



Nutcracker 2018

Saturday, December 1

Important Information & Permission Slip
for Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Dear Parents,

The Nutcracker began in 1995 as a small Kindergarten production. In 2017, we had over 450 students participating in three performances. Grades K-2 participate in class dances, while grades 3-5 are volunteer dancers or back-stage crew.

The children, staff and parent volunteers work hard putting together a fully staged performance of the Nutcracker. Weekly rehearsals not only include learning the dances, but elements of choreography, set design, costuming, a dress rehearsal, and the thrill of a live performance.

We could not do this without YOUR help and cooperation. Please read through this packet so you know how you can help make this event a success.

Important Dates

- **October 5** - turn in your child's permission slip to your teacher **no later than October 5**.
- **November 16** - secure your child's costume basics BEFORE Thanksgiving break.
- **Week of November 26** - make sure your child comes dressed in their costume basics for Dress Rehearsal (see Performance Schedule in this packet).
- **December 1** - bring your child to Strandwood, dressed in costume basics and proper hairstyle, at designated arrival time for their show. We provide the props and makeup.

Volunteer Opportunities

It takes over 100 volunteers to put on the show! Volunteers are needed leading up to the show and the day of the show. Please see the FAQs for more information. If you're available to volunteer, please email nutcracker@strandwoodpta.org.

Be sure to check the Nutcracker page on the PTA website for more information regarding the production, costume requirements, rehearsals, and day of show.

<http://www.strandwoodpta.org/nutcracker>

Best regards,

Molly McCabe, Jessica Muldau, Sarah Eitelgeorge
nutcracker@strandwoodpta.org

Nutcracker FAQs:

How many shows will my child perform in?

Each child will perform in (1) Dress Rehearsal and (1) Final Performance to be held on Saturday, December 1. Please check the enclosed documents for your child's Dress Rehearsal date and show time.

Is student participation mandatory?

Absolutely not. Student participation is completely VOLUNTARY. Please talk with your child and determine if he/she would like to participate in the show. Students who choose not to participate in the show will not participate in show rehearsals, but may watch the practices (per teacher discretion).

What costumes are required for my child?

Costumes vary by dance. Please check the costume requirements page of this packet once you know which dance your child is performing in. Please also make sure hair is prepped as directed for both dress rehearsal and final performance. **ALL CHILDREN MUST HAVE COSTUME BASICS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SHOW.** Please secure costume basics by November 16. Due to sanitary precautions, there will be no sharing of head pieces or make-up.

What if I can't find the required costume basics?

If you are having difficulty locating costume basics, please contact our Nutcracker Closet Coordinator at nutcrackercloset@strandwoodpta.org. Availability is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please secure costume basics BEFORE the Thanksgiving break so that your child is prepared for dress rehearsal which is the week after Thanksgiving. Do not procrastinate!

What is the Dress Rehearsal?

A Nutcracker dress rehearsal/assembly will be held during school hours so all children will get to see the entire Nutcracker show. **Children must come to school dressed in the same basic costume as described in this packet.** There is no make-up at dress rehearsal. Please see attached information for your scheduled dress rehearsal/assembly date and time. There are limited seats at the Dress Rehearsals, but this is a good chance for extended family to come watch the show. Seats/standing room are located in the back third of the room behind the student audience.

What is the seating policy on Show Day?

Each individual performer will receive two seats for their designated show. (Example: if your family has one child performing in a show, then you will receive two seats. If your family has two children performing in the same show, you will receive (4) seats for that particular show). Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each show time. **Seating is first come, first served.** For safety reasons, we will have a check-in list. If you need additional seats please contact us at nutcrackerseats@strandwoodpta.org. We will do our best to accommodate your request but there are **no guarantees** due to Fire Code limitations. Please note that parents do start lining up for the show up to 60 minutes prior, so plan accordingly.

How do I get front-row seats for the show?

Strandwood PTA will be having an online auction via www.biddingforgood.com in early November. Parents, family and friends will have the opportunity to bid on front row seats to the show. Watch the Nutcracker E-blast for additional details. All funds raised will be donated to the PTA.

Can my child switch to a different show?

