

AHSHS DANCE ACADEMY

MAKING MOVES

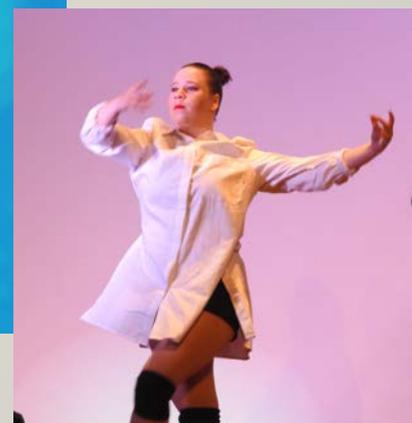
DANCE ACADEMY NEWS



NIGHT OF DANCE

Term 4 has been packed with activity, and we certainly hit the ground running. After a 2 year break, Night of Dance returned, and what a crowd pleaser it turned out to be. The students presented an outstanding showcase of course work from Years 7 - 12, as well as performances by our very popular dance troupes. Other performances included our talented staff, past students, and even our parents donned some 70's glam and hit the stage. We were also wowed by a special performances by Allenby Dance Studio and students from Hillard State School.

In keeping with tradition, a secret dance is revealed on the night, and this year it was a special performance by members from last year's Nationals winners - Jayda, Sienna, Elyssa and Ollie. This was undoubtedly a crowd favourite.





As they say, "it takes a village" to prepare for a show of this size, and the weeks leading up to Night of Dance were a hive of activity, with final rehearsals and preparations taking place before and after school, during lunch breaks and on weekends. What an outstanding commitment. There are too many people to thank individually, but we are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of our staff, students, families and wider community, as without you, events like this would not be as successful. From all reports, it was a sensational night enjoyed by all. We are grateful to be back performing for you again.



ACKNOWLEDGING EXCELLENCE

To acknowledge the outstanding effort of our students, a number of students were presented with awards at Night of Dance.

Dance Mentor Award

Our fantastic 2021 dance mentors

Jess Davis

Nia Savas



Super Trouper Award

Students who have been troupe members continuously since Year 7

Jess Davis

Layne Young

Lani Anderson

Sarah Armstrong

Bree Porter

Spirit Award

Students who have shown a range of qualities that exemplify troupe e.g. resilience, positive attitude, commitment etc

Blair Daunt

Sophie Gosling

William Hinschen

Kirra Bowman-levers

Matilda Clow

Molly Hawkings

Charleis Egstorf

Sienna Donsky



Choreography Award

Students who assisted with choreography and training

Layne Young

Chanelle Young

Ashlyn Collie

Ollie Nomchong

YEAR 11 WORKSHOP

Year 11 Dance students participated in a series of contemporary workshops with Jacob Watton, a freelance choreographer. In these workshops, the students learnt their performance assessment which explored the theme of hyperconnectivity, and the idea that in times where we have been more connected than ever, we also experience more loneliness.



AUDITIONS, AUDITIONS, AUDITIONS...



Auditions for 2022 troupes have already been taking place. Many students have taken the challenge of auditioning for genres out of their comfort zone, and we have been very impressed by their efforts. We were fortunate to have Jayda come in to help with the senior auditions. Our troupes for next year have very healthy numbers, so we're looking forward to the possibilities this brings. We have also been auditioning the Year 6 students who wish to be part of Dance Academy, and it's been wonderful to meet our aspiring new dancers.

RAINBOW DAY

Rainbow Day was another success with our Year 6 students visiting for the day. Our students hosted lunchtime workshops, mentored students in class, and performed on assembly. There was some impressive work done by our visiting students, and they all seemed to enjoy the range of experiences on offer. Thanks to Jaime, Bailea, Blair, Zara, Bree and Ashlyn for hosting these workshops with such skill and professionalism. We also managed to hold more Dance Academy auditions on this day, we now have a full Year 7 class for next year.



