

Weekly Update from O'Shea Irish Dance

January 2, 2022

Happy New Year!

Today we are moving carefully away from 2021 and looking optimistically into 2022. Winter has come to Minnesota and the darkness is slowly fading each day as we move into the light of the New Year. We are looking forward to a year full of Irish dancing in as many ways as possible through performances, competitions and fun!

What inspires us forward is the drive and determination of all of our dancers from the preschoolers through our adult students. We have seen you in classes virtually and in person pushing yourselves, setting your goals and achieving them however large or small.

We know from our experiences over the last two years that even though unfortunate and unforeseen obstacles may appear on the path, we have chosen our success and found that happiness is not based on those obstacles but on the choices we make as we dance past them. We are so proud of all of you dancers, teachers, students and parents for your hard work, determination and drive.



Thank you all for spending the year with us and sharing yourselves, your children, and your families. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for having the opportunity to be a part of your lives. Thank you for being a part of our extended O'Shea Irish Dance family. We wish you peace in 2022!

—Cormac & Natalie

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars

- **Winter Session Start Date - Jan 10**
- **Celtic Junction Winter Feis** Feb 5 (PC/OC), and Feb 6 (grades), 2022 **Register Today!**

Winter Session Start Delayed to Jan 10

Due to the recent rise in COVID cases and the uncertain timing of the O'Shea's return from Ireland, we are pushing back the start of all classes to Monday, January 10. We are continuing to monitor and will update if anything changes as soon as we have more information.

Register for the Celtic Junction Winter Feis

The Irish Dance Parents' Association (IDPA), the parent booster club for O'Shea Irish Dance, is hosting the Celtic Junction Winter Feis on February 5 and 6, 2022. Champs will compete on Saturday, February 5, and Grades will compete on Sunday, February 6. COVID protocols have been updated and appear in the revised syllabus attached.

We are using a new feis registration system, Feis Forward. Before you register your dancer, you will have to create an account in the new system at www.feisfwd.com. Instructions for creating an account and registering for the feis are attached. Please note that this is a new feis registration system and it does not yet have all the same features as the established feis registration systems. You will be able to see the competitions your dancers have entered, but you will not be able to see any information about competition size or numbers registered. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email. Please ignore any instructions in the email about recording dances and accessing music--this information is for online feiseanna, our feis is in-person.

If you have problems with creating an account, registering for a feis or need to change your registration, please email FeisFWD at dance@feisfwd.com. If you have questions about the feis, please contact the feis chairs Natalie Murray and Kathy Lopac at idpafeischair@yahoo.com.

Information and sign up for volunteering at the feis will come out after Christmas. This is a small, local feis and the perfect opportunity for those who have never volunteered at a feis to receive training and experience.

IDPA Fundraiser “Garage Sale” Rescheduled for SPRING!

The Irish Dance Parents Association is pushing its First Annual OID Community Garage Sale fundraiser at the Celtic Junction to April or May. Date to be determined SOON! IDPA is looking for gently used household items and clothing - no electronics. Drop-off and sale details will be shared again closer to the date.

New Facebook Group for Selling Solo Costumes!

In addition to our upcoming in-person solo costume sales, we've started a [Facebook Group](#) just for selling used Irish Dance dresses, vests, shoes, wigs and other accessories. It has been difficult to organize on our families page so we've created a public group only for selling used Irish Dance materials. This is open to anyone in the Twin Cities involved in Irish Dance. All members will just need to answer questions to be approved to join. Please feel free to share with anyone trying to sell or buy used Irish Dance accessories or costumes. The group will remain private but visible if searching for this subject. Please note that posts selling anything other than Irish Dance related items will be deleted by the admin.

Guidance on COVID-19

Masks and social distancing are absolutely still required indoors - most of our school-age dancers are only beginning their vaccinations or will not have a chance to be vaccinated late in the year. Thanks to everyone for remaining vigilant in adhering to these protocols.

If a family member is sick or has been exposed to covid, please stay home and wait 10 days before returning to the facility. We continue to monitor local, state, and federal guidance and will provide updates as needed. State info can be found [here](#) and the City of Saint Paul's info is [here](#).

LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT WEEKLY UPDATE ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022