Yes and No. We strongly discourage switching shows unless there is a very important and specific reason. Please understand that it is very stressful to your CHILD to switch shows. Your child will practice twice a week with his/her class. Many dances are partner specific and this makes it very difficult for your child to suddenly transition to another class/dance on dress rehearsal day. The student is put into an unfamiliar class just one week prior to performance. Due to the myriad of scheduling issues, we cannot have your child rehearse with the new class prior to the final week. Please strongly consider the value of this switch for your child versus the “convenience” of the parents. Absolutely **NO CHANGING of shows after November 1** - no exceptions! It is very challenging to schedule 400+ children and last minute changes make it even more difficult.

Why must I turn in a permission slip?

For liability reasons, permission slips are REQUIRED of all participating students. If your child does not have a signed permission slip on file, he/she will not be able to participate in the show. PLEASE do not wait until show day to turn in your permission slip. It is chaotic enough for our volunteers, without the additional stress of tracking down parent signatures on show day.

On show day, where and when do I drop my child off?

Students need to be at school 45 minutes prior to show time. There will be a check-in table located in front of the office. Please come to the table with your child. A runner will bring your child to the appropriate classroom for final costume & make-up. No parents are allowed in the dressing room area. Please be respectful of this rule, as we cannot have hundreds of adults roaming the halls. Your child will be supervised at all times. Bring a paper bag labeled with their name to the dressing room to store their coat, shoes, etc. in during the show.

Where/when do I pick up my child after the show?

NO CHILD WILL BE DISMISSED FROM A CLASSROOM UNTIL THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE. NO EXCEPTIONS! THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN. Please come to the same check-in table located in front of the office and children will be dismissed in an orderly manner.

What kind of volunteer opportunities are there for parents?

Lots! We need rehearsal teachers/assistants to help teach the Nutcracker dances. Rehearsals are 20 minutes twice a week during school hours. No dance experience is necessary, training will be provided. We always are looking for performance day volunteers. We need Dressing Room Parents for each class - these parents are invaluable as they help dress our little dancers. Don't worry, Dressing Room parents are assigned to work the show that your own child is NOT in. Of course, we wouldn't want you to miss your little star! Dressing Room parents are also required to work the Dress Rehearsal, that way you're prepared on show day!

We also have several positions available for Check-In, Ushers, Show Runners, Setup/Cleanup and more. We need multiple volunteers per show and your help would be greatly appreciated. If interested, please email nutcracker@strandwoodpta.org.

How long is the performance?

The entire show lasts approximately 50-60 minutes.

K-2 PERMISSION SLIP

Every child **MUST** have a completed Permission Slip to perform in the Nutcracker Show. Please complete and return to your child's teacher.

Participation is strictly VOLUNTARY. If your child does not wish to participate, please complete this form so we know how best to stage the dances.

PERMISSION SLIPS DUE BY OCTOBER 5, 2018

_____ **YES** – My child will perform in the Nutcracker Production and Dress Rehearsal.

_____ **NO** – My child will not perform in the Nutcracker Production on Saturday, December 1 but will perform in the Dress Rehearsal.

_____ **NO** – My child will not perform in the Nutcracker Production or the Dress Rehearsal.

_____ **YES** – I am able to volunteer my time to help. Please contact me with more details.

My child, _____ has my permission to participate in the Nutcracker Performance on 12/1/2018. **I agree to bring my child, dressed in designated clothing, to the check-in table located in front of the office at the assigned time.** I agree to pick up my child after the show. I agree to provide a responsible adult on the premises while my child is at the performance location. I grant permission for my child to be videotaped for the production.

On the day of the show, please note for safety reasons no students will be dismissed from the classroom areas until the end of the performance. Also, there will be no parents allowed in the classrooms. Please assist us in keeping your children safe by following these rules.

Parent's name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Child's teacher: _____

Siblings at Strandwood & their grade: _____

QUESTIONS: Email Nutcracker@strandwoodpta.org

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Costume Requirements:

Little Mice

Little Mice need to wear black pants, black shirt, black shoes (sweat suits work well). Girl's hair should be in a ponytail.

