

THE TEELIN TIMES

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

SEPTEMBER 2011

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

Lead Teacher for Champion
Program and Figure Teams
molly@teelin.com
301-332-7728

Eileen Narvell

Volunteer Coordinator
eileen@teelin.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

info@teelin.com
443-629-7808
www.teelin.com

Performances available by the
Teelin Irish Dance Company
Colleen Woodcock, Manager
performances@teelin.com
443-803-6853

Teelin School of Irish Dance
9221 Rumsey Road
Columbia, MD 21045

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

Teelin
1 Class Court
Parkville, MD 21234



SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Welcome to a new year at Teelin! The other teachers and I look forward to reconnecting with our returning students and getting to know our new students.

This newsletter will provide brief articles of interest and reminders of upcoming events. Our main source of communication to our dancers and their families, however, is through email and the website, www.teelin.com. Please visit the website frequently.

Thanks for being part of the Teelin family! We look forward to a great year!

~Maureen

TEELIN UPDATES & REMINDERS

Gee, where have you seen that title before?! As we begin the new school year, here's an overview of what's new, plus a few reminders...

Student Handbook – new!

Hot off the presses!! (Well, figuratively speaking....) The new Student Handbook is a compilation of answers to frequently asked questions. This pdf file has been sent to all Teelin families by email, and is also available online from the school website. Please read it! This is the first Student Handbook that Teelin School has published; constructive feedback or suggestions for improvements are welcome.

New Studio

Teelin moved into our current studio space in May 2011. Many thanks to Katie and Matt Bartel for decorating, to Colleen Woodcock for the beautiful murals, and to Shawn Stratmann and Catherine Pelura for the amazing photography on the walls!

Homework Zone

The room with the tables in it is the "Homework Zone" or reading room. Dancers who are

This article continues on the next page...

WHAT DOES "TEELIN" MEAN?

As the mother of three young girls, Brigid Berry spent countless hours driving her three daughters Eileen, Maureen, and Kathleen to Irish dance lessons, practices, feiseanna (competitions), and performances. (Sound familiar, parents?!) Years later, when Maureen had the opportunity to establish her own school of Irish dance, she decided to honor her mother by using the name of Brigid's birthplace, the village of Teelin, Co. Donegal.

Teelin (*Teileann*) is a small coastal village in the northern part of Ireland well known for its unspoiled beauty. Teelin has a rich tradition of music and song; it is also one of Ireland's unique *Gaeltacht* (Irish speaking) regions. The village lies on the west side of Teelin Bay where a rough road, called pilgrim's path, leads to Carrigan Head and Bunglass, the starting point of Slieve League (*Sliabh Liag*).

The cliffs of Slieve League are the highest maritime cliffs in all of Europe. They rise 2,000 feet above the crashing Atlantic Ocean. (Think of that powerful sound when you're dancing hard shoe steps!) Some say that on a clear day you can see a third of all of Ireland from the summit of these spectacular, colorful sea cliffs.

The village of Teelin has been called "*Teileann an tSeanchias agus an Cheoil*", which means "Teelin of Tradition and Music". Here in Maryland, we connect ourselves to those roots through the expression of dance - bringing music to life.

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Questions, comments? Want to submit a story? Send 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.

No chewing gum.

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

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

Please respect the studio space. Collect all belongings, and remove litter.

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.**

Absence:

If you miss a class, you may attend another class at the same level (or a level below), with advance permission. Send an email to kathleen@teelin.com to request a make-up class.

Stay Informed!

1. Keep us updated with your current email address. Log in to your family's account through the online registration system to make any necessary changes.
2. Visit www.teelin.com often for news and updates.
3. Read and use the Teelin School Message Board.

Get involved!

Teelin is dedicated to developing a family friendly environment with a strong sense of community by hosting events that promote Irish culture through dance and music. Send email to eileen@teelin.com to volunteer!

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

When positions are open, advanced level students may audition for the **Teelin Irish Dance Company**. Learn more at www.teelin.com...



Dance, dance,
wherever you may be!

...continued from previous page – **Teelin Updates & Reminders**

at the studio for extended periods of time use this space to attend to their academic studies between their dance classes. Please be quiet in this room and respect each other.

Free Wifi!

Did you know that we have internet access at the Teelin studio?! No password required. Look for "BelkNWireless..." (followed by some numbers) in your network signal.

Student Account Access

Please keep your contact info up to date, and also use this access to check on the status of your account balance.

Absence / Make-Up Policy

Attendance is being taken in each class. If a student misses a class and would like to attend an alternate class as a make-up, please send a request by email to kathleen@teelin.com. Include the student's name, date/class/reason of missed class, and requested date/class for attending a make-up class. Make-ups are discouraged in "level classes" during February, March & April due to class preparations for the Spring Show.

School Message Board and Facebook

Looking for carpool options to a feis or to classes? Heard about a great event that other Teelin families might enjoy attending? Please use the School Message Board! You'll find the link in the "student info" section of our school website.

For even more networking opportunities, become a fan of Teelin School on Facebook!

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.

9/6/2011 - First Day of classes for 2011-12 Teelin school year

9/9/2011 - Fall Pnt Perf Class begins (11 weeks, ends Nov 18)

- N/PW/Ch Drills Fall 1 begins (6 weeks, ends Oct 14)

9/17/2011 - Baltimore Feis (Brooklyn Park, MD) - if you're not competing, this is a good local feis to observe. Shoe vendors (both Fays & Rutherford) are there if you need to buy new shoes!

10/5/2011 - first day for Adult Beginner Class

10/12/2011 - Fall Tiny Toes begins (6 weeks, ends Nov 16)

10/21/2011 - N/PW/Ch Drills Fall 2 begins (5 weeks, ends Nov 18)

10/31/2011 - Halloween - NO CLASSES

11/1/2011 - Note: Any student unable to perform in the Spring Show must inform Teelin administration in writing by November 1, 2011.

11/14-17/2011 - Parent Week - observations welcome!

11/19/2011 - Teelin Ceili - save the date! More info coming soon...

11/22-25/2011 - FALL BREAK (note that Monday classes are held as scheduled)

12/1/2011 - Second Installment of Tuition Due

12/2-4/2011 - Southern Region Oireachtas, held in Orlando, FL

12/19/2011 – 1/1/2012 - WINTER BREAK

1/6/2012 - Wntr/Spr Pnt Perf Class begins (note specific dates)

- N/PW/Ch Drills Winter begins (5 weeks, ends Feb 3)

2/11/2012 - StepDance 7pm show in Columbia, MD

2/25/2012 - StepDance 2pm show in Frederick, MD

3/1/2012 - Final Installment of Tuition Due

3/2/2012 - N/PW/Ch Drills Spring begins (5 weeks, ends Apr 20)

3/7/2012 - Spring Tiny Toes begins (6 classes + Spring Show)

3/11/2012 - Baltimore Parade & Teelin Party (date to be confirmed...)

3/16/2012 - NO CLASSES due to St Patrick's Day performances

3/17/2012 - Happy St Patrick's Day!

3/19-23/2012 - "Feis Week" in Beg-Lev 3 Classes

4/1-8/2012 - World Irish Dancing Championships (Belfast)

4/2-13/2012 - SPRING BREAK (2 weeks)

4/16-20/2012 - Costume Check & Photos in classes

4/27/2012 - Dress Rehearsals at Jim Rouse Theatre

4/28/2012 - TEELIN SPRING SHOW (1:00pm & 5:30pm)

5/28/2012 - Memorial Day - NO CLASSES

6/1/2012 - Last day of classes for 2011-12 Teelin school year