

# Veselka Ukrainian Dance Handbook 2016-17



## Welcome! Ласкаво просимо!

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen, пані та панове!

On behalf of Veselka, I would like to welcome each and all of you who are returning to and joining Veselka for this dancing season. A special appreciation is extended to those who have brought their friend(s) or relative(s) to our dance club. Veselka has a 45-year long established tradition augmented by multiple accomplishments and awards earned by its awesome dancers. Ukrainian dance is a vigorous exercise combined with ancient traditions and amazing choreography. Our distinguished instructors look forward to provide you with the best Ukrainian dance instruction on Vancouver Island and beyond. Long story short, come in, join us and let's dance!

Warm regards, Stan Osobik, President

**VISION:** To be a vibrant part of Victoria's arts and ethnic community.

**MISSION:** To be a sustainable, non-profit family and community oriented organization that offers quality Ukrainian dance instruction.

### **VALUE STATEMENTS:**

- 1. Veselka provides quality dance instruction.** The professional quality of Veselka dance instruction is important to its members so that their children have a challenging and positive dance experience. This direction as well as the professional quality of dance instruction is important to the organization as a whole, to attract and retain dancers in Veselka. It is important for Ukrainian dance to be innovative and creative in its future direction so as to maintain interest from both the audience and dancer perspectives.
- 2. Veselka is an active member of the Victoria dance community.** Veselka is recognized in the Victoria arts community and participates in various events throughout the city. Veselka pro-actively looks for opportunities to showcase Ukrainian dance with other cultural events and organizations in the city. Members have an appreciation for not only maintaining the connection to the broader Ukrainian community but also, to extend into the general arts community for both performance and promotional opportunities.
- 3. Veselka is a sustainable non-profit, family driven community organization.** Veselka is not profit driven; it is run by members who have an appreciation for community and seek opportunities to keep Veselka accessible to anyone who wants to be a member. Families and dancers of all ages come together for fund raising and social activities which builds a strong community. Veselka is driven by a dedicated group of volunteers who share their time and talents for the broader community.

### **Fees and Schedules**

For class schedules and fees, please go to: <http://veselkadancers.com/>, under “CLASSES”.

### **Dancer Liability Insurance**

All fees include the mandatory \$35 liability insurance per child per year (Western Financial Group).

### **Important Information About Fees**

- A. If there are multiple children from your family dancing with Veselka, and all children start instruction in September and complete at the end of June, the monthly fee for the youngest child will be reimbursed for June.
- B. Maximum monthly fee is \$130.
- C. In order to participate in dance instruction, dancers' fees must be paid in full. Monthly post-dated cheques for the 1st of each month for the entire 10-month dance season need to accompany registration forms. Monthly cheques will be deposited during the first week of each month.
- D. Non-payment of fees: Families will be notified immediately if at any time they have paid their fees by the due date and their children will be withdrawn from participation until all payments are met.

### **Bursary Program**

The Veselka Board has, from time to time, allocated limited, discretionary funds to support parents in financial need, enabling their child(ren) to dance at Veselka. Funds for this assistance are provided only as they are available on a year-by-year basis and are distributed at the discretion of the Board. Bursary application forms are available in the Veselka office and completed forms (submitted to the Veselka President) are required to access any available funds.

### **Withdrawal from Dance**

Dancers may withdraw from the dance program at any time before January 31st of the dance year and receive a prorated refund of dance fees paid. A non-refundable policy is in effect for Dancers who wish to withdraw after December 31st. The Board of Directors will make exceptions in specific circumstances such as injury or family move to another city. Dancers who are dismissed from the program will receive a prorated refund of registration fees paid.

### **Dance Faculty**

Please see “INSTRUCTORS BIOS” on the Veselka web page (<http://veselkadancers.com/>).

### **Purchasing Class Attire**

Toes 'N' Taps Dance Shoppe on Cook Street carries the red slippers and character shoes required for Veselka dancers. In addition, they typically have an annual "20% off" sale just before the dance year begins, so if you need to purchase a new pair, this can be a good time to do so. The staff at Toes 'N' Taps Dance Shoppe are wonderfully accommodating with fittings and ordering requests. In September, we plan to hold a 'dance attire swap' event. Please look for the instructions that will be posted on the Veselka Bulletin Board in September and hold all items you may be interested in swapping until the posted days/times.

