Dear Alexandra Hills State Primary Parent,

DDJ Performing Arts proudly brings co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as instrumental music, dance and drama to schools all across the greater Brisbane area. DDJ offers Visual Arts and the three major Performing Arts disciplines, as well as related disciplines such as speech and communication and public speaking. Educators throughout the world understand the benefits that a performing arts activity can offer children, particularly as they begin to develop socially and discover their passions.

In 2014, DDJ will be leading all students from Prep to Year 7 through an 8 week drama course in Term 1, and dance course in Term 2. These weekly, one hour lessons will be held during school time and offered to students as part of the curriculum free of charge to parents. This is a compulsory activity for all students and full participation is expected.

DDJ believe that education should involve more than just the academic, and that these activities are the perfect way for your child to express themselves while having lots of fun at the same time. Students who show particular interest or aptitude throughout the courses will be able to pursue further drama and/or dance education throughout the year as a part of our ongoing partnership with Alexandra Hills Primary. Class groups will work towards a group performance for presentation to friends and family at the end of the term.

Tell me more about DRAMA lessons

Any and every child can benefit from taking a drama class. From the shy and timid to the loud and boisterous, children of all personality types love the idea of taking on a character and allowing their imagination to guide them. We very quickly find that even the most nervous student is jumping around and using their biggest voice in no time at all!

DDJ Drama lessons take place in a non-competitive environment and there is no expectation or pressure for children to become perfect actors. It’s all about gently stepping outside their comfort zone and having the confidence to get up in front of a crowd and perform – a lifelong skill that some adults are yet to master!
Throughout the DDJ Drama curriculum and lesson plans, we teach and make use of *dramatic concepts*. These include:

- spatial awareness
- stage awareness
- vocal dynamics
- body language and physicality
- characterisation
- mime
- improvisation
- physical theatre
- symbolism
- memorisation techniques
- status/relationship dynamics
- teamwork and cooperation
- poetry performance and interpretation
- vocal and physical warm-up techniques
- breathing techniques
- script writing and interpretation
- directing

**Tell me more about DANCE lessons**

It is important that students who sit in a classroom for half their day get up and exercise, to promote a healthy lifestyle and exploration of movement while developing coordination and spatial awareness. Dance lessons encourage them to make friends, express themselves and perform in front of a crowd with ease. Children love learning about beats and rhythms and timing their movements to their favourite songs! If your child doesn’t feel confident, they don’t have to dance right at the front if this makes them feel more comfortable. However, we find that generally by the end of term everyone wants to have a solo or a special part anyway! The importance of warm-ups and warm-downs, as well as the ability to stay in time are both integral qualities that will benefit them for life.

In DDJ dance lessons, students are introduced to a range of physical and creative concepts, including:

- spatial awareness
- stage awareness
- effective warm-up and warm-down techniques
- self-expression
- choreographic skills
- teamwork
- coordination
- flexibility
- sense of rhythm and timing
- body strength
- physical and mental discipline
- non-locomotor movements ie. Bending, twisting, limb swinging
- locomotor movements ie. Walking, hopping, jumping, marching, leaping
- effective formations and staging
- dancing with props
- appreciation of different music genres
- appreciation of different dance styles

We look forward to working with your children in 2014!

Regards,

DDJ Performing Arts.

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