

ARDÁN ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Monday: 6, 13, 20

Tuesday: 7, 14, 21, 28

Wednesday: 1, 8, 15, 29

Thursday: 2, 9, 16, 30

Friday: 3, 10, 17

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Monday: 4, 11, 18

Tuesday: 5, 12, 19

Wednesday: 6, 13, 20

Thursday: 7, 14, 21

Friday: 1, 8, 15, 22

****Classes will resume 1/8/18****

A BOOST FROM THE BOOSTER CLUB

November is a very busy month for our dance school. Classes are underway and Oireachtas practice is in full swing! In fact, there are just a few weeks left to perfect dances for the big competition. Come and see what the students will be performing at Oireachtas at our Fall Fundraiser, this Saturday night, November 4, in Redford at the AOH. It will be a sensational night of Irish entertainment. The band Seacht will be performing and there will be several dance shows. We have Red Wing tickets to raffle, 50/50 and Tin Can Auction items. There will be food and beverages to purchase. This is a great night to invite friends and family to see your dancer perform! If you are new to Ardán, come see what may lie in store for your family. There will be championship dancing as well as performances by our World Qualifiers.

If you have items for the tin can auction - please contact me - Katie Cosgrove.

This fall fundraiser benefits the scholarship fund, which is used to give grants to dancers attending Worlds. At the 2017 Worlds in Dublin, grants were given to Kim Bell, Emily Wheeler, Michaela Cosgrove, Brianne Cleary, Scarlett Priebe and Melanie Mark. At the end of this newsletter of which I hope you read thoroughly, please find thank-you letters from our recipients. Without support of the fundraising, the BC would not be able to help send our dancers to compete. Thank you ahead for your attendance and participation!

Our next BC meeting is December 2 at the Gaelic League in Detroit at 10am. We will have elections! Please join us! At 1pm is our Ardán Christmas party. The party is free for all BC members and a small charge for non-members (so join today!!) Please bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to Matrix. Please also bring a dish or snack to share. There will be plenty of food, fun and photo opportunities with a jolly Elf!

A-L bring an appetizer
M-Z bring a dessert



*“Practice like you’ve never won.
Perform like you’ve never lost.”*

-Unknown

BOOSTER CLUB CALENDAR

- **Nov 4, 2017** Fall Fundraiser at the AOH (note location!) Oireachtas dancers will be performing. This event supports our scholarship/grant program. Doors open at 7pm and dancing starts at 8pm.
- **Nov 18, 2017** Oireachtas practice in Grand Rapids
- **Dec 2, 2017** AAIDBC final 2017 meeting with board elections and Christmas party 1pm-4pm
- **Jan 7, 2018** Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at the AOH benefiting the grant fund- all families welcome!
- **Jan 27, 2018** Winter Trivia night. This fun adult night WILL sell out so start planning your teams now!
- **Mar 3, 2018** Spring fundraiser benefiting the grant fund is held at Blossom Heath in St. Clair Shores. You can't get entertainment like this anywhere else so make sure you invite everyone you know.
- **Mar 11, 2018** Detroit SPD Parade (tentative)

OIREACHTAS PRACTICE – NOVEMBER 4

Remember - Oireachtas practice this Saturday will be held from 12-3pm at the Taylor Studio. This should leave ample time for all of our dancers and their families to arrive at the AOH by 7pm for the Fall Worlds Fundraiser!

OIREACHTAS 2017 KIDS / TEEN DANCES

The Kids Party is for dancers (and siblings!) of the U13 age group and younger. This party will be held on Friday, November 24th from 6:30-8:30pm. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased through Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/candy-land-extravaganza-mid-america-oireachtas-kids-party-tickets-38407320329?aff=utm_source%3Demail%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text.

The Teen Party is for dancers of the U14 age group and older. This party will be held on Friday, November 25th from 8:30-11pm. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased through Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-my-kind-a-town-mid-america-oireachtas-teen-party-tickets-38408763646?aff=utm_source%3Demail%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text.

Families should know that we do *not* plan on selling tickets at the door. Please pre-purchase your tickets through Eventbrite. If you have any questions, please direct them to Alyssa Harling, at rince1@aol.com.

PERFORMANCE CLASS TRY-OUTS

It is that time of year again – Performance Class Tryouts! Please see each respective team's scheduled tryouts below. If you are planning to tryout, **contact the office via email for the forms and to RSVP** for the tryout.

