

Newsletter



e.motion21

August 2012

Dear families and friends

Welcome to week 6 of term! As expected, we are seeing enormous development and growth in all areas of the organisation, most importantly in our dancers. Go team!

The QANTAS planes have just returned from taking our amazing performance group to South Africa after working incredibly hard for 5 months on their routines. They wowed the crowd and we are so excited to have had this incredible opportunity. Be sure to follow all our adventures on our Facebook page!

In other exciting news, new e.motion21 schools have opened in **Cranbourne** and **Ballarat**. For more information or to enrol, please email info@emotion21.org.au.

Please take note of the following important events and announcements for the various locations:

Event Dates

14-21 October National Down Syndrome Awareness Week

14 October Buddy Walk @ Princes Park Melbourne

15 October documentary premiere @ The Jam Factory

21 October Buddy Walk @ Geelong

27 October Surry Hills Festival (Performance Group)

9 December concert rehearsal @ Camberwell Boys Grammar

16 December annual concert @ Camberwell Boys Grammar

Our Volunteers and the Volunteer Program

Wow what an amazing 2 months it has been!

Educate, engage, evaluate and expand – this sums up the activities of our Volunteers and the e.motion21 Volunteer Program

We welcomed 4 new RMIT placement students, Brigitta, Lara, Liz and Kerry. Other volunteers Jo, Sally, Alicia, Anna R, Viv and Katey also joined us.

We also had our 3 new site managers Jenny Stevens (Kew), Lesley-Ann Hutchison (Cranbourne) and Cathy Griffin (Ballarat) participating with us in the training.

These sites are now operating and staffed by volunteers.

The new interview system, Induction training and Weekly Dance Class training were really amazing and enjoyed by all attendees.

These volunteers now work at Kew on a fortnightly rotating roster and weekly at Pascoe Vale and Cranbourne.

Geelong has also been going along steadily welcoming new teachers Libby and Tara and supported by Hazel Cook our devoted Site Manager and enthusiastic volunteers Tim, Joey, Sue and Deb.

Our volunteer base is stable, loyal and highly professional in the way they conduct themselves as Movers for e.motion21. Our expansion has contributed to the development of our committed and robust team and has been laying a strong foundation for the ongoing expansion of e.motion21.

We continue to evaluate our training, systems and processes so we can offer the very best to our volunteers, dancers, families and the community. We are currently fine tuning our on line Application system to interface with our data base.

It is an exciting time as we move forward. Jo Rawson and Rose Witherow are the Acting Volunteer Coordinators and we thank and acknowledge all our wonderful e.motion21 volunteer team for your professionalism, enthusiasm and for being such great role models.



e.motion21 documentary

Our vision is to enhance lives and change perceptions of Down syndrome in society. Thanks to our great friends at 50Kaliber films an insightful short documentary is in the making on e.motion21.

Premiering during National Down Syndrome Awareness week – you can be first to see the family friendly movie on Mon 15 October 2012 at the Jam Factory in South Yarra 7-8.30pm.

This movie will be viewed by up to 2million people through all Qantas domestic and international flights.

Save the date and tell ALL your family and friends! Tickets on sale shortly through trybooking.



Wrap of our regional tour

Monday 25th of July marked the conclusion of our amazing regional tour of performances and photo exhibition showcasing our incredible dancers in Ballarat. We had lots of incredible feedback and all visitors to each of the shows came away impressed and inspired by our performers.

Exhibition photographs are for sale @ \$150, so contact info@emotion21.org.au to purchase one of these gorgeous pieces. Christmas is around the corner!

Welcome Lauren

A warm welcome to Lauren McCCasey our newly appointed full-time Office Program Coordinator. Lauren will pop by all the site locations over the next few months to say hi so please help us in making her feel welcome!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers

As always, we are eternally grateful to the e.motion21 volunteers who help make the magic happen! This month we would like to thank:

Sam Kennedy: our tour bus driver extraordinaire

Susanne Audsley, Kate Crerar and Anna Sutherland: for volunteer help with the performance group

Carolyn McDiarmid: for the wonderful photography

Karen Woodward and Carol Sternar: our experts at "meeting and greeting"

Jenny Wood, Michele Warren, Sjaan Warren, Alex Miklesons, and Jane Blakston: for their help with all the food, drinks and cleanup

Jenny Wood: for generously helping with printing

Jennifer Robson and Martine: for all their invaluable help in the office

Gavin Andrews & Sean Thomas from Dulux: for generously supporting regional tour

Need a computer?