### **Class Attendance**

Dancers need to arrive properly dressed and ready to practice at the stated time. Out of courtesy, parents should call the instructor at the studio (250-475-1174) and let her/him know if their child is unable to attend a practice.

### **Studio Etiquette**

Please be certain your child is on time and completely ready for class so the teacher can start immediately. If you have any concerns, please speak to the Artistic Director by calling the above number or emailing [namastelisa@yahoo.com](mailto:namastelisa@yahoo.com).

### **The Library**

The Library, also called the Lounge, is a space shared among the Ukrainian Cultural Centre (UCC), the Tridents (Seniors' Club) and Veselka. Therefore, it is very important that we respect the space and leave the room clean and tidy at all times. Please dispose of any garbage, return any tables or chairs you might have moved, and if necessary, wipe down the tables you have used. Also, please be aware that there may be times when the Library has been booked by other groups and may not be available to Veselka.

## Class Attire

### Beginner and Junior 1:

Girls: Body suit  
Pink tights  
Red ballet slippers with red elastic  
Hair pulled back

Boys: White T-shirt  
Black shorts  
Black ballet slippers

### Junior 2:

Girls: Body suit  
Pink tights  
Pink ballet slippers  
Low heel black character shoes  
Hair pulled back

Boys: White T-shirt  
Black shorts  
Black ballet slippers

### Junior 3:

Girls: Body suit  
Pink tights  
Pink ballet slippers  
Cuban heel black character shoes  
Hair pulled back

Boys: White T-shirt  
Black shorts  
Black jazz shoes

### Intermediate:

Girls: Body suit  
Pink tights  
Pink ballet slippers  
Red character shoes  
Hair pulled back

Boys: White T-shirt  
Black shorts  
Black jazz shoes

### Senior:

Girls: Body suit  
Pink tights  
Pink ballet slippers  
Red character shoes  
Red boots  
Hair pulled back

Boys: T-shirt  
Black bottoms  
Black jazz shoes  
Red boots

### Ballet:

Girls: Body suit  
Pink tights  
Pink ballet slippers

Boys: White T-shirt  
Black shorts  
Black ballet slippers

### Adult:

Wear comfortable, form-fitting clothing that allows ease of movement and ballet shoes.

### Important Costume Notes

Veselka is very fortunate to have an extensive collection of costumes from various regions throughout Ukraine. It is important that costumes are treated with care. Once you receive your costume(s) they should be stored in a garment bag and a hat box should hold larger headpieces and accessories.

It is expected that costumes will be clean and ironed/steamed before each performance. Veselka does have a steamer available if needed. Please talk to the Costume Director for cleaning instructions prior to washing. **There is absolutely no eating or drinking while in costume, water excluded.**

Families will be responsible for supplying all footwear, tights and socks. For females at the Junior 2 level and beyond, dancers will need a white or nude bodysuit as well (for quick backstage changes). Males and females also need to remember nude or white undergarments as several of our costumes are white and colours show through.

Though Veselka tries to cover the cost of most costumes, dancers are expected to supply their own Poltava blouse/shirt from Junior 2 onwards. Patterns are available to borrow and supplier information is also available if you need to make one. If your child has a solo, costume costs are usually the family's responsibility.

A costume fee will be charged to each dancer based on their dance level. As the dancer's level increases toward Senior, more costumes are issued and often the cost of each costume has increased as well. The costume fee is to help with the care and maintenance of all our Veselka costumes. For your dancer's costume fee, please see the class schedules and fees for the specific class via: <http://veselkadancers.com/>.

At the end of the dance year, costume return dates will be distributed. If you know you will miss a costume return date because you are moving or away, contact the Costume Director to arrange an alternative drop off date. Dancers in the higher levels may be instructed to keep their costumes until September registration as they sometimes have performances throughout the summer.

## Performances and Performance Etiquette

Performances are a great experience for the dancers. Attendance is expected at all performances and competitions. Performances are where we showcase our hard work, choreography, and traditions – it's our chance to show our joy of dance and by doing so, motivate others to join!

Students are expected to be polite to adjudicators, other dancers and instructors, and to show good dance etiquette. Every attempt is made to keep things running on time. Due to circumstances beyond our control, festivals and large performances can run late. It is a good idea to make sure your child is well rested before a performance and to bring along plenty of water, healthy snacks, and lots of patience.