Grand Rapids Performance Class – December 13 at 7pm – Grand Rapids Studio

Performance Class 1 – December 13 at 6pm – Taylor Studio

Performance Class 2 – December 20 at 6:30pm – Grosse Pointe Studio

REMINDER TO OIREACHTAS DANCERS

Practice has begun for those dancers attending the Oireachtas this year at the Taylor Studio. Practice will be from 10am – 1pm. Ceili team practice will be held from 9am – 10am. The cost of class will be \$250.00 per dancer (solo and ceili) – this



COST OF DANCE SHOES

Standard Soft shoe - \$70

Innis Hard Shoe - \$120

Pacelli Hard Shoe - \$175

Please note that listed prices include MI sales tax and shipping.

DRESS CLEANING

Have your dress cleaned inside and out for only \$30.00 by Jeanenne Gallagher! Interested? Contact Jeanenne at (734)355-5006

CONTACT US

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W: www.ardanacademy.com

will also include your entry fee. Classes will be held in Taylor every week with the exception of November 18th – which will be held in Grand Rapids (more info to come). If you have any questions please contact the office via email or by phone.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

This is a reminder to our dance families that it is time to pay off any outstanding account balance. We are starting the 2017/18 dance year and need to settle any bills – our own included!

We enjoy sharing our gift of culture and dance with all of our students and need the economic support necessary to continue to do so. If you have any questions regarding your account or balance, please contact the school via email or by phone.

ARDÁN SPIRIT WEAR

It's time to order your Ardán spiritwear! We will be offering short sleeve t-shirts and tanks with the "Train Insane..." phrase on back. Also, new this order are black with "Irish Dancer" on one leg, drawstring tie-dye tote bags, 1/4 zip sweatshirts and the much requested Ardán jackets for boys/men/dads! Order forms with pictures will be coming soon! Watch Facebook for online order forms! There will be a limited quantity of forms at your studio. If you're not part of the FB group, request to join Ardán Academy (the closed group - needs the accent on a - someone will approve you within a day or two). We've also got a public promotional page. Please LIKE Ardán Academy (without the accent in the a) if you have not done so yet. Thank you for supporting your dancer, Ardán and the Booster Club!

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT THE SPIRITWEAR](#)

ACADEMY FEIS

The Academy will be hosting a winter feis on January 21, 2018. The feis will be held in Columbus, Ohio. More information on this to come – but be sure to save the date! **Entries are now open for this feis!**

A NOTE FROM YOUR SCRIPT CORDINATOR

Dear Ardán Families,

Giving thanks for great rebates this fall! Thank you to all those who have been using Scrip, earning money for your AAID Booster Club and saving money on Ardán Spiritwear, Oireachtas and Nationals fees, and private lessons. It is always a pleasure distributing rebates! The next rebate distribution will be January 2018.

Over the river and through the woods we go, not only to Grandma's, but to Oireachtas! Many of us will be traveling to Chicago and stopping to fill up our tanks. With the recent news of credit and debit card security breaches being exposed, why not buy your favorite gas cards from Scrip instead. No worries about having your sensitive information stolen from the pump when you use Scrip cards. Many gas cards even offer the reloadable option, making it easy to budget your gas expenses.

There have been many questions regarding the shipping of physical card orders. All orders, regardless of amount, cost Ardán \$8.50. In an effort to bank as much of our rebates as possible, I will send orders to be filled when we have enough to cover that cost. Thank you for your consideration and understanding. The easiest and fastest way to receive your Scrip is by purchasing ScripNow (when available) and paying with PrestoPay. Please contact me if you have questions about using either of these great tools.

Please find me at the upcoming Annual Fundraiser November 4th. I will be available to take your holiday orders and will have Scrip physical cards on hand for purchase.

Thank you again for your continued support of the AAID Booster Club Scrip Program!

Cyndy Neil-Wierenga Scrip
Coordinator AAID Booster Club 616
502-1389
ardanscrip@gmail.com

LETTERS FROM OUR GRANTEES

MELANIE MARK

Thank you so much for all of the support and love you have given me over the years in pursuing my goals. All of the money raised has truly been such a blessing, and I am so grateful that I was fortunate enough to be one of the grant recipients for this past year.

For those of you who don't know, I have been dancing for about 17 years. I have attended 5 Mid America Oireachtas Championships, 3 National Championships and 2 World Championships. This past World Championship I recalled, placing 39th in the World, my greatest dance achievement so far. This was a significant improvement from going to the World's in Montreal in 2015 and not even recalling. The biggest difference from both World competitions was the mindset that I went into the competition with. This past year, I tried to not put unneeded pressure on myself and kept telling myself to just perform the dances the way I know I can. I finished with 3 rounds I was happy with and could not have asked for a better dance day. For me, that is a feeling that is irreplaceable and I am so happy I got a 2nd opportunity to show the world what I can do.

