

2023 Christmas Newsletter



Classes for **Semester 1** will finish on **December 5th**, with our Saturday students joining the Tuesday classes for some end of semester fun and treats! Parents are welcome to join us to watch the last class. Masks are highly recommended but not required. We will finish each class with a Christmas dance and will end 10 minutes early to enjoy a few light refreshments and to let everyone visit and even take some pictures together.

Registration for Semester 2

Our second semester will run for 9 weeks, from **January 9th to March 5th**. If you would like to register your child for Semester 2, **please complete the online registration at <https://nsohd.ca/links-and-resources/>** beginning December 5th. The total registration fee for the semester is \$117 per dancer. Please remit registration fees via e-transfer to **nsohd@bell.net**.

Carleton Place Parade – Superheroes Celebrate Christmas – Nov 25th

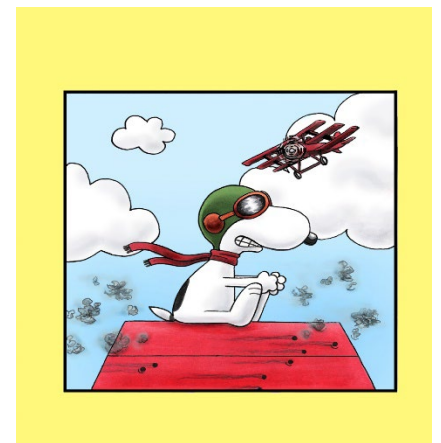
For our parade float, we chose Snoopy since our old-fashioned cartoon hero frequently fantasized about being a World War 1 flying ace and he imagined shooting down the Red Baron. Plus, there's a fun Christmas song to go with it – and what's not to love about a Charlie Brown Christmas tree?!

We will meet at 4:15pm at the beginning of the parade route, at the float staging area near CPHS at 215 Lake Ave W. Parade starts at 5pm sharp. Parents do not need to stay with the float unless they have pre-arranged to volunteer to supervise, or are willing to walk beside the float and hand out candy (which we will have ready to hand out). The parade will travel up Lake Avenue, turning left onto Bridge Street, then travel down Bridge Street, and will END at the Carambeck Community Centre (351 Bridge Street). **Parents: please pick up your child immediately at the end of the parade. Pick up location will be at the old Beer Store building, at the corner of Flora Street and Townline Rd.**

Note: The Town is inviting everyone to Carleton Junction (42 Moore Street) after the parade for some fun post-parade activities!

To participate, dancers will all need:

- An oversized white long sleeve (I would suggest a turtle neck) that will go over top of their jacket, or layers on the top half.
- Wear black on the bottom. This can be black snow pants or if you don't have black snow pants, coloured snow pants with a large pair of black pants over top will do, just as long as their bottom half is black.
- A white headband that will keep their ears warm.
- Hair in a slick back and neat bun.
- A red scarf and white mittens.
- Warm black boots are preferred (or warm black shoes) -- but if you don't have them it's not the end of the world!
- For the Junior students (from the 5:40-6:30 class), please wear their NSOHD jackets over their white shirt. I understand some have hoodies or don't have a jacket at all and this is totally fine, but it would be great for at least a few to wear their NSOHD jackets.



I suggest checking the Dollarstore for these accessories and it may be wise to add a few of those hot-paw-packets to the inside of mittens and boots to help keep warm! We will provide a light-up scrunchie (hopefully they arrive in time!) for their bun, a red tartan skirt, glow sticks, and black face paint for a little snoopy-like nose.

Highland Dancing Competitions

To participate in competitions, dancers must register annually for a ScotDance Canada/Ontario card and be affiliated with a qualified teacher. Cards expire annually on December 31st. If your dancer is planning to compete in 2024, a new dancer card must be requested through our regional registrar, ScotDance Ontario, and signed by a qualified teacher. Please let me know if you require the registration/renewal form for 2024!

When competing in highland dancing, you may choose to travel the world or you can stay close to home, in Ottawa and Eastern Ontario. Eastern Ontario is rich in highland dancing opportunities. We are fortunate to have access to two local competition organizers: **Ottawa Highland Dancing Association** (OHDA) and **Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highland Dancing Association** (SDGHDA). Competitions are normally held 3-4 times per year with each organizer. Additional competitive events are also held throughout the summer at local highland games and festivals: Glengarry (Maxville) Highland Games, North Lanark (Almonte) Highland Games, Caitlin Stewart Memorial Highland Competition (Arnprior), Kingston Scottish Festival, Highland on the Rideau (Smiths Falls), Montreal Highland Games, and many others. These are fun family events, for young and old, to enjoy – and you don't need to be a competitive dancer to attend. Links for these events can be found on the NSOHD website under *Resources and Forms* section/

Competing is fun but it is also hard work. It requires focus and discipline. An additional two nights per week of practice at home (15 minutes for primary dancers, 30 minutes for beginner & novice levels, 45 minutes for intermediate and premier levels) would be necessary. **If you would like more information about competing, please let me know!**

Winter and Illnesses

I hope that 2024 will bring good health for everyone but we know that winter is arriving with a heavy cold and flu season. Thank you to everyone for keeping sick dancers home and notifying me of absences!

You can email me anytime at nsohd@bell.net or send me a text message at 613-979-6644. Regardless of the season, keeping our dancers healthy and safe is my first priority!



Feedback and Questions

As we head into another beautiful Canadian winter, I hope you are planning to enjoy the warmth of the Christmas holidays with family and friends. Thank you for allowing me to share the gift of highland dancing with your child/ren. Your feedback and questions are always welcome! Highland dancing is a personal journey, and no two dancers are alike. My goal is to help your child enjoy the benefits of highland dancing – from physical fitness, to agility, to developing skills that will positively contribute towards their own life story. I am looking forward to travelling on this journey with each of them, for many years to come!

Classes will resume January 9th

Wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2024!

Miss Victoria