### **Performance Etiquette: Arrival Time and Performance Time and the Time In Between**

1. Please be aware that your arrival time must be at least 30 minutes BEFORE performance time in order to get ready for the performance in a timely manner.
2. Hair and makeup must be done PRIOR to arrival.
3. Ensure that your costume is complete before you leave home. Seek direction from your Instructor on details including whether you should arrive at your performance location 'in costume' or dress when you get there.
4. Our dance performance starts before we are on stage. Everyone must be ready and in a focused state of mind. Latecomers who arrive without hair and make-up done cause stress for ALL.
5. Your understanding of the importance of punctuality is much appreciated.
6. It is expected that parents will supervise their children before all performances unless indicated otherwise. This includes the time from arrival until going on stage and immediately after dancers come off stage.

Detailed information for specific performances will be provided to all dancers by the Business Manager in preparation for all performances.

**Important:** Parents should contact the instructor immediately if the dancer is unable to attend a performance.

### Veselka Board of Directors

The Veselka Board works to honour and support the body, mind, and spirit of all members of the Veselka family. The Veselka Board believes that every dancer, instructor, board member, committee member, and parent is a valued member of our community and all are vitally important to the success of our dancers and our dance school. All Veselka members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Our Annual General Meeting and elections are held in spring each year.

Position	Name	Phone	e-mail
President	Stan Osobik	250-885-0237	<a href="mailto:iosobik@gmail.com">iosobik@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Daralynn Monita-Wei	250-213-8228	<a href="mailto:Daralynn88@telus.net">Daralynn88@telus.net</a>
Business Manager	Brian Bedford	250-382-5960	<a href="mailto:veselkaperform@uniserve.com">veselkaperform@uniserve.com</a>
Treasurer	Craig Carefoot	250-217-7933	<a href="mailto:craigcarefoot@gmail.com">craigcarefoot@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Wendy Jones	778-433-1849	<a href="mailto:wendyjonesmorris@gmail.com">wendyjonesmorris@gmail.com</a>
Director	Solomiya Tsepenyuk	250-589-0058	<a href="mailto:stsepenyuk@shaw.ca">stsepenyuk@shaw.ca</a>
Director	Geoff Kearney	250-812-4653	<a href="mailto:geoffandluba@gmail.com">geoffandluba@gmail.com</a>
Director	Corrina Edmondson	250-858-3438	<a href="mailto:foueverfriends@shaw.ca">foueverfriends@shaw.ca</a>

Costume Director      Corrina Edmondson      250-858-3438      [foueverfriends@shaw.ca](mailto:foueverfriends@shaw.ca)

Registrar              Lasha Anguish              250-384-7015      [lasha35@gmail.com](mailto:lasha35@gmail.com)

### Other Veselka Leadership Positions

Veselka is blessed with a number of committed parents who dedicate their time and energy to our children and community. These volunteers contribute to projects that benefit all of our dancers. We welcome your interest and involvement! If you would like to get involved, please speak with one of the Board members. Below is a list of some of Veselka's volunteer leadership roles along with the names of those currently filling them.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>
Ukrainian Supper Director	Coordinates the two Veselka Ukrainian Suppers. Works closely with UCC and Ukrainian Supper Volunteer Coordinator to ensure the success of each Supper.	
Ukrainian Supper Volunteer Coordinator	Organizes volunteer 'work bees' to make perogies, cabbage rolls, and borscht for two Veselka Ukrainian Suppers. Connects with Veselka members to ensure there are enough volunteers at work bees and Supper evenings.	
Costume Director	Manages costume inventory and fits dancers with costumes.	Corrina Edmondson
Advertising and Public Relations Coordinator	Creates and implements advertising plan for Veselka throughout the year.	Lisa Hall
Newsletter Producer and Assistant	Produces four Veselka Newsletters a year (in September, December, March, and June), sent to Members and Friends of Veselka).	Mike Wei and Luba Kearney
Photographer	Photographs Veselka performances and events.	Mike Wei
Videographer	Videographs Veselka performances.	
Bulletin Board Manager and Assistant	Coordinates and posts important information for Veselka families throughout the year.	Jen Carefoot
Friends of Veselka Liaison	Develops and maintains up-to-date links with our many friends in the broader community. Communicates regularly with this group to inform them of events.	Director
Zabava Coordinator and Assistants	Organizes three Zabavas through the dance year.	Marie Guenther, Solomiya Tsepenyuk, Graciela Schwartz
Christmas Eve Traditions Coordinator	Produces pageant at the Ukrainian Studies Society's fundraising dinner event in early January. Recruits and coordinates dancers or other children to perform. (Note: this event does not occur every year.)	
Easter Traditions Coordinator and Assistant	Coordinates this celebration in collaboration with the UCC. Responsible for shopping and recruiting of volunteers for the event (including set up and clean up). This event is typically held each year in the two weeks leading up to Easter.	

