



Western Suburbs

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1, 2012

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WELCOME TO TERM 1 !

Welcome back to returning students, and a big welcome to new students who are joining our classes for the first time. We are pleased to report that classes have started well and everyone is loving their drama!

A big congratulations to all participants of our plays at the end of last year and thank you to parents 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. Thank you for the lovely comments and feedback received from audience members. We especially love receiving feedback in writing, so please keep those emails and letters coming! Also, a big thank you on behalf of the Salvation Army, for your wonderful generosity of gifts, food and donations for the Christmas Appeal. It was a huge success!

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 – 2012

Term 1

As school runs for 9 weeks this term, our classes started a couple of days before school went back, in order to fit our 10 week programme in. The school term ends on Thursday, 5 April, the day before Good Friday. To ensure that our Friday and Saturday classes also receive their full 10 weeks, we will hold their tenth week in the week that school returns for Term 2 (school returns on Thursday 26 April!).

Therefore, Term 1 runs from Monday, 30th January, to Thursday, 5th April, with Claremont, Balcatta & Wembley classes having their 10th week on Friday, 27th and Saturday, 28th April. NB: No classes will be held over the Easter weekend or school holidays.

Term 2

Monday 30th April - Saturday, 7th July.

Term 3

Monday, 23rd July – Saturday, 29th September.

Term 4

Monday, 15th October – Year End Shows (Dates TBA)

NB: Although some schools will have Pupil Free Days on the first Monday of Terms Academy classes will be held as usual.

MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLASS

MONDAY 5th MARCH

Although Monday, 1st March, is a Public Holiday, at our Monday studios,

CLASSES WILL BE HELD AS USUAL!

We look forward to seeing our Inglewood students in class then ☺

KINDY CLASSES FOR 3 – 5 YEAR OLDS!

A reminder to all families that we also run classes for 3 – 5 year olds (some during the day and some after school), in the following areas:

Karrinyup, Leederville, Mt Hawthorn, Subiaco & Wembley.

Call us now for more information ☺



DRESS UP DAYS!



Occasionally, to add to the fun of our lessons, students are invited to bring a prop or piece of costume for use in class. Parents, please do not go to too much trouble for these occasions. One or two simple items are usually enough to help create a character! (Our teachers always try to bring spare items for those students who are unable to find anything, or who simply forget!)

Following, is what's coming up:

LOWER PRIMARY	UPPER PRIMARY
<p><u>Week 4, Mon, 20th - Sat, 25th Feb:</u> "THE FLYING CARPET" – An Improvisation that finds students travelling on flying carpets to visit different lands!</p> <p>Suggestions: Children to bring something which they can use as their own flying carpet. E.g. towel, small blanket, pillow case etc.</p>	<p><u>Week 5, Mon, 27th Feb – Sat, 3rd March:</u> "GO EASY ON THE CHILLI!" - An Improvisation in which students are in a Mexican village at carnival time.</p> <p>Suggestions: Children to dress in Mexican inspired gear. E.g. ponchos, sombreros, bright colours, ruffles etc.</p>
<p><u>Week 5, Mon, 27th Feb – Sat, 3rd March:</u> "WHOSE IDEA WAS IT?" - An Improvisation in which students are washing cars to raise money for a school fund-raising project.</p> <p>Suggestions: Children to bring items which could be used to wash cars. E.g. bucket, cloth, sponge, old rags, towel etc.</p>	<p><u>Week 8, Mon, 19th March – Sat, 24th March:</u> "SIR LANCELOT AND SIR GALAHAD" - An Improvisation where everyone is in attendance at the court of King Arthur.</p> <p>Suggestions: Children to dress in medieval style clothes. E.g. Long skirts, tunics, leggings, crowns etc.</p>
<p><u>Week 7, Mon, 12th March – Sat, 17th March:</u> "WATCH OUT!" - An Improvisation where children are tidying up a huge garden.</p> <p>Suggestions: Children to dress in gardening clothes & bring gardening props. E.g. old clothes, overalls, gloves, garbage bags, small gardening tools etc,</p>	<p><u>Week 9* - Fri 30th & Sat 31st March</u> <u>(Claremont, Balcatta & Wembley classes only)</u> AND <u>Week 10 Mon, 2nd April – Thurs 5th April</u> <u>(All other studios: Inglewood, Vic Park, Floreat, Leederville & Karrinyup)</u></p> <p>"IT'S PARTY TIME!" – Our final lesson for the term will have students involved in lots of fun party activities!</p> <p>Suggestions: Children to dress ready to party! E.g. party hats, disco clothes, wigs, glitter, etc.</p>
<p><u>Week 9* - Fri 30th & Sat 31st March</u> <u>(Claremont, Balcatta & Wembley classes only)</u> AND <u>Week 10 Mon, 2nd April – Thurs 5th April</u> <u>(Ingle, V Park, Floreat, Leederville & Karrinyup)</u></p> <p>"IT'S PARTY TIME!" – This lesson will have students involved in lots of fun party activities! (See Upper Primary for ideas!)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>YOUTH THEATRE</u></p> <p>Your teacher will advise you of all dress-ups or props required for the rest of the term!</p>

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 pant line for ease of movement, i.e., shorts or 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 drink bottle (water only please!) to class, as each lesson involves a lot of language and talking!

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.

***** NEWS FLASH *****

Our new website will be up and running soon!

Our new look website will be ready to go any day now! Check us out at: www.helenogrady.net.au

"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! If children do visit the toilet during lesson time, they are sent in pairs, which then means two children are missing part of the activity! Thank you all for your help in this matter. ☺

CHILDREN WITH ALLERGIES

Most parents will be aware that some children suffer from allergies to nuts 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.

CREATIVITY, CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

What Do You Know About The Academy?

Helen O'Grady founded the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy in 1979 – **over 30 years ago!** Did you know that from starting classes all those years ago, in Balcatta and Kalamunda, which catered for 150 students, the Academy now runs in **26 countries worldwide**, with **over 50,000** students attending weekly? Over the last 30 years, the lives of over a million young people have been enriched.

In Perth, we now have 5 branches – Northern, Western, Eastern, Southern and Rockingham/Mandurah, with around 1600 students attending our classes each week from Quinns Rock to Mandurah. Our Principals are passionate about giving children confidence and empowering them with language skills. All teachers have strong teaching backgrounds and also undergo intensive training in the Helen O'Grady Drama system, which continues throughout their career with the Academy. Teachers not only undergo training on how to implement our unique curriculum, but also on how to personalise lessons to every student in their class to develop a personal rapport & help them get the most out of each lesson.

Our curriculum is extensive and covers **15 years** of a child's formative years, from Kindy Drama classes, to Lower Primary, Upper Primary and then Youth Theatre (3 – 17 years). We include role playing, ad-libbing, speech training, creative movement, dialogue development, team building skills, improvisation, script work, drama games and, of course, presentations (at the end of Term 2 and Term 4). Above all, the curriculum is delivered in an enthusiastic, motivating and exciting way. ***We all learn best when we are having fun!***

STILL TO COME - OUR PROGRAMME THIS YEAR INCLUDES:

TERM 2

PRESENTATION DAYS: As you know, we do not 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 the last lesson of the term, for a special *Presentation Day*. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents, family and friends to see first-hand 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! (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 who have been coming all year are also given further opportunities to add in their own creative ideas to each class.

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 development throughout 2012 ☺

For further information on any aspect of our programme, please contact Principal, Helen Davey at

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