



Ayako School of Ballet
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Happy New Year!

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you had a restful holiday break, and were able to enjoy some time with your families.

With the start of the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the mothers, fathers, siblings, caretakers and grandparents who make the effort to bring ASB students to classes, rehearsals, competitions, performances and events. Without you, these ballerinas would not have the opportunity to thrive, socialize and...dance!



I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year! With love and kindest regards,

~ Ayako

2009 Nutcracker

This year's performance of the Nutcracker was a huge success. Thanks to all of the dedicated and generous



individuals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, the Peninsula Youth Ballet celebrated its 15th annual Nutcracker this year.

The Nutcracker is not only a joy for the dancers and the families of dancers, but we also provide our community with a heart-warming production of a holiday classic. This is something that we can all be proud of. The performance is an annual highlight for the Ayako School of Ballet, and we are so pleased with the enthusiastic outcome. This year, we had a record number of guests in our audience, coming from far corners of the Bay Area and beyond! We are hoping that word will spread, and more people will be able to come and enjoy our show next year.



THANK YOU to the dancers, stage manager and crew, parent and friend volunteers, board members, and the many more individuals who make this magical production a reality. We couldn't have done it without you! Until next year...

Competition

Planning for the 2010 competition season is underway. ASB did an amazing job at Youth America Grand Prix (Regional and Final in New York), American Dance Awards, International Dance Challenge and Star Quest. Congratulations once again to all participants! With the growing level of technique, artistry and stage presence, ASB students are sure to have another wonderful season.



Important Notes:

- Parent Meetings are scheduled for **IPM on January 10th** at the ASB studio. Ayako will discuss which competition we should pick this year.
- Rehearsals for new solos and duos will start soon, as well. Times/dates TBA.
- Rehearsals for new group numbers will begin mid-February. Please sign up in the front lobby so that you will be included in the cast.

Please note that we have added a Jazz class on Saturdays, so an updated Spring Schedule will be sent out within the week. The updated schedule can also be found on our website www.ayakoschool.com.

2010 Bravo and Showcase

Peninsula Youth Ballet's annual **BRAVO** performance will be on **June 5, 2010** at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. This year, Bravo will consist primarily of company level dancers (Level 5+ ASB students).

"Giselle" and other concert pieces are being planned for this year's Bravo. Pre-ballet through Level 4 students are highly encouraged to attend this show.

New this year:

We are offering any ASB student (who does not participate in BRAVO and attends with a paying adult) complimentary admittance.

We hope to see you there!

The annual **ASB SHOWCASE** will be on **June 6, 2010** at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. This show is designed to give Pre-ballet through Level 8 students a chance to further their dance education, by performing "class dances." You will receive registration form for ASB Showcase in January. **Please let us know if you will be participating as soon as possible.** With your registration form, please provide a participation fee in the amount of \$60.00 and a costume deposit fee of \$60.00. These are fees that assist costume, theater, choreography and stage crew fees, among others.

We kindly thank you for your payment and for your continued support throughout the years so that we may put on this great performance that showcases the talented students of ASB.

Prix de Lausanne



Ayako School of Ballet is extremely proud to announce that one of their Students, **Dominique Larose**, has been invited to participate in the 2010 Prix de Lausanne. It is a great honor to be given the opportunity of being a part of one of the world's most prestigious dance competitions. The competition is from January 26 - January 31st in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Dominique is one of 81 young dancers representing 21 different nationalities that were finally selected. She is 15 years old and has been a dancer since the age of three. For the past nine years she has been dancing under the direction of Ayako Takahashi. She is very excited and honored to be invited to the Prix de Lausanne. Both Mariko and Ayako Takahashi are thrilled to join Dominique's mother Frances in supporting Dominique in Switzerland.

We congratulate Dominique on this amazing learning experience and great opportunity to demonstrate her skills among the world's best young dancers. Good luck, Dominique!