

# NWDA Newsletter



## Recital Reminders

Warm evenings by the fire, steaming mugs of hot cocoa, the crunch of frost beneath your feet... Winter brings with it many things, including one of our favorite holiday traditions-- the Northwest Dance and Acro recital! Tickets are on sale for A Modern Nutcracker and they're selling fast. Be sure to check your email for information on how to purchase tickets. Online ticket sales open to the public on December 10th for a limited time, closing December 13th, with any remaining tickets available for purchase at the door on a first come, first served basis the day of recital-- cash or check only, please! Get yours soon, before they're gone!

We have added an additional rehearsal to our schedule to allow our dancers time to practice performing together. In-studio rehearsals will take place on Friday, December 9th, and Friday, December 16th, at NWDA, with a final rehearsal to be held at 10 a.m. on the day of recital, December 17th, at Byrnes Performing Arts Center. Costumes will be required for the December 16th and 17th rehearsals but are not necessary on December 9th. The schedule has been added to our website under the Recital dropdown menu and will be the same for each rehearsal day. We ask that you plan to arrive 15 minutes early with the understanding that things may run late if a particular routine needs extra practice. Once your child has performed their routine, you are free to go. We know that it is a busy time of the year and we do appreciate you taking the time to attend these extra practices so that we can deliver an outstanding show. We will have leaps and turns and strength and flexibility classes beginning at 4:30 for the dancers who will be missing their regular Friday night classes during the December 9th rehearsal.

Recital photos with Clear Image are this Saturday, December 10th, at NWDA. A copy of the photo schedule as well as pricing information can be found on our website under the Recital dropdown menu.



## Nutcracker History

With NWDA's winter recital, A Modern Nutcracker, coming up, we thought it would be fun to include a bit of history regarding the holiday tradition of The Nutcracker. The Nutcracker made its debut at the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg Russia on December 08, 1892. It reunited composer Pyotor Ilyich Tchaikovsky with choreographer Marius Petipa, who had previously worked together, to critical acclaim, on The Sleeping Beauty. Petipa chose as his inspiration Alexandre Dumas' family-friendly interpretation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's dark fairytale The Nutcracker and the Mouse King. Choreography began in August 1892 but, due to illness, Petipa's assistant Lev Ivanov was brought in to assist in the completion of the choreography. Unlike later productions, the children's roles were in fact performed by children, students of the Imperial Ballet School of St. Petersburg. Surprisingly, this first incarnation of The Nutcracker was not an instant success and received harsh criticism. However, this did not prevent other choreographers from trying their hand at it and, with changes to the characters, story, and arrangements, later productions were much more successful.

The Nutcracker made its way to the United States and achieved great success in 1944 when the San Francisco Ballet debuted its first production, under the direction of William Christensen, on Christmas Eve. The San Francisco Ballet has performed The Nutcracker on Christmas Eve, as well as throughout the winter season, ever since. What truly helped cement The Nutcracker as a North American holiday tradition, however, was the praise it received in New York, where it was performed by the New York City Ballet in 1954 under the direction of famed choreographer and cofounder George Balanchine, a prolific artist who helped to shape and transform American ballet. Many versions of The Nutcracker performed today are based on Balanchine's production, including this year's performance by the Pacific Northwest Ballet.

## Interesting Facts About The Nutcracker

- \* The character we know today as Clara was originally named Marie.
- \* Drosselmeyer can roughly be translated to English as "someone who stirs things up".
- \* Tchaikovsky was not satisfied with his score and did not live to see its eventual success but died within a year of The Nutcracker's first production.
- \* Hoffmann's original story contained both a Mouse King and a Mouse Queen.
- \* According to German folklore, nutcrackers were given as keepsakes to bring good luck and goodwill to your family and protect your home, baring its teeth to evil spirits.



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## Dancer of the Month

Ellie's teachers are impressed with her determined concentration which has helped her develop an artful awareness of balance and movement at such a young age! Ellie made the leap to our petite team this year and is thriving with each new challenge. Her friendly and respectful attitude make her a welcome addition to our team and we're excited to see her evolve. Way to go, Ellie!

Ellie is 7 years old and is eagerly engaged in her fourth year of dance. She loves making new friends at the studio and treasures the opportunity to dance on stage, where she can show what she has been working so hard on. To learn more about Ellie, visit [nwdanceandacro.com](http://nwdanceandacro.com) and choose Dancer of the Month from the News dropdown menu.



## Holiday Fundraiser

NWDA is still taking donations through recital for the Marysville Food Bank! We are collecting canned and non-perishable food items, as well as socks and other personal care items, like toothbrushes and toothpaste, which we will be delivering after recital. Donations can be brought to the studio and placed in the big red bin in the lobby. Thank you for helping us support our community this season!



## Important Dates

December 9	In-Studio Rehearsal at 4:30 p.m.
December 16	In-Studio Dress Rehearsal at 4:30 p.m.
December 17	Dress Rehearsal at Venue at 10 a.m.
December 17	Recital at Venue at 2 p.m.
Dec 18-Jan 2	Studio Closed
January 3	Classes Resume!