**Thursday March 26th 2020**

Dear Dance Families;

Please take 4 minutes to watch this video of me addressing our current situation if you have not seen it – I sent it on Tuesday to all studio email accounts and posted to our facebook pages on Wednesday.

<https://youtu.be/E64ZeUZvj28>

With the announcement of school closures across the Province we would like to take the opportunity to further update our families of the plans with classes at Accentz Dance Studio. We have taken the time to make educated decisions, through several discussions as a team and also reaching out to dance studio owners in Penticton, Kelowna, Calgary, Vancouver and Kamloops

We feel in a time of panic, fear and uncertainty it is highly important to offer our children as much stability, normality and consistency as we can : Therefore, during our 2nd week of Spring Break we are preparing to move our schedule to an online platform. This will be a hybrid option that will consist of both Live Stream and Pre-Recorded classes. During the next week you will receive email invites to your child’s scheduled classes.

What do you need to do to be ready?

* Please read your emails from me 😊
* You will receive an email with a passcode for each of your classes – please keep this to yourself so that we can monitor our classes are being attended by only ACCENTZ students at this time
  + The schedule is also available from our website home page [www.accentz.ca](http://www.accentz.ca)
    - Click on your class – click the invite link and you will be placed in your class waiting room
* Make space in an area at home that is clear of obstacles (Furniture, stairs and walls) for your class that Is safe for you to move – approx. 10ft square. (Garages, Decks (weather Permitting) and Basements tend to be suitable area’s)
* Your shoes need to be suitable for your flooring – Please don’t tap on hardwood or slippy tile floor
* A chair can be used for a ballet barre
* Cans of Vegetables can be used as weights
* Sheet of plywood for a tap floor or simply socks if tap shoes are not possible
* Please make sure that there is minimal online activity within your home during your class so that the class will run smoothly through your internet

We will also be adding extra online pre-recorded classes week to week to enhance your online experience. There will be a dance parent fun selection of classes as a thank you for your continued support and belief in us. It is important that our “New Normal” encourages our dancers to continue to learn, to have fun, to connect with each other through dance, to individually use this opportunity to enrich their dance technique and to also challenge themselves with their own personal goals. We are excited that we will be able to see every dancers face, engage with them and to continue their dance training.

Ultimately, we recognize that this is going to be the least disruptive and safest plan with our current situation. We are receiving information daily on COVID-19, so we will re-assess the situation if the school board lifts the school closures and group gathering sizes. We understand that this is a difficult time, however we are determined to keep our dance community connected and will continue to look at all possibilities and opportunities that may arise. Over the next little while we may have a clearer picture as to what the future looks like and hopefully, the situation will improve, allowing us to transition back to our “Normal”.

April Fees will be charged to all accounts on April 1st. (Preschool modified to a 30 minute class fee). We are doing everything that we can to survive through this situation and as a small business we still have our overhead running costs to cover. We will roll through this hopefully soon and then gradually transition back into the studio.

Thank you for your continued support and for choosing Accentz Dance Studio to be a part of your own community. We are beyond grateful for the families who have reached out with outstanding support, kind words and creative ideas. If you require more information please do not hesitate to contact me via email at info@accentz.ca

Yours Sincerely

Becky Martselos

Studio Director