



26 March 2024

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** **AVALON PUBLIC SCHOOL DANCE GROUPS 2024**

Avalon Public School Dance Committee

Dear Parents and Carers,

Your child has been invited to attend the next round of dance auditions for possible inclusion into the Avalon PS Dance Program. Please read the information below so you and your child are aware of the huge commitment required to be part of an Avalon Public School Dance Group.

### **How are the Avalon School Dance Groups selected?**

Children are selected for the Avalon Public School Dance Groups according to their individual talents and skills and the nature of the choreography that has been devised by the dance teacher in charge. Auditions are overseen by multiple teachers and are held at school to determine the group.

After an initial audition for any interested students, in Weeks 8 and 9 of Term 1, a smaller pool of students will be invited to a call back audition in Week 11.

### **Who are the dance teachers for 2024?**

Mrs Michelle Garrard (Years 3/4 and Years 5/6) and Mrs Matilda Heys (Years 1/2). Our dance teachers are classroom teachers with passion and expertise in dance. They fill their role as a dance educator for their dance group as a voluntary, extra-curricular task.

### **When do students perform?**

Dancers selected into Mrs Garrard's Primary Dance Groups will audition for inclusion in the Sydney North Dance Festival which is held over several days during the last few weeks of Term 2.

The 1-2 Group will perform later in the year at our Avalon Open Day and at other community events, such as a visit to Pittwater Palms.

All members **must** be available:

- for each in-school rehearsal during Terms 2 and 3
- Avalon Expo Day – Thursday, 12 September 2024

**Why are the numbers in each group limited?**

Numbers are limited by the size of the stage used for Expo Day. Maximum of 24 dancers in total per group (boys and girls).

**When do the children practice during Terms 1 and 2?**

- Year 1/2 Tuesday LUNCH (commencing Term 2)
- Year 3/4 Thursday LUNCH & Wednesday BEFORE SCHOOL (commencing Term 1)
- Year 5/6 Wednesday LUNCH & Thursday BEFORE SCHOOL (commencing Term 1)

Additional rehearsals may be called. Advance notice will be given to students. **As rehearsal time is very limited, families are asked not to schedule appointments or long weekends during these rehearsal periods (especially during Terms 2 and 3).**

**Is Dance part of the school curriculum?**

Dance is included in the Creative Arts curriculum of all students attending Avalon Public School and provides children with the exposure to dance and movement. All classes enjoy dance as part of the Creative Arts Key Learning Area.

**Is being a member of the Avalon Public School Dance Group a selective program?**

Yes. It is a selective and extension program for talented dancers, just like PSSA sport on Fridays. The children are selected on their individual talents and skills and their ability to work as part of a dynamic team.

**Is the membership of the Avalon Public School Dance Group guaranteed each year?**

Groups are re-selected and re-auditioned at the beginning of each year. *Membership during one year does not guarantee a position the following year.*

**What costs are involved in membership of the Avalon School Dance Group?**

The cost involved in 2024 for the infants group is estimated to be \$50.00 which covers costuming.

Footwear and makeup costs are additional and dependent on each group's individual requirements. This amount is payable on acceptance of the offer of a place in the group for 2024.

**Does my child need to wear makeup for performances?**

Yes. Dancers will be required to apply stage makeup for performances. This includes foundation, blush, eyeliner, mascara and lipstick. Stage makeup is essential as stage lighting is very harsh on the dancers skin and dancers look washed out without it. Parent helpers apply the eyeshadow and lipstick for each performance.

**Does my child need to wear their hair as specified by the teacher for performances?**

Yes. Whether the requirement is for the dancers hair to be curled, in a bun, in a high ponytail or braided, this is to be done by the parent at home BEFORE arriving to performances. The teachers usually send a hair tutorial video for the parent to copy.

Please consider the above points before the audition process is finalised in Week 11, Term 1.

We hope to see your child at the auditions!

Michelle Garrard  
Dance Coordinator

Matilda Heys  
1-2 Dance Teacher

Lisa Weber  
Deputy Principal