

Monroe Dance Academy

February Newsletter

February 29, 2020



The LOVE of Dance!

The LOVE of dance shined through this month. Many exciting things happened in February at Monroe Dance Academy. Here are a few!



Student Highlight: Jessica Nivison

Jessica has been auditioning at various colleges to pursue an education in Musical Theater. From NYC, to Pittsburgh, to Ohio, she's been traveling around the country auditioning. She is going to do amazing things! Way to go Jess, we are so proud!



Parent Highlight: Jennifer Minicus

Jennifer has been a tremendous help at Monroe Dance Academy the past few months. Whether it's opening the studio, helping new parents navigate the competition world, or brightening everyone's day with her smile, we couldn't thank her enough! If you see Jen in the lobby make sure to say thank you.

Wingman Activity of the Month

Act Out Your Emotions - a creative way to teach empathy and compassion. This activity was led by MDA's Wingman Youth Leaders, Eliza Brakeman, Nora Hurley, Madison Julian, Gabby Pena and Dylan Pinto. The youth leaders went into each dance class and gave dancers a word, such as disgust, hope, jealousy and dancers were prompted to either create a skit that reflected that word or create a short dance portraying that word while the rest of the class guessed their word. As a group, dancers shared their final products with each other complementing one another and applauding their work.



Monroe Dance Company

Groove Dance Competition

Dancers competed at [Groove Dance Competition](#) in Bridgeport, CT at the University of Bridgeport. Dancers placed first overall for their dance, *Brand New*, choreographed by Jayme Wappel. Soloists, like Ryan Sokira, took home the "Broadway Bound" Special award for the second year in a row. Special shout out to Eliza Brakeman and Madison Julian who both performed after receiving difficult news. They showed us all that dance can help heal all wounds. The minis took home the special award "Outstanding Opening" for their fabulous acting in *It's My Party*. Congratulations to Junior company members, Harry Urbina and Grace Morrow on their first competition! Dancers, parents, co-directors, and co-owners enjoyed their Saturday afternoon at Brewport celebrating their 1st place overall win!

StarQuest Dance Competition

Dancers competed at [StarQuest Dance Competition](#) in Waterbury, CT at the Palace Theater. Monroe Dance Company swept the competition! Congratulations to all who competed! Soloist Kenny Sawyer received 1st place overall for her tap solo! The minis took their group dance and turned it into a trio when one of their dancers was unable to perform due to the flu. The mini company worked hard and scored 1st place overall for their dance *It's My Party*. It was another amazing weekend for Junior soloists Ryan Sokira and Madison Minicus who took their performances to the next level. Spotlight shined with their full company, working as a team to outperform their competitors. Once again, two weekends in a row, our full company dance, *Brand New*, received 1st place overall!



Dancer Accomplishments

Many Monroe Dance Academy dancers took the stage this weekend performing in the Fawn Hollow Follies Talent Show. Dancers performed their solos as well as dances they choreographed in their bedroom! We are so proud of their determination and hard work.



~A Special congratulations to young dancer **Lauren Viera** who after months of practice finally perfected her right split! Keep up the hard work Lauren! ~

Theater Connection

High School Musical JR auditions were held on February 18th! Callbacks took place on Thursday, February 20th. The amount of talent that showed up at auditions was OUT OF THIS WORLD!! Rehearsals started on Saturday, February 29th.

Save the date for our performance on **May 16th at 2:00pm and 7:00pm @ Masuk High School!**

Bring Your Dad to Dance Week!



Coming in March...

FREE Frozen Dance Party

Come join us for a FREE Frozen dance party on Saturday March 14th with Ms. Meghan from 12-1pm. Tell your friends! You won't want to miss this.

Upcoming Shows

Many dancers from MDA will be performing in various shows during the month of March!

- **Just So** @ Jockey Hollow School ~ March 5th, 6th and 7th
- **Willy Wonka Jr** @ Newtown Middle School ~ March 27th, 28th and 29th
- **Clue** @ Masuk High School ~ March 26th, 27th and 28th

Costume Deposits

Recital costume deposits are due March 9th! All costume pictures are displayed on the wall for dancers and parents to see. Stop by the office with any questions.

Looking Ahead to Summer

Monroe Dance Academy's summer camps will be announced shortly! ~Stay tuned~ As for right now, SAVE THE DATE

- Summer Dance Intensive - July 13-16 - ages 10 and up!
- Monroe Dance Company Boot Camp - August 3 - 7

St. Patrick's Day

March 17th! Don't forget to wear green to celebrate!

Studio Closings

We are open the entire month of March!

[Read more on our website](#)

Monroe Dance Academy
838 Main Street, Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 268-1200 ~ www.monroedance.com