## **Communications**

Communicating well is critical to our community! We use several methods to communicate with members over the dance year. Email is an effective and efficient way to communicate when we have important information to share. Please send any email/contact information changes through the year to the Registrar who maintains accurate files on each dancer. We do ask that if a response is requested in an email message, you endeavor to do so in a timely way. That helps us all!

The President sends out most communications to the Veselka community. The Treasurer may send out messages on occasion about dance fees and other financial matters. The Business Manager prepares and distributes important instructions prior to performances for the preparation of all dancers and families involved. The Artistic Director will communicate with dancers and their families about rehearsals and other studio-related issues from time to time.

## **Website**

Please make it a regular habit to check the Veselka website and calendar at [www.veselkadancers.com](http://www.veselkadancers.com). The website includes a Calendar of Events, registration forms, class information, and more.

## **Social Media**

Veselka also communicates via Facebook (veselka dance), Twitter (veselka dance) and Instagram (veselkadancers).

## **Newsletter**

Veselka publishes four Newsletters each dance year, and they are full of important information you will want to take note of. In addition, we celebrate aspects of Ukrainian culture and language and the accomplishments of our dancers!

## **Bulletin Board**

And don't forget to review our bulletin board and calendar at the studio for updates on all our events!

## **Board Meetings**

Board meetings are held monthly and all Veselka members (not just those on the Board) are welcome to attend. Agenda items should be sent to the President at least one week prior to the meeting.

## **2016/2017 Calendar of Events**

Veselka events can be viewed on the Veselka website ([www.veselkadancers.com](http://www.veselkadancers.com)).

### Snow Days

Veselka follows the snow closure policy of School District (SD) 61: if SD 61 closes schools, then Veselka is closed for all classes on that day/evening(s) also. Decisions about 'snow days' are typically made by SD 61 in the early morning. If snow starts to fall later in the day, please use your judgement about whether your child(ren) should attempt to come to dance class - the safety of our dancers is always paramount! If Veselka classes are cancelled separate from a 'snow day' decision made by SD 61, we will attempt to reach all affected families to let them know, but cannot promise that it will be possible to do so given the possibility of limited advance notice, work schedules and uncertain access to cellphones and email. Do check your email, Veselka on Facebook, the Veselka website calendar, and phone messages – these are the most likely ways we will try to communicate with parents.

### Ukrainian Supper Fundraisers

The Ukrainian Cultural Centre is home to the hugely popular Ukrainian Supper, where hundreds of Victorians line up to enjoy perogies, cabbage rolls, kubasa, and borscht, live music, and soe delicious desserts. These Suppers are put on by member organizations of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, and each month the 'lead organization' organizes the work parties and, in return, receives the profit for that supper. Suppers are generally held the last Friday of the month between September and June. Veselka is the host for two suppers each year.

The work bees and Suppers are great opportunities not only for parents to get to know each other but also for dancers to work alongside the elders in our community. The Ukrainian Supper Volunteer Coordinator will notify volunteers for these two major Veselka fundraisers so please give your support to help. Work parties are typically organized throughout the month proceeding each dinner – watch your email for details on how your family can help!

**Ukrainian Dinner #1: Friday, November 25, 2016**

**Ukrainian Dinner #2: Friday, January 27, 2017**

### Veselka Zabavas (Parties)!

Veselka hosts a Zabava up to three times during the dance season (typically a potluck dinner and dance). At the October Zabava, we introduce new families to Veselka and welcome back our returning families. At the February Zabava, an invitation goes out to family and friends; this is often an opportunity for our young dancers to perform for the first time. We celebrate the end of another year with a final Zabava in June. Zabavas are great opportunities for families and dancers to spend time together, visit with one another, and socialize with other dancers from all levels. More information is posted on the Bulletin Board and emailed to families closer to each Zabava. They are highlights of the year – don't miss them!