Thanks to our wonderful supporters at Cooper Investors, We have some recycled PC's to give away to the first five people who contact us at info@emotion21.org.au The PCs are HP Intel Pentium 4 or HP Intel Pentium D with approximately 2GB of RAM and 80GB Hard Drives. Microsoft XP Operating Systems are already installed. This means that they can be turned on and hooked up to the internet where you can install programs. They just require monitors.

End of year concert!

Soon we will be busting out rehearsals for our end of year concert! Parents please note that a small costume fee will be due late in Term 3. The fee will be a nominal \$20 levied as a token to cover extra class rehearsals, costumes and costs associated with the actual concert day. For any questions, please get in touch.

Fee reminder

We are currently finalising Term 3 fees so if you have not paid please make sure you do so as soon as possible. Thanks!



FREE HOODIE - e.motion21 App

We are thrilled that Williams Lea has developed an innovative e.motion21 app exclusive for YOU! It has a "fun stuff" section specifically designed for our dancers with a focus on self-esteem building, age appropriate games and music. The "serious stuff" section has more statistics from around the world and useful links and data that we can all enjoy along with video & photo galleries.

In order to populate the app with content please email us your favourite songs, games and Down syndrome-related links for potential inclusion. The person with the most submissions will win a free e.motion21 hoodie!

Donations

In order to meet demand for our program in the communities that need them most we need your support! As a volunteer-powered organisation that does a lot with only a little money please consider donating your time, resources or money so that we can continue to provide dance and social opportunities for children and young adults with Down syndrome.

You can now donate through our secure Paypal link at www.emotion21.org.au or call us on 9853 2121.



Blue Door Café



Be sure to stop in for a coffee and snack at the wonderful Blue Door Café situated at 654 High Street Kew East. The staff here do a wonderful job and are committed to providing employment for people with disabilities, including some of the e.motion21 dancers!

During the week Jacqui (one of our fabulous dancers, photographed above) spends her time at the Blue Door café working as an assistant, serving, operating the till and also at back of house operations.

Jacqui is now part of the team of thirteen workers at the café seven who have disabilities.

The café boasts organic Fair Trade coffee and freshly baked goods. After only a few months of trading it became apparent that the Blue Door Cafe was 'greater than the sum of its parts'. It is not just a café, it is a micro-community of people with a common goal. Some of the employees say that working there is not like any other cafe they have worked at before. There is the satisfaction of being part of a project that is valuable beyond any ordinary job. Some staff have said how they have grown personally by learning of the world of disability and have acquired skills of relating, understanding and working with those around them.

End of year concert – costumes!

To prepare for the concert spectacular on Sun 16 Dec all dancers need to be measured for costumes over the next week. Many have been done and the remainder completed next week (before, during, after class) by your Site Manager and Costume Volunteer. If your child is absent from class you will be emailed and asked to measure as per directions and send details to the office. We appreciate your assistance as this information is vital to create costumes in a timely fashion. If you have experience in dressmaking and maybe able to assist your Site Manager in measuring the dancers, please let them know.

Wearing of e.motion21 uniforms

As you are all aware we take our dance classes very seriously and like to instill a level of professionalism (and fun!) into all that we do here at e.motion21. It is for these reasons that we expect all our dancers to come in uniform to every class. This means black pants/ leggings and the e.motion21 t-shirt. In colder weather, black skivvies or undershirts are permitted under the t-shirt or you can wear the official e.motion21 hoodie over.

Professional attire is not only comfortable for dancing but it also reinforces teamwork and our high expectations of participants in the program. Please support us and your child by ensuring they are wearing the correct uniform each week.