BOYS TROUPE WORKSHOP

An initiative for 2022 will be the revival of a boys dance troupe. We have a long and strong legacy with boys troupes, and we look forward to continuing this moving forward. To get things rolling, we hosted an introductory workshop for interested boys, resulting in 20 participants from Years 7 - 11, many of whom had never danced before. The workshop was run by the artistic director of Bloodline Dance Company, Mr Hillary Stowers ("Hils") - a highly respected choreographer in the hip hop world, whose extensive international experience makes him a perfect mentor and choreographer for the boys next year. Although tentative at first, the boys had a fantastic time and left the workshop super hyped, and looking forward to dancing with Hils next year.



VIENNA WOODS SS FETE



Our junior dancers performed at Vienna Woods State School, as part of their annual fete. The dancers braved the intense heat to perform a high energy dance choreographed by Ashlyn in Year 7. The dance was well-received, and our dancers represented our school admirably.



YEAR 8 PERFORMANCES

Our semester 2, Year 8 Dance students completed their unit on Social Dance, where they learn about the history and development of different dance styles, the philosophy of various choreographers and how meaning can be created through the choreographic process. They investigate Social Dances of the past century, and the social, cultural and historical factors influencing their development. Dressing the part was a highlight, with a little COVID thrown into the mix



PHOTO SHOOT

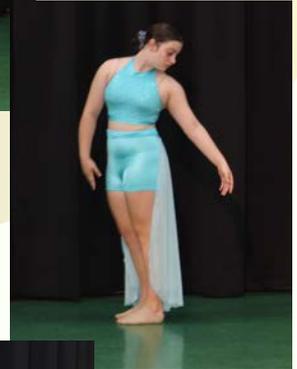
Recently we spent a fun afternoon with Mr Newton, as Blair, Molly and Annalyse took part in a photo shoot for our school's website. I think the dancers will agree, posing for dance photos is a lot harder than it looks. Keep an eye out for the new pics coming soon!



YEAR 7 OPEN CLASSROOM

Our Year 7 Dance Academy class had some enriching experiences this term. They did a jazz workshop with Adam Robins focusing on expressive skills and characterization which the students found both challenging and fun. Our students find the most difficult skill to master is that of facial and body expression, so they literally train to use their faces sitting in front of the mirror.

We also hosted an open classroom for families to watch final performances for the year. All students had the opportunity to select a dance that would challenge them, and then rehearse and perform it for a live audience. To see the growth in these students in a year has been incredibly rewarding, considering some students came into the course with little dance experience, so to perform in front of a live audience, with some students choosing to do solos, showed courage and resilience. We are very proud of them all!



HOUSE OF CHAMPIONS AND RUMBLE

Our last competitions for the year were Rumble and House of Champions. These are both hip hop competitions, and undoubtedly the toughest of all of our competitions, but the support from other schools, and the positive vibe of each competition is what makes them a highlight for our dancers. It was also great to have Jayda, Sienna and Ollie there on the day who had worked with these students and supported them throughout the year. Thanks also to Ms Lockwood for giving up her weekend to come and assist with our troupes.

Our students performed admirably, with Junior Mega taking 3rd place at Rumble and HOC, and Senior Mega gaining 4th place at HOC. The competition was tight, with only a few points separating the top places. Congratulations to our hard working dancers.



DANCE INTENSIVES



10 sessions, 9 local and international artists, 6 different genres, excited students from Years 6 - 12....that was dance intensives for 2021! Such an enjoyable and enriching opportunity for our students, and unique to our school.



The workshops were top class with the guest artists all commenting on the outstanding program we offer our students. Thank you to all students who attended, especially our new Year 6 Academy dancers and their buddies. We have some exciting talent and enthusiasm coming through..



Its been a busy but rewarding year. Thank you dancers and families for your energy, enthusiasm and support. We make an unbeatable team! Thank you to our leaders, coaches and choreographers Jess, Nia, Layne, Chanelle, Ashlyn and Ollie; and Mrs Davis, Miss Lockwood, Mrs Carmody, Jayda Lofipo and Rhys Hume for your work throughout the year. Finally, we wish our departing seniors all the best in the future. You will be dearly missed. Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing break, and I look forward to working with you next year.

Mrs Hill
DANCE ACADEMY COORDINATOR