Besides dancing, I was able to do some sightseeing in Ireland with my family. This included, touring downtown Dublin and visiting the renowned Temple Bar. I was also able to do some day bus tours to the Cliffs of Moher and all around County Clare. I finished off the trip with a tour of Galway, which happened to be my favorite place of them all. I even was lucky enough to dance at bar there with a live Irish band (an Irish dancer's dream). Being able to visit new parts of Ireland was amazing and such a wonderful way to finish off the trip (especially since my 21st birthday was in the midst of it all!).

Advice I would give to up and coming World's competitors is to not for a second doubt your abilities. You earned your place on the World stage for a reason and no one can take that opportunity away from you. Don't lose sight of the reason you started Irish dance, and most importantly, dance with your heart and that will show through to everyone watching you. I have learned that nothing in Irish dance comes easy, but the journey that it takes to accomplish your goals is one of the best parts. Enjoy it!

Thank you all so much again!

Sincerely,
Melanie Mark

KIM BELL

First of all I would like thank the Booster Club for all that you do to support the dancers. It is all of your hard work and dedication to fundraising that makes it possible for us dancers to do what we love. It's not an easy road to get to be a world championship qualifier, but your support makes it a little bit easier!

I am so honored to have traveled to Dublin, Ireland this past Easter to compete at the 2017 Irish Dancing World Championships. I always thought that nothing would come close to the feeling I had competing at my first Worlds, but I think this year's Worlds surpassed it. This year I was able to train as hard as I could and most importantly, I had fun up on stage, which is no easy feat with the pressure that you feel coming up to a major championship. With my family, and teachers watching, I was able to place 21st in the world and earn a world medalist position.

What made the experience even more special was that Worlds was in Ireland, home of the culture that I've been embracing for the last 17 years of my life. You always see pictures that look beautiful, but you never realize that it's even more breathtaking in person! I'm so lucky to have traveled and share that experience with my family and friends.

If I had to give advice to another dancer looking to succeed, I would say never give up. If I had quit or given up on myself after any of the many setbacks I've had in my career, I never would have made it to where I am now. It's not easy to stay dedicated, but the harder it is to get to where you want to go, the sweeter it feels when you finally get there. It's going to be hard, but hard is not impossible.

Sincerely,
Kim Bell

SCARLETT PRIEBE

First off I would like to say thank you to the booster club. Your endless contribution in helping fund my travels to the 2017 World Championships is greatly appreciated. All the fundraising and support you give us is amazing and I cannot thank you enough.

Qualifying and competing in the World Championships this year was an exhilarating experience. When we arrived at the dance venue, days before I actually competed, all these thoughts were just running through my head. The feeling of knowing all of the dedication you put in, all that time, effort, blood, sweat, and tears has finally payed off is amazing. Although I did not get the chance to dance on the larger stage, just the feeling of being there was amazing. The day I danced I thought I would be much more nervous than I actually was, so the fact that I was calm helped me a lot. When you're up on the world stage all eyes are on you. That is your time to show how amazing you are and how far you've come. For me, that was what I reminded myself. The years of work had finally payed off and I was on the world stage, now I just have to show everyone what I'm made of. At the end of the day, I was thrilled with how I danced. If you dance with your mind right and finish strong knowing you put everything into those three minutes on stage, then you should be happy with your results, no matter what they are.

Overall, my time in Ireland was well spent. Weeks before traveling I had written down specific places I wanted to go, and we ended up visiting most of them which I was extremely happy about. We went to Dublin, which was filled with life and excitement. There was many restaurants as well, and of the two weeks I was in Ireland I never once had a bad meal. We went to the coast of Wexford and stayed in a beautiful house for a few days. It was so peaceful and the ocean was cold, but perfect. That was by far my favorite place in the entire trip. We went to Belfast, and walked on the Giants Causeway, Carrick-a-rede rope bridge in Northern Ireland, and visited the tombs of New grange, which if you like history I highly recommend. Ireland in general was just an amazing experience. It is so different from America and I would love to go

again. There is a rich culture to the country, and yet they manage to keep the historical features intact as well. If I got the chance to go again I would most definitely take it.

To dancers aiming to reach the World Championships I will say this. Setting goals is a key part in achieving success. Once you reach one goal, you set another, and there is always room for improvement. With that being said, everyone has good days and bad. Yes, perfection is something everyone would love to have, but once you reach it where do you go from there? It is imperfections that keep us going, motivating us to push further and further to reach success. And no matter what, you never give up. There will always be a constant pressure on you, and if you want to get to the Worlds, the pressure to stay at the top will continue to grow, but even will all of the pressure, all of the stress, you must never give up.

