



Parent/Guardian Session Letter – Dance & Drama Camp

Week 5: July 28 – August 1, 2025

Welcome to Dance & Drama Camp, Jungle Safari Week! We are thrilled to have your child join us for an exciting, active, and engaging camp experience. Whether it's their first time at camp or they're returning for another adventure, we are dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and memorable environment for all campers. Please read the attached information carefully and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Camp Details

The camp day runs from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (daily).

Location: Pineridge Secondary School (2155 Liverpool Rd, Pickering, ON L1X 1V4), Main Entrance (North side of the building, outside the cafeteria)

Meet Your Camp Director

Hi, my name is Meghan Down! I'm entering my third year at York University, where I am studying Education. I absolutely love anything related to fitness, and I have always been passionate about working with children. For the past four years, I have worked with the City of Pickering, teaching dance and gymnastics programs and working various camps. Looking forward to a great week together!

Camper Pick-Up/Drop-Off Procedures

Dance & Drama Camp will take place at the Pineridge Secondary School, Main Doors. For the safety of all campers, please drop off and pick up your child at Pineridge Secondary School and ensure they are checked in and out with the designated Pick-up/Drop-off counsellor each day.

For safety reasons, any alternate pick-up person you designate will be required to show photo ID to camp staff before your child is released into their care. Please make sure they are aware of this protocol and that your child is picked up on time.

Extend-a-Camp Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

Extend-a-Camp will run out of the Pine Ridge Secondary School gym. If you have signed your camper up for Extend-a-camp, drop off will begin at 7:00 am and pick up must be no

later than 6:00 pm. Please be sure to pick up and drop off your child within these hours, otherwise a late charge (\$20.00) will be applied to any campers picked up after 6:00 pm.

Absenteeism / Safe Arrivals

If you know in advance that your child will be absent or late, please send a note with the camper's name and the date they will be away. You can also email me at mdown@pickering.ca or camps@pickering.ca. If you would rather leave a voicemail, please call 905.420.4660 ext. 3246.

If a camper is absent without prior notification, we will attempt to contact the parents/guardians.

What To Expect

Get ready for the spotlight! Campers will dive into a world of dance and drama, where they can explore their creative sides and bring their inner performer to life. They'll stay active through exciting games and engaging activities, all led by our passionate camp staff. Dance/Drama Camp features a variety of workshops, fun-filled games, outdoor play, arts and crafts, and more!! Get ready for an unforgettable workshop packed with high-energy moves, fun vibes, and a chance to learn from the best. Let's dance, laugh, and level up together! The week will culminate in a special performance, where campers can showcase their talents to family and friends.

What to Bring to Camp

- **Clothing:** Campers should wear comfortable clothes suitable for activities. Please do not send valuables, as campers are responsible for their own belongings. Remember to label all items (e.g., lunch bags, extra clothes, coats) to help prevent mix-ups. Indoor shoes (running shoes are recommended) are also required.
- Campers may be outside during the camp day so please pack appropriate clothing for outside play.
- **Lunch and Snacks:** Campers must bring a nut-free lunch each day. Please pack lunch in non-breakable containers (no glass). Campers will have two snack breaks and lunchtime, so extra snacks are encouraged.
- **Water Bottle:** Please pack a reusable water bottle. There are water fill stations available at camp to keep your child hydrated throughout the day, as they may be outside.

Allergy Notice

Please be sensitive to any food allergies that may be brought to your attention (i.e. tree nut allergies that can be life threatening). For this reason, please do not pack tree nuts, tree nut products, or any products containing traces of nuts in your child's lunch for

camp. If staff are unsure of snacks (i.e. granola bars), Campers will be asked not to eat them at camp. Fruit is always a healthy and allergy safe snack! Please feel free to send a copy of the ingredients of any items we may be unsure of (i.e. cookies). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Special Guest Information

On Wednesday, July 30, 2025, get ready to move and groove, because Keystone Dance Co. is bringing their amazing energy to Dance and Drama Camp as a special guest! Prepare to step up your dance game with a high-energy workshop led by the pros themselves. Whether you're into jazz, hip hop, or contemporary, Keystone Dance Co. will have you learning cool new moves, perfecting your technique, and having a blast while doing it. Their performance is sure to inspire, and you'll get the chance to be part of the action in a fun, interactive dance experience. So put on your dancing shoes and get ready to show off your moves with the best in the business!

Wristbands

On the first day of camp, each camper will receive a wristband in their camp's designated color. Please help ensure your camper wears their wristband throughout the week. If the wristband is lost or damaged, a replacement will be provided the following day at camp.

Water Day

We will aim to have a water day On Tuesday, July 29, if the weather permits. On these days, please send your child to camp with their bathing suit, an extra set of clothes, a towel as well as a plastic bag for their wet bathing suit. Also, please send a hat and apply sunscreen to your child. For campers who choose not to participate in water day, we will have a variety of different activities to engage in.

Dance Camp 2025 Summer Showcase

Please accept this invitation to our Dance Camp Showcase. On Friday, August 1, 2025, for the last day of camp, our campers are prepared to show you all the dancing skills and routines they have learned through their original dances! The show will start at 3:00 pm (sharp) at Pine Ridge Secondary School in the Theatre. Please sign the City of Pickering Photo/Model Release Form, which will be sent home on the first day of camp and please return it to the director by the second day of camp. Returning this form completed will allow you to videotape your child's performance as they shine like a star. Our campers work very hard and would love to have these memories last a lifetime!

The following is a list of the special theme days at Dance and Drama Camp:

Monday, July 28	Tuesday, July 29	Wednesday, July 30	Thursday, July 31	Friday, August 1
Orientation Day! Welcome to Camp!	Animal Kingdom Day Dress as your favorite safari animal (zebra, elephant, lion, giraffe, etc.) Or wear brown/yellow!	Camouflage Day Wear your best camo or earth-toned outfit to "blend in" with the wild.	Explorer Adventure Day Wear cargo shorts, boots, and a safari hat — come ready for adventure! Or wear the colour green!	Show Day! Ask Director for Details

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly via email at mdown@pickering.ca

Looking forward to enjoying a fantastic week together!

Meghan Down, Dance and Drama Camp Director