

THE TEELIN TIMES

COLUMBIA – MILLERSVILLE – TIMONIUM

APRIL 2010

Maureen Gately, TCRG

Owner / Director
maureen@teelin.com
443-629-7808

Kathleen Young, TCRG

Owner / Business Manager
kathleen@teelin.com
443-414-4144

Molly Nilan, TCRG

molly@teelin.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

info@teelin.com

443-629-7808

www.teelin.com

Performances available by the

Teelin Irish Dance Company

performances@teelin.com

443-803-6853

Dance Classes at 3 Locations:

Teelin School of Irish Dance

9160 Red Branch Road, Suite E-3
Columbia, MD 21045

Teelin Classes in Millersville

Stage Workz

1035 Benfield Blvd, Suite E
Millersville, MD 21108

Teelin Classes in Timonium

Megan Rich Physical Therapy
9492 Deereco Road
Timonium, MD 21093

Please do not send mail to
studio addresses. Business
correspondence may be sent to

Teelin
1 Class Court
Parkville, MD 21234



SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

I am so proud of our dancers for this year's very successful Teelin Spring Show! Many thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers... we could not have done this without you, and I am extremely grateful!

This has been a very busy year at Teelin this year. As much as we all love the annual Teelin Festival in May, this year has just been a bit too busy to be able to prepare for the festival appropriately. Therefore, the 2010 Teelin Irish Dance Festival has been cancelled.

Since the festival typically serves as an introduction to "feising", this re-written issue of our April newsletter includes information helpful to dancers and parents who are not yet familiar with Irish dance competitions. We have also designated the week of May 9-13 as "feis week". All Beginner through Level 2 classes will be run as a "feis practice class" and parents are invited to observe in order to learn more about competitions.

One more issue of this newsletter (May/June) will be published next month as we wrap up the school year. Until then... Happy Spring!

~Maureen

CONSIDERING COMPETITIONS

The following excerpts are taken from "Feiseanna 101". The article in its entirety (and many other helpful resources) may be found at www.teelin.com, within the Teelin School section, under "feis info".

WHAT IS A FEIS? (AND HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE THAT?!)

The Gaelic word feis (pronounced "fesh") means festival, but is more commonly used to describe a sanctioned Irish dance competition. A feis is a gathering of dancers for competition, each representing various Irish Dance Schools. Dancers perform in front of a judge (or judges) to live music.

A REVIEW OF IRISH DANCE TERMINOLOGY

A **step** is a series of Irish dance moves choreographed to fit a certain musical cadence. In Irish dance, a step has two sections: a **right foot** section and **left foot** section. Each foot is danced to eight bars of music; therefore each step is 16 bars.

To begin competing, a dancer must be able to perform two full steps of a dance. Steps are choreographed for each category of dance: **reel**, **light jig**, **slip jig**, **treble jig**, and **hornpipe**. There are many steps of each dance.

Irish dance steps are performed in **soft shoes** and/or **hard shoes**. Beginners are first taught in soft shoes. The soft shoe dances taught at Teelin (in progression of difficulty) are: reel, light jig, and slip jig.

As dancers progress to hard shoes, treble jigs and hornpipes are taught. These dances are first taught to traditional speed music. More advanced dancers will then learn treble jig and hornpipe steps at slower tempo music, which allows for more complicated footwork.

Traditional set dances have specific traditional choreography performed to a specific tune. Advanced dancers will also learn **treble reels** and **non-traditional set** dances (which have teacher-created choreography performed to a set tune).

HOW ARE IRISH DANCE COMPETITIONS JUDGED?

A judge marks scores for each dancer's technique, timing, poise and presentation, and then

THE TEELIN TIMES

Published monthly by
Teelin School of Irish Dance

Questions, comments? Want to submit a story? Send an email to info@teelin.com.

Dance Studio Reminders:

Please arrive for class on time, dressed appropriately.

Bring a water bottle (or purchase one for \$1 from the lobby at Columbia studio).

No chewing gum.

No sitting during class. If you're on the floor, you should be stretching!

No hanging on the barre.

No long or baggy pants. Teachers must be able to see your knees.

Please respect the studio space.