- e.motion21 t.shirt
- black leggings/stretch pants (100% black)
- black modesty skirt (optional for girls)
- black jazz shoes or dance sneakers (kinder bare feet)
- black sox

Various t-shirt styles & sizes are available to e.motion21 dancers for \$20 (everyone else \$25) and can be purchased at class or via email to our Merchandise Coordinator at admin@emotion21.org.au.

Bloch Dance Store Discount

Dance wear is available through Bloch with a 20% discount off Bloch apparel and footwear year-round exclusively for e.motion21 dancers.

NAB volunteering day

A huge thanks goes out to the NAB volunteer team for their wonderful help fitting out e.motion21's Kew storage facility. It was a lot of fun, sweat and success!



Facebook

Don't forget to stay tuned with all the e.motion21 news, events, and information. "LIKE" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/

Full coverage of the South Africa WDSC 2012, right here!

Volunteer vibe! 5 minutes with.....

Lesley-Ann Hutchinson - Site Manager at Cranbourne



What brought you to e.motion21? My son Ben, who has Down syndrome, loves to dance, so it was through his wish to participate in a dance class that brought us to e.motion21

You have taken on the role as Volunteer Site Manager at Cranbourne.... It's a busy role. What kind of things do you get up to.... I am basically the hub of communication/correspondence for the families who participate in the classes at Cranbourne. I look after enrolments, uniform requests and pretty much all admin. I am at class every Wednesday to set up and pack down. I greet the new families and chat with the regulars trying to make everyone feel welcome.

What's been your most memorable moment at e.motion21? I really loved the moment when one of the kids who had sat on the sidelines watching for weeks finally took the plunge and joined in. It was not only a great moment for Nathan but also for his mum and the rest of us who have now seen him come on in leaps and bounds with his engagement and dancing.

Have you ever been a volunteer before? I was Chairperson for the Down syndrome Association in Scotland. I also ran weekend activity groups through the association and was a "new parent contact" at the hospital.

In that lifetime that was before children what was your occupation? A Kindergarten teacher.

What song would you dance around the house to when no one was looking? Anything by Shania Twain and "Dancing Queen" by ABBA

3 favourite movies? Brave Heart, The Notebook & PS: I love You

What's Your signature dish? Lasagna (will share secret recipe by request)

What's one thing you can't live without? My family

Are you a summer or a winter person? Summer

Changed your details?

Please let us know by emailing info@emotion21.org.au or phoning on 9853 2121.

Message from our new teacher Jasmine!

I recently joined the e.motion21 team. I am currently teaching and assisting the kinder and primary classes in Kew as well as spending some time at Pascoe Vale with Anna and our wonderful volunteers. I spent the last 4 years dancing full time at The Dance Factory in Richmond and last year completed my diploma in dance teaching and performing. I have always had a passion for teaching and am so thrilled to be a part of the fun and exciting e.motion21 community. My experience so far has been filled with joy and laughter, hard work and great achievements, I look forward to many more moments like this and can't wait till the entire e.motion21 community comes together for the end of year concert.

Positions vacant - volunteer

Site Manager Pascoe Vale: Wednesdays 5-7pm
email your interest to info@emotion21.org.au

Photography: editing and collating e.motion21 photos for updating our website with galleries, in your own time.

More volunteering opportunities on website!

Office expansion – furniture needed!

As a result of wonderful support from Boroondara Council we have secured a second office at Kew Courthouse cultural precinct to house our growing team of dedicated people and volunteers working behind the scenes.

As we prepare to move in we desperately need office furniture as we don't have a budget for this! If you or anyone you know has office desks, chairs, tables, filing cabinets and/or shelving please let us know asap on info@emotion21.org.au. Thank you!!

And finally

We bid goodbye and good luck to the lovely **Julia Haywood** who is leaving e.motion21 to have a baby. Julia has been an invaluable resource to us in the office on Mondays and Thursdays and we wish her all the best.

As we near the end of term 3 our eyes are firmly on the celebrations to come; National Down Syndrome week and our end of year concert celebration. Routines are being finalised, costumes made and rehearsals will begin soon!

Until then, thank you all for your amazing support as we continue to have fun, learn and grow together.

Warmest regards

Cate Sayers
Founder/CEO