



STUDIO 5.6.7.8 INC.

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STUDIO
5.6.7.8 inc.

Caroline McLaughlin loves to see shy young children blossom through dance instruction.

“During our year-end recitals a lot of parents will say to me ‘I never thought she would have done this,’” McLaughlin said. “Dance really builds self confidence and self esteem. I would highly recommend it for a shy child because they learn to feel that sense of teamwork.”

The owner of Studio 5.6.7.8 Inc. has seen the transformation in thousands of children since first opening her Dunsdon Street dance studio 22 years ago.

Through the instruction of McLaughlin and her team of 12 dance professionals, the many strides made in the development of young boys and girls into confident, team-oriented dancers has helped the studio grow threefold.

“I started with one unit at the front of the building that had one dance room, one change room and a huge lobby,” McLaughlin recalled. “We made the one dance room into two and then built into the lobby 15 years ago.”

As interest in Studio 5.6.7.8 Inc. continued to grow, so too did the studio. Five years ago McLaughlin expanded yet again into a unit at the side of the building and last summer, another expansion took place beside that unit.

There are now a total of four dance rooms where classes run every evening and on weekends.

“I wanted to meet the growing needs of the community,” she said. “When I added the fourth studio parents wanted a dance class too, so I started offering Adult Ballet, Bollywood and Tap classes and now we also have Barre Fitness for adults.”

When she opened her dance studio, McLaughlin strived to keep the focus on the enjoyment of dance and the resulting fitness aspect. About 85 per cent of students dance recreationally and 15 per cent are involved in competitive dance.

“There is a stigma that dance costs a lot of money or that a child has to be competitive, but it’s not like that here,” McLaughlin said.

A wide range of dance programs, from tap, jazz, ballet, hip-hop and acrobatics, to musical theatre, lyrical jazz and contemporary dance are offered.

Recreational programs alleviate the pressure of driving to dance competitions, purchasing numerous costumes and incurring additional fees involved with competitive dance.

It also allows the studio to keep class sizes small, with about 12 students per class.

“It allows for more one-on-one instruction,” McLaughlin said. “Our under age five classes have a teacher plus an assistant.”

Class and costume prices are very affordable, enabling more children to enjoy dance.

“The big thing for me is that every student here is referred to by name,” McLaughlin said. “I always wanted to provide dance education in a fun and family-friendly atmosphere.

“I never say to my husband ‘I’m going to work,’ I say ‘I’m off to the studio.’ It never feels like work because I love what I do.”