

**DECEMBER 2024**

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I don't know about you, but I cannot believe it is December already! This precious month where we celebrate the gift of Jesus, our savior, often goes by so fast with all the festivities. I pray over all our families that we are able to dedicate time to learning more about Jesus, spending time with Him, and truly reflecting on the true meaning of the season - Immanuel - God with us!

### **Scripture Memory Challenge:**

Matthew 1:23

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")."

In Hebrew - Immanuel - Emmanouel - translated "God with us."

"When our sins made it impossible for us to come to him, God took the outrageous step of coming to us, of making himself susceptible to sorrow, familiar with temptation, and vulnerable to sin's disruptive power in order to cancel its claim. In Jesus we see how extreme God's love is. Remember this the next time you feel discouraged, abandoned, or too timid to undertake some new endeavor. For Jesus is still Immanuel - he is still 'God with us.'" [Praying the Names of God](#) by Ann Spangler.

We are challenging our students to memorize scripture verses this year that go along with our recital theme of "Names of God." God has laid on my heart to deepen our understanding of who He is. Our recital theme this year will revolve around this concept. Please help your child work on memorizing this bible verse by their last class date in December, they will earn a lollipop and get their name on our scripture memory wall.

### **No CLASS:**

- There will be NO classes December 23<sup>rd</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup> for Christmas Break

### **Costume Deposits -**

I am working to finalize song choices in the next two weeks. In an effort to be as sensitive as possible to families concerns over costume costs I am trying my best to see if I can reuse or piece together one costume for each "level" so that, Opal students for instance, would only have to purchase 2 costumes (\$75 fee), and reuse or purchase something cheap for the 3<sup>rd</sup> dance. Please bear with me while I work to finalize this. I will be in touch within the next month regarding final plans regarding costumes. I've also been in touch with Hannibal High School and am waiting to hear back from them regarding booking a recital date for the spring (mid/late May or early June), as soon as I have a date I will let you know! I'm grateful they are willing to work with us again and sponsor our recital. For those of you who don't know, a group sponsorship of our recital allows us to keep costs for tickets low, and all proceeds go to the high school students who volunteer to help at recital. It's a win-win for us and them!

### **Ballet Technique class student opportunity -**

Reminder for Creation Crew students - OCCS Christmas program December 19<sup>th</sup> at Oswego Alliance Church, show is expected to start at 7 pm. (Anyone is welcome to attend and watch!) We will arrive at 6:15pm to warm up and practice in the last classroom by the bathrooms at OAC - 370 Thompson Rd Oswego. Reminder we are changing class time to be an hour long and will run from 8-9pm on the following Wednesdays: Dec 4, Dec 11, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. On Dec 18<sup>th</sup> we will

be at OAC to practice on stage. Dancers will wear a black leotard of their own, white skirt I will provide, scarf or cardigan (Christmas colored), tan tights and hair in a bun with light makeup. Boxes have been donated and artwork completed by Olivia Hicks - Thank you Liv! Hat rack has been donated by Mrs. Ryder - thank you Steph! Wrapping paper donated - Thank you Cleary family! See you on Wednesday dancers - bring your scarf/cardigan to practice with. AND DON'T FORGET TO PRACTICE YOUR DANCE LOTS BEFORE WEDNESDAY!

Merry Christmas,  
Miss Jessica