term. Payment of fees confirms a student's spot in their class. If parents are unable to pay when fees are due, it is important that they e mail admin on admin@overthemoonstudio.com to discuss other arrangements. Students re enrol at the beginning of each year but don't need to contact us unless they wish to change classes or won't be attending in the following term. Because there are waiting lists on several classes, it is extremely helpful to have this information.

And Finally:

It is important to us that students enjoy the classes and have the best possible experience at OTM that they can. If you have any queries, please speak to your child's teacher or Edna Reinhardt e mail overthemoondance@bigpond.com Ph 0354705061. We hope you enjoy your time at Over the Moon.