Dear VDZ Team Families,

We hope you've had a wonderful start to the spring season at VDZ! As a reminder, Session 2 began earlier this week, so please be sure to register if you haven't already.

We have an exciting month ahead, including a photoshoot, in-studio performance, competition & convention, and a special workshop opportunity. Be sure to read below for all the details!

📣 Announcements

There are only a few spots remaining in our Alvin Ailey workshop with Christopher Wilson! This is an incredible opportunity for dancers to train with a member of one of the most renowned dance companies in the world!

Spots are limited – please email zwaandancestudio@gmail.com to reserve yours today!

Photo by Dario Calmese

Looking Ahead:

- Free Hip Hop Trial Classes with Harper Noonan
- Team Photoshoot
- Velocity Competition & Convention
- Senior Home Performance (November)

📅 Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

Please mark your calendar and keep an eye out for additional details as these dates approach.

April 12th: Alvin Ailey Workshop with Christopher Wilson
VDZ Studio | 9:45-10:40 AM (Ages 8-12) & 10:50-11:50 AM (Ages 13+)

April 12th: Hip Hop Trial classes with Harper Noonan
VDZ Studio | 10:15-11:05 AM (Ages 5-8) & 11:10-12:10 PM (Ages 9-12)

April 19th: Team Photoshoot
VDZ Studio | 9:5-11:15 AM

April 23rd: Studio Team Performance
VDZ Studio | 3:30-6:30 PM

May 1st - 3rd: Velocity Dance Competition & Convention
Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

May 14th: VDZ Team Auditions
VDZ Studio | 3:45-6:45 PM

June 13th: VDZ Showcase
El Cerrito High School

June 14th: VDZ Ballet Recital
El Cerrito High School

We encourage all families to review these dates carefully and plan ahead for a smooth season.

🕺 Hip Hop Trial Classes with Harper Noonan

We are excited to offer free Hip Hop trial classes this Sunday, April 12th with Harper Noonan!

These trial classes are full and as of now we don't accept new dancers

Class Details:

- Ages 5-8 | 10:15-11:05 AM ***FULL***
- Ages 9-12 | 11:10-12:10 PM ***FULL***

👕 Team Gear Update

We are currently preparing this season's team gear, which includes a jacket, top, and pants for each dancer. These items will be distributed prior to the Team Photoshoot and are **required for both the Team Photoshoot and the Velocity Dance Competition**.

Team Gear Details:

Jackets
Mini Team: Violet
Dream / Junior / Pulse Teams: White

Pants
All Teams: Black and White

Tops
Coordinated to match the jacket color

We look forward to seeing all dancers represent a polished, unified look that reflects the dedication we have for our program.

📸 Team Photoshoot

Our Team Photoshoot will take place on **April 19th from 9:30-11:30 AM** at the studio. Dancers should arrive on time and performance ready.

Hair and Makeup Guidelines:

- Hair: Sleek half-up half-down style with hair secured away from the face
- Makeup: Performance ready

During the shoot:

- Dancers will take group photos wearing full team gear
- Each dancer will also have an individual photo opportunity (jackets may be removed for solo shots)

We kindly ask dancers to warm up prior to their solo session to ensure safety and readiness. This day is not just about photos, but also about celebrating each dancer's hard work and capturing the spirit of our team.

🎭 Studio Team Performance

On April 23rd, we will host an in-studio performance for all VDZ Teams. This is a great opportunity for dancers to practice performing their routines in front of teammates, family, and friends!

Schedule:

- 3:30-4:00 PM: Warm Up for All Dancers
- 4:00-4:15 PM: Break
- 4:15 PM: Performance Begins

There will be a short break between pieces to allow dancers to watch and support one another.

Tentative Order:

- Fairy Doll - An's Solo
- Idea 22 - Dream Team
- The Chain - Junior/Pulse Team
- Wings - Mini Team
- Turning Tables - Modern Company
- House of the Rising Sun - Dream Team
- Wind It Up - Junior/Pulse Team

💃 Velocity Dance Competition

We are looking forward to attending the **Velocity Dance Competition & Convention from May 1st-3rd!**

As we prepare, please note the following information:

- Costumes are currently being finalized and a detailed checklist including all hair and makeup requirements will be sent in a separate email soon.
- The official schedule will be released approximately one week prior to the event.
- Families should plan to keep the **entire weekend available**, with a start as early as **Friday at 7:00 AM**.

Please note that the **convention is mandatory for all dancers who wish to compete**, so full weekend availability is required. If your dancer has a conflict, please notify the team coaches as soon as possible.

We appreciate your flexibility and support as we prepare for this exciting event.

🩰 Team Audition Information

Thank you for your understanding regarding a correction from our previous newsletter which had the incorrect audition date.

VDZ team auditions will take place on May 14th from 3:45-6:45 PM at the studio.

Audition Schedule:

- 3:45-4:45 PM Mini Team
- 4:45-5:45 PM Full out Team
- 5:45-6:45 PM Dream/Junior/All-Stars Team

We encourage all interested dancers to come prepared, confident, and ready to give their best effort. Auditions are a great opportunity to grow, challenge yourself, and be part of a team environment.

📲 End-of-Year Parent/Teacher Meetings

We are currently organizing our end-of-year parent/teacher meetings. Families will have the opportunity to select a convenient time slot during the scheduled meeting week.

While these meetings are not mandatory, they are encouraged for families who would like to discuss their dancer's progress, achievements, and goals for the future. We value open communication and look forward to connecting with you.

☀️ Summer Camps

Our summer camps will run from **June 15th - August 10th**. Families can view the schedule and register here: https://www.zwaandance.com/summer-camps.html

Team intensives (mandatory for team members who are in town):.

- Mini Team Intensive: June 15th - 19th
- Dream / Junior / Pulse Intensive: August 3rd - 7th

Ballet Camps:
Mandatory for all Select Ballet students and team dancers to maintain and strengthen technique over the summer months.

📱 Connect With Us!

Website: https://www.zwaandance.com/
Email: zwaandancestudio@gmail.com
Instagram: @vdz.dancestudio
TikTok: @vdzdancestudio
Facebook: Van Der Zwaan Dance Studio

Happy April,
Van Der Zwaan Dance Studio