

MT Junior New Term Letter
January 2019

Dear Parents and MT Junior Students!

Welcome to those that are new to class and welcome back to those returning to a new term at Centre Stage! We hope you had a wonderful holiday, a lovely Christmas and have returned with bundles of enthusiasm, energy and creative ideas to get this term off to a great start! And are excited to be Singing, Dancing & bringing stories and characters to life again!

We had a busy, fun and productive term last year, which ended with our open classes allowing you to see a little of what we do in class, well done to all involved.

This is a Creative class that is process driven and combines the principles of performance as acquired through Creative Drama with Singing and Dance. These classes include strong elements that are shared with the Creative Drama programme and augment those skills with movement, dance and singing.

Though there is an element of performance skills, the **main aims are to build confidence and develop basic musical theatre skills in a 'process' driven environment.**

Each term is themed with a scheme of work written to explore the focus for that term. Subject matter for each class is drawn from generic children's stories and children's books, rather than from specific shows, and songs and dances are drawn from a broad resource - shows, or from popular music or from whatever genre or area best suits the teaching objective. It is an exploration of the narrative, the characters and themes taken from these stories, which are brought to life through creative drama, music, movement, song and dance in a fun and interactive manner.

It is important to note that the course is distinctly different from Pop Stars as it has a strong drama element. The belief in the creative drama, forms the basis for *all* performance work whether it be song, dance or acting. The students develop acting skills by building a deep belief in who they are when playing characters, this belief is then taken into the singing and dance elements of the course.

On very odd occasions, students may be encouraged to practice something at home, if they have been given something to do, then they will be given a CD, song sheets and link to video. Please help them with this if this is the case. However, this is not often the case as the class is process driven not performance driven.

Material & Focus

We explore the stories, musicals and themes, taking these stories and bringing them to life through drama, movement, music and song.

This term we will continue to spend our lessons in Creative Drama, Singing and Dancing. As always we aim to build confidence. In Creative Drama we concentrate on building 'belief' in Singing, we work towards building strength and a tuneful voice with good articulation, and in Movement/Dance we aim to develop, greater accuracy and better coordination, often whilst Singing Dancing & Acting at the same time! 😊

Themes and material to be explored this term include:

The stories and characters from Hans Christian Anderson stories, including The Ugly Duckling The Little Mermaid and - Music & Songs from musicals such as - Honk & Little Mermaid, Moana

Open Class - Week 10 – 18th – 24th March 2019

Our 'Open' Class, where you can come in and see a small aspect of what we do in class, - Please understand this is NOT a performance, or a presentation, as we are not working on material to practice, prepare and perfect for a presentation. In the 'Open' Class, where you will see some aspects of the class, the kind of exercises and activities we get up to on a weekly basis and these are not aimed for a spectator or audience. The aim of the open class is to give you a glimpse of what goes on, not a practiced or rehearsed presentation

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Towards the end of term two, (dates below) we will have the class where parents are invited to come in at the end of the session to see what your children have been learning – be prepared to get squishy! As you squash in to the studio with us all to watch! ☺

We have a lot of important updates detailed here, please do take the time to read the update in full. Each teacher can be contacted at info@centre-stage.com and by calling the main office on 6732 7211 & for East Coast Classes 64496211 & east@centre-stage.com if you have any questions.

We are all looking forward to a full term of Drama, song & dance with all of our students, and a **special welcome to all new parents and MT Junior Students.**

Very Best Wishes

The Centre Stage Team

Please do read on for details of:

Term 2

Open Class Week – **Week 10 – 18th – 24th March 2019**

Please come in for the last 20 minutes of the class to see some of the things what we do regularly in class and what we have been focussing on within the term

Term 3

Proposed MT Junior & Pop Stars Show: *Date and venue to be confirmed* - Awaiting confirmation. Upon confirmation the Annual Pop Star Show will be announced shortly as will details of application to be involved in this show! **There is opportunity for our MT Junior students to opt in to this show, which takes place in an outside Theatre.** Watch out for news on the eNews and our Facebook group page. Rehearsals for the show will start soon.

Please mark these dates in your calendar. Updates are sent via e-news, PLEASE make sure we have your latest email address.

Tickets to all performances to be purchased online or from the office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email us at 6732 7211 or info@centre-stage.com & for East Coast Classes 64496211 & east@centre-stage.com if you have any questions.