



Eastern Suburbs

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1, 2014

www.helenogrady.net.au



HAPPY DRAMA NEW YEAR !

Welcome to Term 1 of Drama for 2014! It is so nice to have so many new class members this term and I am very proud of the way our returning students have helped our new ones to feel a part of the team over the first two weeks of term.

I can't believe our Year-End plays were over two months ago now! Congratulations to every class for doing such a wonderful job and producing very entertaining plays. Thank you also to parents and family members, for all your efforts to make the experience a memorable one for our students. I was so proud of the confidence and enthusiasm shown by all our performers. We received such lovely comments and feedback from our audience members and we especially love receiving feedback in writing, so please keep those emails and letters coming!

While we are saying thank you, the Salvation Army send a huge thank you for your wonderful generosity of gifts, food and donations for the Christmas Appeal. It was a huge success and my car was full when I delivered it to them after the shows!

So, what are we doing this term? **Lower Primary** children will be working on various improvisations each week, exploring different themes, characters and creative story lines. We will also include a few opportunities to dress up! **Upper Primary** classes will work on developing their characterisation skills through participation in whole class improvisations, as well as lots of dialogue development. Both age groups will also enjoy some creative movement, including 3 dynamic Dance Dramas! **Youth Theatre** students will meet new challenges with scripts of different styles & characters, as well as improvisations & dialogue development. At each age level, both experienced and new students are fully involved in each activity and encouraged to develop at their own rate. We do not aim to produce "stars", rather confident young people who can communicate in a clear and friendly way!

Please feel free to contact us for any questions about our self-development curriculum. We look forward to sharing a fun, productive term with all of our students.

TERM DATES 2014

This year, we are very happy to report that the first three school terms are 10 weeks long!

(Note: Although some schools will have Pupil Free Days on the first Monday of terms, Academy classes will be held as usual.)

Term 1

Monday 3rd February – Saturday
12th April.
(10 weeks)

Term 2

Monday 28th April - Saturday, 5th
July.
(10 weeks)

Term 3

Monday, 21st July – Saturday, 27th
September.
(10 weeks)

Term 4

Monday, 14th October – Year End
Shows
(Dates TBA)



MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLASS

MONDAY 3rd MARCH

Although Monday, 3rd March, is a Public Holiday, at our Monday studios,

CLASSES WILL BE HELD AS USUAL!

We look forward to seeing our Swan View students in class as usual then ☺

IMPORTANT CLASS INFORMATION & POLICIES



WHAT TO BRING TO CLASS

Generally, children are not required to bring much to class, other than lots of energy! Students should wear comfortable clothing to enable them to move freely during activities. (See below for information on how to purchase Academy t-shirts.) Girls often like to wear something in the pants line for ease of movement, i.e., shorts, leggings, three quarter pants. Footwear should be rubber-soled, however, children are most welcome to remove their shoes in class, particularly in the warmer months. It is recommended that students bring a **labelled drink bottle (water only please!)** to class, as each lesson involves a lot of language and talking! Please do not bring any **FOOD** into class! We occasionally have “dress-up” lessons throughout the term and an information page has already been given to students showing this term’s dress ups. (Please see your child’s teacher, or check our website blog if you did not receive this info!)

BEFORE AND AFTER CLASS

BEFORE CLASS: Please ensure that your child’s teacher is in the Hall and ready to receive the students. It is the responsibility of parents to stay with their children until the teacher is ready! Parents of Lower Primary students, please note that our teachers need some preparation time before the start of class, so are usually only ready to open the doors **five minutes before class starts.** Please encourage your children to leave all shoes, bags, etc, neatly arranged inside the Hall door, for easy collection at the end of class.

AFTER CLASS: As you will have heard, we ask **children to remain in the Hall** with their teacher, if their parents have not yet arrived to collect them. Safety of our students is of paramount importance to us, so please remind your children of this rule when you bring them to class! As all of our teachers are busy people, and often have other commitments after class, **it would be appreciated if children could be collected promptly after class each week.** *Thank you for your consideration.*

If someone other than a child’s parent or guardian is collecting them at the end of class, the class teacher must be informed, in writing.

To make this easy for everyone, each teacher will have a “Signing Book”. When children are being dropped off at the beginning of class, parents or guardians must use the Signing Book to let the teacher know if ***someone different*** will be collecting their child that day. This is as simple as filling in the child’s name, the name of who is collecting them, and a signature. We understand that in some cases, it is not always possible to do this as some parents do share lifts. In this case, please inform us once, in writing, the names of adults who will be collecting your child from class. The teacher can then store the information permanently.

