

Weekly Message Weekly Message



Greetings special friends,

For many of you, the appointing of a new Pope occurred this week for the first time in your lifetime since the last Pope was appointed 27 years ago. It was a historical moment to get to view it live on TV. I hope many of you had the chance to see it.

Time continues to fly by us with only 5-6 weeks of school left. Make sure that you have locked in your summer camp plans and let us know if we can send you a Summer Camp brochure or Jazz Camp brochure by e-mail. You can request this by responding to this e-mail.

Here are some thoughts for the day:



“The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”
Denis Whatley, motivational speaker and writer



“Great thoughts, like great deeds, need no trumpet.” James M. Bailey



“Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up.”
Joyce B. Brown



“Chief Seattle (a Pacific-Northwest Native American Chief) once said, “We will only save what we love. We will only love what we understand. We will only understand what we are taught” Which always makes me wonder . . . “What have I learned today?”
contributed by Rebekah Albert



Traveling can be one of the most exciting experiences you can give to your team. It can range from traveling abroad to Miss Dance/Drill Team International this summer in Australia or traveling to South Padre Island, Texas, for a fun contest and weekend on the beach. It can be a trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to ski in the mountains or to Olathe, Kansas, and cross the Central Plains. There are many creative trips to take that could include New York with Broadway shows and professional dance classes, or it could be a cruise to the tropics. Any way you look at it, travel can be the primary motivation for your team each year. Below is an article that sites benefits for traveling with your team. I hope

you will consider a trip in your future, whether for competition, taking in a bit of history or just for fun. If you are interested in taking your top soloists or officers to Australia this summer for the International competitions, contact Jean Richards at adtd@senet.com.au or visit <http://www.adtd.com.au>. If you are interested in taking your team on a trip in 2006, it is not too early to look at the various options and contact <http://www.grouptraveltx.com/> to find out some incredible options for your team.



For resource support articles, visit our Education Support Page on our web site at <http://www.danceadts.com/edsupport.htm>. There are over 100 articles as well as the archives of past Weekly Messages to choose from.

Have a wonderful week, and, as always, please *keep in touch*.

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Sincerely,
Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO
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BENEFITS TO STUDENT TRAVEL

by Joyce E. Pennington

Dance/drill teams are really traveling these days. It seems like every team is planning a special trip to New York, New Orleans, Santa Fe, Washington D.C., Florida or California. Why go through all of the hard work for fund-raising, record keeping, planning and parent questions? The answer is simple: traveling is one of the most educational experiences you can offer to your team. You may not be going to a destination full of history and museums (although this is a great reason to travel!), but you will be implementing simple lessons of life skills through travel.

Many students have never stayed in a hotel, never the less know the procedures to check in and check out. Each student will have to take the time to organize their packing list, prepare for the weather and for the various activities noted in the itinerary. The preparation for travel alone will stimulate

each team member to think independently and assume personal responsibility.

Next the students will have to prepare for meals and personal expenses not included in their package. They will have to budget their money so that it will not be depleted before the end of the trip. They will need to figure tax and gratuities at each meal and make wise food choices (we hope!).

As they prepare for the contest or performance day, they must pack their day bags with all costume and prop pieces and inventory each item as it is going in and out. They will also need to remember hair care items and makeup that will be required for their performance. If they are wise, they will also pack a back up to tights, socks, hair scrunchies, safety pins and more. This way if an item is lost or misplaced (as it can do in a room of four girls), there will be a back up.

Students will also learn courtesy and poise as they are introduced to new people and greeting those who are in charge of the event. They should speak confidently when introduced, make eye contact and extend the courtesy of a hand shake when meeting special persons.

They will also learn to not be so co-dependent on parents and boyfriends when they are away from home. Long distance phone calls can become very expensive and many times the hotels will incur additional service charges. Students should be encouraged to write post cards to home and save money for a special souvenir from the trip and leave the cell phone behind.

Directors should try to plan a special educational stop on the trip. This could mean a performance at a children's hospital or nursing home, a visit to a historical site, or a special dance or theater related workshop with a local artist/instructor.

As the students check out of the hotel, they will assume responsibility for personal charges such as room service, phone calls or movies. Many times the directors will have these services blocked on the rooms as the bill could soar to un-affordable heights!

When students return back to school, have them write down ten things they learned that they did not know or experience prior to the trip. You will be amazed at the invaluable lessons learned through travel. So choose a destination that will motivate your team to work hard throughout the season and reward them with a delightful and interesting performance or contest trip.



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