Sincerely,
Scarlett Priebe

BRIANNE CLERY

Thank you so much to the booster club for the constant support. Our booster club has always worked very hard to support all of the Ardan dancers. I am so thankful to be a part of such an amazing school. I love participating in all of the creative fundraisers that help raise money for our girls.

This year was my second worlds. I had an amazing experience. It was much different experience than the first time. I felt much more prepared because I knew what to expect. Competing at worlds is an unbelievable feeling. Even after previously attending one worlds before this year, the feeling doesn't change. There is nothing more surreal than walking into the Wolrds venue for the first time. It's like a wave hits you as you walk in the door and competition mode completely takes over your body.

Ireland was an amazing country. I absolutely loved every moment I was there, and would love to go back! I loved being able to tour and take in their culture. If I had to pick my favorite thing about Ireland it would have to be the beef and Guinness stew! I got it almost every pub we went to. The Cliffs of Moher had to be the most breath taking place I have ever been. There is no other place that can even compare to the cliffs.

The advice I would pass on to other dancers is to believe in yourself. Many say that you can achieve whatever it is you dream to achieve and I truly believe that statement is more than a cliché. There is nothing more important than believing you can achieve something, and working as hard as you can to do so. Make every second count. Don't practice just to practice. Practice to perfect everything. Don't give in just because you're tired, it'll all be worth it when you achieve your goals.

Sincerely,
Brienne Clery

MICHAELA COSGROVE

I would like to thank the AAIDBC Booster Club for all that they've done for our school. I received a grant for the 2017 World Championships to help cover travel expenses and am more than grateful. The continuous support means so much, and I am beyond thankful for having been able to attend the competition once again. This opportunity couldn't have been sustained without their help and dedication to our qualified dancers.

This was my second World Championships. I was extremely excited to have qualified again, and to put my heart up on the stage. Having gone the year before, I knew what to expect on a higher level. This made me feel a little more comfortable, but definitely still nervous for comp day. Finding out that I recalled was a dream come true. As my number was called, I began to cry for a few minutes, trying to process what just happened. This was a very positive experience, and has meant so much to me because I reached my goal, and improved from the year before. I will always cherish this memory, along with all my teachers coming over to hug and congratulate me.

What I enjoyed most about Ireland was the scenery and the people. We went on a bus tour to Giants' Causeway, in Northern Ireland, and many other breathtaking places. Dublin is such a cute and quaint city, and it was so much fun just walking downtown. Also, the people were so nice. They asked us how we were doing, how we were enjoying Ireland, and seemed interested in everything we had to say. They made us feel welcome and greeted us many times!

My advice to dancers who want to move up in the ranks of Irish dancing would be to listen to your teachers. They've had many experiences that help them give advice. They want to be there to help you reach your personal goals, as well as witness them. When it comes time for a competition, you will feel prepared if you worked on corrections from teachers, and you won't be worrying as much. When you dance on stage, dance because you love what you're doing, and you'll beam that much more. Remember, "All great successes are the triumph of persistence." No matter what, keep training like the judges are watching you, and push yourself. You'll be amazed by what you are capable of and what you can accomplish. See you at Worlds!

Sincerely,
Michaela Cosgrove

EMILY WHEELER

The support I have received these past few years from the booster club, my teachers, family and friends is amazing. For three years, I have received a grant to dance at the world championships and this grant isn't just money, its something that makes my dreams a reality.

I have gone to three world championships, soon to be four, and the feeling is different every time. Each year I gain confidence and a new love for this sport. I don't think I could have been more prepared to dance at the worlds this past year, however my dancing on stage did not show this. Everyone has their bad dance days and it's important to not beat yourself about it. Even though I may not have danced my best, I still placed well and the experience was once in a lifetime.

Not only did I spend a week in Dublin competing, I was fortunate to travel all around Ireland for a whole other week with my family. We stayed at a beautiful house in Mount Shannon that overlooked a lake. Some days we would relax at the house, and other days we would travel to different areas of Ireland. Some of these places include, Glasgow, Galway and the Cliffs of Moher. Most importantly, I was able to visit County Kildare, which was the birthplace of my grandpa and where my Irish heritage began.

My advice to upcoming World competitors would be to give it your all. Never give yourself an excuse to not reach your goals. You want to be able to say you did everything you could do to live your best life.

Sincerely,
Emily Wheeler