If any children have permission to ride or walk home without parent supervision, please inform us, in writing, so that our teachers can also store this information.



“I NEED TO GO TO THE TOILET!”



Parents, we request that you encourage your children to go to the toilet before and after class, as it can be quite disruptive to the lesson if they need to go part way through! Thank you for your help in this matter ☺

FOOD ALLERGY ALERT

Most parents will be aware that some children suffer from allergies to nuts, eggs, and other products. As a few children in our classes are in this category, we ask that children **DO NOT** bring any food into our class rooms. Also, if children have any food containing peanuts for afternoon tea, could they please wash their hands thoroughly before coming to class? Thank you all for your consideration. ☺

FACEBOOK

As you may already know, we have a great Facebook page. We regularly post photos from class, let you know what is coming up, post Newsletters etc for those who misplace the written copies, etc. We would really like to get our Academy families involved in our page by sharing photos, news and children's success stories. We are now over 900 likes, so thank you!!

www.facebook.com/helenogradyp Perth



Wondering What to Wear to Class?

Did you know that Academy T-shirts are available?

Made from 100% cotton, our fabulous T-shirts are machine-washable and have a UPF rating of 50+.

The T-shirts are available in sizes **4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16** and are great value for money at only **\$15.00** each (GST inclusive).

It is not compulsory to wear our t-shirts to class! However, if you would like one, T-shirts can be ordered by filling in the order form below, and mailing/faxing back to our office, or bringing it to class!

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

SIZE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
4		\$15.00	
6		\$15.00	
8		\$15.00	
10		\$15.00	
12		\$15.00	
14		\$15.00	
Adult XS (Equivalent Size 16)		\$15.00	
Total			\$



Child's Name: _____ Studio: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone No: _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

I enclose cash with this form. Please debit my Visa / MasterCard No:

____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Exp. Date: / \$ _____ Cardholder Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have deposited the payment via Internet Transfer, Receipt # _____

BSB - 016185 Account # - 382207882 (ANZ)

Account Name - HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY

(Please include child's name and "T Shirt Order" as a reference).

Mail to: Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, PO Box 858 INGLEWOOD, WA, 6932

Fax to: 9378 4332 or **By Hand** to your child's teacher in a labelled envelope.

STILL TO COME - OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2014 INCLUDES:

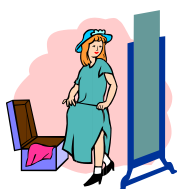
TERM 2

PRESENTATION DAYS:

As you know, we don't encourage parents and guardians to stay at class as the children are able to be more creative without an audience! However, in Term 2, all Primary classes will invite guests in to one of the last lessons of the term, for a special *Presentation Day*.

This is a wonderful opportunity for parents, family and friends to see first-hand a cross section of what we do in our classes, and also a time for you to observe your child's progress so far! Lower Primary children will present an example of some of the activities they have participated in during the term. Upper Primary classes begin work on some material at the start of the term, to be presented at the Presentation Day! Some of our students also receive their Achievement Certificates at these presentations. (Certificates are received for each full year of attendance.)

(Youth Theatre students choose not to present a mid-year presentation for parents. Instead, they cover a wide diversity of material during the year, and concentrate on performance in our year end shows in Term 4.)



TERM 3

Term 3 brings some wonderful opportunities for dress-ups and use of props at all age levels. We will advise you of these later in the year! We also work on fine-tuning improvisational, dialogue and movement skills in preparation for Term 4 Year End Plays! Students are also given further opportunities to add in their own creative ideas to each class and to work on further characterisation skills.

TERM 4

Always an exciting and rewarding time, each class starts work on their own play to be performed for you at the end of the term. Plays are written so that they can be easily costumed from bits and pieces you already have at home, or can be picked up cheaply from Op Shops etc. We will give you plenty more details on this closer to the time!



☺ *We look forward to sharing in your child's self - development throughout 2014!* ☺

Community News

Inclusive Clubs "Have A Go Day"

Again for 2014, we are a part of The City of Bayswater's Inclusive Clubs Have a Go Day held on: **Sunday 30th March from 10am - 12noon at The RISE (28 Eighth Ave, Maylands)**. This open day allows groups representing the arts, dance, music and drama to promote their club to local residents, increasing opportunities for social interaction through existing community based services. A wonderful opportunity for us to showcase what we do and how our amazing programme helps students develop essential life skills! Come along and say "Hi" and enjoy all of the **FREE** activities of the morning. ☺

For further information please contact Principal, Merylena Sulak at

HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY

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