20 November 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians

**Year 7 House DramaDance Festival**

Girls have been given information and audition forms today at the Year 6 Orientation Day about the 2016 DramaDance Festival. Your daughter has indicated that she is interested in auditioning for this Festival. The Festival is a House event that involves Year 12 leaders directing and choreographing drama and dance and competing against other Houses to become Champion DramaDance House for 2016.

**How it Works:**

Houses have merged and will undertake a drama and dance performance with the theme “Let Us Entertain You”:
- Serisier and McAuley (known as Merisier) “Jumanji”
- Frayne and Wright (known as Fright) “Hansel and Gretel”
- McDonald and Cooper (known as Mooper) “The Magician’s Nephew”, prequel to The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Current Year 7-10 students audition in the last week of Term 4 and Year 7 auditions will be held on Thursday 28 January from 3.30-5.30pm (first day of school). Unfortunately, this is the only day available to audition Year 7s as rehearsals begin the following week on Monday 1 February.

**What to Wear:**

To audition, Year 7s should bring clothes suitable to move/dance in (shorts, t shirts, or dance wear, no shoes required). Girls should come to the PAC after school on Thursday 28 January where they will change in the dressing room. (Please ensure all uniform items and clothing is named.) Year 12 Leaders will be present.

**What will happen at the Audition:**

Girls doing the acting auditions will be required to either read from a script or do a short simple improvisation for the Year 12 leaders after having a chance to practice it, and girls doing the dance auditions will be taught 2-3 counts of 8 of choreography, have a chance to practice it and then perform for the Year 12s. It would be preferable that parents pick up their daughters from the College after these auditions rather than the girls travel home on public transport. If they catch public transport they will need to change back into their uniform. Please pick them up from Catherine’s Garden, which is adjacent to the PAC.

Girls need to bring the completed audition form (with photo) with them to the audition. Audition forms are also available on the College Website under the Notices.
While we encourage and support the Year 7s getting involved in this Festival, it should be noted that cast sizes are quite small (15 actors and 15 dancers from Years 7-11) and it is only possible to cast a small number of Year 7s. Understandably, this can lead to disappointment for many girls. Year 7s are encouraged to get involved and try out and earn house points for auditioning, but if they are not cast they should remember that there will be other opportunities later in the year and throughout their years at the College.

The House Choir Festival will run at the same time as DramaDance and there is no audition for this. Girls will be provided with more information at the start of school.

**Rehearsals:**
Girls can audition for both Dance and Drama but can only be cast in one discipline; this is because rehearsals for drama and dance occur at the same times. If cast, girls must be available for both rehearsal afternoons as listed below:
- Serisier & McAuley rehearse Mondays 3.30-5.00pm, Wednesdays 3.00-4.30pm
- McDonald & Cooper rehearse Wednesdays 3.00-4.30pm, Thursdays 3.30-5.00pm
- Frayne & Wright rehearse Mondays 3.30-5.00pm, Thursdays 3.30-5.00pm

Other Rehearsal dates:
- Sunday 28 February and Sunday 20 March from 2.00-5.00pm
- Tuesday 8 March 9.30-12.30pm (Home Study Day)
- Thursday 31 March (after school until 9.00pm in the PAC) – Full Dress Rehearsal

Girls MUST be available for all rehearsals and must stay for the duration of each rehearsal. This is a significant commitment and girls should consider other commitments they already have before they audition for this event. All rehearsals are at school and venues are rotated to give all Houses access to mirrors and suitable floor spaces. All rehearsals are supervised by Mentor Teachers but are taken by Year 12 DramaDance Festival leaders.

Rehearsals begin on Monday 1 February 2016.

**The House DramaDance and Choir Festival will be held on Monday 4 April** (last week of Term 1) at the Perth Concert Hall. Girls may be in both Festivals as rehearsals do not clash.

A cast list will be placed on the PAC noticeboard by recess on Friday 29 January. If you have any further questions, you can email either of us at the College: kcocks@mercedes.wa.edu.au  dpitman@mercedes.wa.edu.au. Thank you and good luck to your daughter.

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