Collect all belongings, remove litter, use recycling bins where available.

Inclement Weather/ Emergencies:

If weather is questionable, please call 443-629-7808 to hear the school message. Notice will also be posted on the website ASAP. **We will not always follow the public school closures.** Make-up classes for any closures will be scheduled as necessary.

Absence:

If you miss a class, you may attend another class at the same level (or a level below), with permission from the instructor of that class.

Stay Informed!

1. Keep us updated with your current email address. Send changes to info@teelin.com.
2. Visit www.teelin.com often for news and updates.
3. Read and use the Teelin School Message Board!

Dancers, are you addicted to the joy of Irish Dance?! You may want to consider one or both of these opportunities...

DANCE COMPETITIONS

A **feis** (pronounced "fesh") is an Irish dance competition. Competing is a great way to focus on improving your technique. Learn more on the website at www.teelin.com...

PERFORMANCE COMPANY

Love to perform? Keep practicing!! And then consider auditioning for the **Teelin Irish Dance Company!** Learn more at www.teelin.com...



**Dance, dance,
wherever you may be!**

awards placement proportionate to the number of entries and to the degree of proficiency shown. Judging is somewhat subjective; results will vary.

Basic Irish dance skills include (but are not limited to):

Good timing (meaning the dance movements match the rhythm of the music).

Pointed toes with arched feet.

Legs crossed (so that it looks like one knee is hiding behind the other) and legs turned out (so that it looks like the feet are pointed away from each other).

Upright upper body carriage with arms straight at the dancer's sides, chin level, eyes forward, head evenly balanced atop relaxed neck and shoulders.

Graceful and energetic movement, including high elevation on the toes and snappy legs which kick the dancer's bum if crossing from behind to in front or vice versa.

Well-executed jumps which incorporate all of the above principles, and an overall sense of "lift" throughout a dance.

Confident and pleasant affect. (SMILE!)

For each event, a dancer must perform two steps in sequence. At a feis, competitors will dance two or three at a time, and will typically be lined up next to dancers from other schools. Therefore, competitors will not be performing the same steps as the dancer(s) next to them on stage.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION – AN IMPORTANT NOTE TO DANCERS

Irish dance is a very athletic sport. But unlike many traditional sports, dance is a performance art. Teelin offers many opportunities to nurture and encourage our students' artistic development. Competing at a feis is one such opportunity.

It is important to remember that Irish dance competitions are not simply attempts to win medals or trophies – they are a celebration of Irish culture through the expression of music and dance.

Dancing at a feis is exciting, and many dancers truly enjoy the discipline that is required to develop their dancing to a competitive level. However, all dancers (and their parents!) are advised to keep their competitive drive in check. Even the most skilled dancer is not going to compete well if s/he is not having fun. Dancers, remember to allow the performer in you to shine and to ENJOY the time on stage!

PERFORMANCE COMPANY

There are a few positions open for the 2010-11 Teelin Irish Dance Company. Auditions will be held on Friday, May 7, at the Teelin studio in Columbia. Please see the website for times and more information about eligibility for these auditions.

The Teelin Irish Dance Company is an elite performance team, not a competition team. But did you know that competing can help to improve your readiness for company auditions?! By competing, dancers have increased opportunities to perform onstage, and additional resources for feedback (from judges) regarding dance technique. Participating in competitions can be great motivation for dancers to learn the self-discipline required of advanced level dance training.

THINGS TO DO... PLACES TO GO... PEOPLE TO SEE...

Check www.teelin.com for updated information and for the **Teelin Irish Dance Company** performance schedule.

5/7/2010 – Auditions for Teelin Irish Dance Company

5/9-13/2010 – "Feis Week" – introductory feis class in all Beginner through Level 2 classes

5/30/2010 – Comhaltas Irish Dance Festival (aka the "CCE Feis") in Emmitsburg, MD – this is a great opportunity to observe a large feis. Volunteers needed, please consider getting involved!

5/30 & 31/2010 – No Classes (Memorial Day weekend)

6/3/2010 – Last day of Teelin classes for the 2009-10 school year

Have you registered for a Teelin Summer Camp yet?!? Registration forms available online...