Russian Ribbon Dancers

Russian Ribbon dancers should wear black pants and a white turtleneck. Girl's hair should be in a low ponytail at the nape of the neck.

Snow Dancers

Snow Dancers should wear a white leotard, white tights and white ballet shoes. Hair should be in a low bun or ponytail at the nape of the neck.

Gingersnaps

Gingersnaps wear a white turtleneck and tan/khaki pants that will be rolled up. Sneakers/soft-soled shoes.

Spanish Dancers

Girls should wear a black leotard & leggings or tights, black ballet shoes. Hair should be in a low ponytail or bun at the nape of the neck. Boys should wear black pants, black shirt & black shoes. Hair should be slicked back.

Reed Flute

Girls should wear a white leotard, white tights and white ballet shoes. Hair should be 1/2 up, 1/2 down (i.e. sides should be pulled up in a barrette or small ponytail at the crown of the head, and the rest should be worn down). Boys should wear black pants and a white turtleneck. Hair should be slicked back.

Waltz of the Flowers Dancers

Girls should wear a pale pink leotard, pale pink tights and pink ballet shoes. Hair should be 1/2 up, 1/2 down (i.e. sides should be pulled up in a barrette or small ponytail at the crown of the head, and the rest should be worn down). Boys should wear black pants and a white turtleneck with black or dark shoes. Hair should be slicked back.

Toy Soldiers

Toy Soldier dancers should wear black pants and a white turtleneck. Girl's hair should be in a low bun or ponytail at the nape of the neck. Boy's hair should be slicked back.

Windup Dolls

Girls should wear a pale pink leotard (short sleeve preferred) & pale pink tights and pink ballet shoes. Hair should ½ up, ½ down (i.e. sides should be pulled up in a barrette or small ponytail at the crown of the head, and the rest should be worn down).

Chinese Tea

Girls: Long sleeved black leotard or shirt, black leggings or pants (not tights), black ballet shoes

Boys: Black pants, black shirt, black shoes

Hair: Boys - slicked back. Girls - low bun or ponytail at the nape of the neck.

Performance Schedule

Show Day: Saturday, December 1, 2018

Show 1: Start Time is 10:30am

(students arrive @ 9:45am)

Dress Rehearsal: Friday, November 30 @ 10:00am

McIntyre (K) - Little Mice & Toy Soldiers
Doll (K) – Russian Ribbons & Toy Soldiers
Hoffmann/Andersen (1st) - Snow (girls) & Gingersnaps (boys)
Rowe/Andersen (2nd) - Spanish Dancers & Reed Flute
Party Scene / Windup Dolls (3rd) - Volunteers
Chinese Tea (3rd/4th/5th) - Volunteers
Battle Scene (4th/5th) - Volunteers
Arabian Dancers (4th) - Volunteers
Sugar Plums (5th) - Volunteers

Show 2: Start Time is 1:30pm

(students arrive @ 12:45pm)

Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, November 29 @ 10:00am

Beuchotte (K) - Little Mice & Russian Ribbons
Zeppegno (1st) - Snow (girls) & Gingersnaps (boys)
Bartlett (1st) Toy Soldiers & Waltz of the Flowers
Barnhart (2nd) - Spanish Dancers & Reed Flute
Party Scene / Windup Dolls (3rd) - Volunteers
Chinese Tea (3rd/4th/5th) - Volunteers
Battle Scene (4th/5th) - Volunteers
Arabian Dancers (4th) - Volunteers
Sugar Plums (5th) - Volunteers

Show 3: Start time is 4:30pm

(students arrive @ 3:45pm)

Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday, November 27 @ 10:00am

Schuster (K) - Little Mice & Russian Ribbons
Thorsen (1st) - Snow Dancers (girls) & Gingersnaps (boys)
Maeder (2nd) Chinese Tea & Reed Flute
O'Connell (2nd) Waltz of the Flowers & Spanish Dancers
Party Scene / Windup Dolls – (3rd) -Volunteers
Battle Scene (4th/5th) - Volunteers
Arabian Dancers (4th) - Volunteers
Sugar Plums (5th) – Volunteers