

September 2008 Newsletter

WELCOME CLOGGERS!

We are excited to be starting this new year at a new location and are working very hard to get everything finished up as quickly as possible. For now we will be holding some classes across the parking lot where the Day Care was. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we finish up our remodel downstairs.

If any of you are handy with tools, please talk to Dan. He could really use the help!

*I know this is long, but it's like a **mini handbook** so please read it thoroughly and keep it for later reference.*

Class Expectations

- Be on time
- Wear comfortable clothes that can get dirty. We sit on the floor and your clothes and hands will get black. Competition teams may not wear jeans!
- Bring A Water Bottle.
- Come prepared to work hard and to have FUN!
- No Cell Phones in class. Please call the office at 398-8461 if you need to contact your child.
- No Food, Gum, Candy or Drinks other than water in class.

Parents-

- There will be no parents allowed in the classroom after the first week of class. It creates too many distractions.
- The last 5 minutes of the first class of each month is reserved for parents to come in and see your child's progress and to receive your newsletters.
- If you would like a video of the dances to help your child, please arrange a time with the teacher to come in and make a video tape.

Shoes-

- All competition team members need a good pair of leather clogging shoes. We now sell them so you don't have to go to Boise! We recommend Bloch or Sansha.
- All Rubies and Sapphires need a shoe with a heel PLEASE no tennis shoes at this level. You will begin learning buck and spending a lot of time learning to dance "on your toes" and it makes a HUGE difference in learning proper technique.
- We want to move away from using the tennis shoes as we are finding that they interfere with learning proper technique. If you are concerned about cost remember we have fundraisers through out the year to help. We've tried to get quality shoes at the best price possible.

<<CHECK OUT THE USED SHOE BOX>>

We have some used shoes for sale and there will be even more as others get new shoes. If you want to sell your shoes drop them off at the office and let them know how much you want for them. We are not responsible for lost or stolen shoes.

HAPPY CLOGGING!

Taps- If you are on a competition team you need to have Steven Stompers Buck Taps. Taps are \$16 installed. If you want to have your old taps switched over it is \$5 (we cannot switch taps on all shoes, especially if they've been glued).

T-Shirts I will be placing the t-shirt order at the end of September. Please order your shirts in the office. Shirts must be ordered by **Sept. 26th**. EVERYONE should have a Gem Cloggers t-shirt and should wear them to all performances. We want to show team pride and unity.

Fundraisers-Watch for information about upcoming fundraisers. Money can be used to pay for t-shirts, shoes, costumes and competition fees.

Billing- **It is your responsibility to make sure that your tuition is paid by the 15th of each month. We will only be mailing out bills if you have a balance owing. Late fees will be strictly enforced.** If there are discrepancies on your bill PLEASE contact us right away! If you could include a breakdown of what payments are for i.e. \$50 costume deposit, \$35 tuition, \$16.00 taps it would help us tremendously.

IF YOU PAY IN CASH PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU GET A RECEIPT!

Costumes- A \$50.00 costume deposit is due by the end of November for all teams except Rhythm Kids, Beginners and Tater Gems. Tater Gems will have a \$25.00 deposit. You are responsible for the actual cost of the costumes even if you don't continue clogging. The following is an *estimate* of costume costs.

Tater Gems-\$35-\$45-You will have 1 costume
Little Gems and Big Gems-\$45-\$55-You will have 1 costume
Rubies and Sapphires \$60-\$70-You will have a combo costume.
Competition Teams \$50.00-\$75.00 per costume. All teams will have at least 2 costumes.
We have had costumes run \$80.00-125.00 for Emeralds, Topaz and Diamonds.

IF YOU RENTED A COSTUME LAST YEAR PLEASE RETURN IT TO THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANY COSTUME NOT RETURNED BY SEPTEMBER 30th WILL BE BILLED AT THE FULL AMOUNT.

Remember these costumes belong to other cloggers that were generous enough to let us use them. Please show your gratitude by bring them back.

Newsletters- Newsletters come out the first week of each month. They will be handed out in class during the last 5 minutes so parents can get them directly from the teacher. The newsletter will always be posted at www.gemcloggers.com and there will be copies in the office if yours gets lost or doesn't make it home. It is your responsibility to make sure you know what is on the newsletter.

Website- www.gemcloggers.com Check out the website for the latest information.

We are happy to discuss with you any questions, comments or concerns that you may have, please call me at 398-8461 or 740-9588 (cell) or leave a message in the payment box. Since I will be teaching on both Tuesdays and Thursday I ask that you direct your questions to the office assistant or contact me outside of class times.

Thanks,
Leah and Dan Coffman

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Pre-competition/Competition Team Info.

RUBIES AND SAPPHIRES- We will again be taking the Ruby and Sapphire teams to competition in Boise. This is strictly voluntary. However we do need at least 3 members to make a team. You will compete 1 team dance in the Novice level and can do as many individual events as you would like. If you want to compete please sign up in the office and fill out a competition team contract. You will be required to attend 2 Saturday practices, one in January and one in February at a cost of \$5.00 each.

COMPETITION- Our first competition will be February 14th. We really need you all to work hard in class and Practice, Practice, Practice. If you don't know your dances by Christmas you will not be able to compete. I hate to even have this rule so please don't make me have to enforce it!

SOLOS (Rubies/Sapphires) - The All-Around Solos have been a fun new part of competition and are focused on improving certain skills at each level. There are five solos in each level and you are welcome to learn them all or just one. Pre-competition team members are encouraged to participate in ALL individual events at competition. This includes freestyle and a cappella. Our first competition is in Nampa so it is a fun, less expensive way to be introduced to competition.

SOLOS -Since we don't have time in class to cover individual events as much as we would like we encourage you to get private lessons and/or purchase the DVD from www.americaonstage.org for \$20. E-mail us at director@gemcloggers.com for our director's code to receive the discount.

Solos levels are the same as your freestyle level. If you don't freestyle it is the same as your team level. Rubies and Sapphires would be in the Novice or Beginning level. Once you receive **two** 1st place awards in a solo you can move up to the next level in that category only! Check out <http://www.americaonstage.org/AASolos/SoloProgram.htm> for more info.

Please review the team requirements on the back of your contracts!

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