

HSArts Community Newsletter - Dec 2

Brian Nieh • about 2 months ago • Friday, Dec 2 at 2:00 PM • **San Francisco High School of the Arts**



San Francisco High School of the Arts Family Newsletter | Dec 2, 2022

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Important Dates

Dec 7 Formal Dress Rehearsal for Winter Wonders

Dec 9 Winter Gala Benefit

Eternal Ramblings of an Age-d Mind

Mr. Brian Nieh, Anthropomorphic Fortune Cookie, Teller of Stories and Dad Jokes

Remarks from our Head of School

Greetings everyone!

November is our kindness month. We learned how to be kind to others, show gratitude and appreciation to our teachers and staff. We also need to be kind to ourselves. We did mindfulness journaling at Golden Gate Park this past Monday. It is important to practice mindfulness during our last stretch of the semester when we have pressure from our exhibit and performances, as well as finals.

- Dr. Sherry Zhang

Head of School

San Francisco High School of the Arts



Dance exams, Holiday Showcase, Winter Wonders performance and art exhibition, and more are all coming up soon this month! A semester's worth of hard work, dedication, rehearsals, 'blood, sweat, and tears' by our students (and staff) will come to fruition over the next few weeks, and we're all (hopefully) very excited! In light of these pending achievements, I'd like to share a few inspirational quotes from my time as a pro-dancer-wannabe-trainee:

"Perfect practice makes perfect." The simpler version you hear is often "practice makes perfect," but as my teachers would love to remind us, you have to practice the right way for it to be perfect, lest you build up bad habits or incorrect technique. So an apt supplementary quote could be "work smarter, not harder." Practice efficiently, correctly, smartly, and you'll Twice the Results for Half the Effort (事半功倍 shì bàn gōng bèi) - Chinese Idiom Meaning: the right approach saves effort and leads to better results. Although I can imagine my teachers saying instead "work smarter, AND harder," but I digress.

"磨杵成针 (mó chǔ chéng zhēn)" means no matter how difficult or challenging a task is, it can be done as long as there is perseverance. One of our tumbling teachers used to time us in handstands, and then promptly push us to hold it for one second longer each time we do it. He says, one second may not be much, but after some time you'll be handstanding for hours. Not exactly sure if he said hours, we were kind of upside down during his lecturing. Point being, if you take baby steps and slowly chip away at a seemingly insurmountable task, you may find it not as intimidating as it once was. As yet another quote

says, "Success is often achieved by those who don't know that failure is inevitable." You'll be surprised at what you can accomplish when you don't get in your own way.

Finally, "There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there are NO LIMITS." Well said, olympic gold-medalist Michael Phelps, well said.

I suppose it's the end of the year, end of the semester, and the holidays getting me into a particular fortune-cookie-ing mood. But honestly, we are all extremely proud of the hard work all of our students have put in, and equally excited at how you all will flourish as you continue striving forward. Keep it up, enjoy the experience, and (figuratively) break a leg!

Oh right a dad joke... why did the dancer cross the road? *To do the combination on the other side.*
Cheers!

ACADEMICS

Featured Academic News of the Week

Mr. Lee Randazzo, History and Science Teacher

Sometimes during class I like to put more emphasis on students learning from each other and/or leading discussions. A great way to do this is through a "spider web" discussion. The "spider web" is a metaphor representing how speakers and responses are passed back & forth in a group. This is a graded assignment (even a test) in the class for that day. Before the discussion, students do research on the topic and prepare their opinions and evidence supporting their opinions. Then on the day of the discussion the teacher asks a big open ended question and the class takes over (with the teacher saying very little, if anything at all). In order to earn full points on the assignment (test) students need to do much more than share relevant information. They must also be nice to each other; encourage the entire class to participate; not have one person dominate the discussion; build upon each other's comments; and be active and engaged. I've already done a spider web discussion with the 8th grade class. They had to reflect upon the experiences of a lowly soldier in the Continental Army led by George Washington. By the end of the year all my classes will have a similar experience (with different topics of course).

ARTS

Featured Arts News of the Week

Mr. Brian Nieh, Dance Teacher

Classical Chinese Dance, the wonderful, beautiful, dynamic dance system that is equally engaging as it is mysterious. Where does it come from? What is it all about? Fear not, for I'm here to answer all of your questions, and questions you haven't yet even thought to think about.

We are planning to write a series of informative articles to help shed light into the world of classical Chinese dance. Our Chinese dance teachers all have a wealth of knowledge and experience. If you are interested, please let us know by the like/appreciate button, or send us your questions in the comments down below.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions News

Reminder: Deadline for Priority Application submission is Thursday, Dec 15 for prospective students applying for middle and high school programs.

If you know a student who can benefit from attending our school, please invite them to contact us for a private tour, events, and school information.

Please continue to spread the news about HSArts and contact admissions@highschoolofthearts.org for any HSArts marketing material you would like to share.

ADMISSIONS

YOUNG ARTISTS

Young Artists News of the Week

Ms. Ginnie Wu, Dance Teacher

Bring a Friend to Dance Class!

Spring classes for our Young Artists Program start on *Tuesday, January 3rd* --what better way to kick off the semester than sharing the joy of dance with our best friends! Between Jan 3-13, students are encouraged to bring a friend to one of their dance classes. When a new student decides to sign up for class, both they and the referring family will receive a \$50 referral credit.

Friends should fill out the waiver form here: <https://hsarts.info/yatrial>

STUDENT LIFE

Yearbook Sale



Winter Gala Benefit

We have so many generous donations to our silent auction event. Thank you everyone who donated gifts or their time! Here's a small preview of some of the items up for bidding:

- Artwork by our Teachers
- Tickets to the Winter Wonders performance and other events
- Cooking lessons!
- Game night hosted by Mr. R
- Other teacher excursions to movie, boba, or karaoke!
- And more!

RSVP is extended. With only 2 weeks remaining before the event, please make sure to reserve your spot. We hope to see you all there!

Holiday Tree Decorations



UPCOMING EVENTS

Coming soon!

- Dec 2-6** Dance Exams
- Dec 7** Formal Dress Rehearsal
- Dec 9** Winter Gala Benefit
- Dec 15** "A Christmas Carol" and Winter Music Showcase
- Dec 16** Winter Wonders Recital and Art Exhibition

Communication is essential and we strive to connect with our students, parents, and families throughout the school year. We will continue reaching out to you with this weekly newsletter. We also encourage you to visit our website and follow our social pages including Facebook and Instagram for announcements, information, and celebrations.



12-2-2022