



6680 Baseline Road  
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# Newsletter

September 2021

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www.dancegallery2.com

Welcome to the Dance Gallery 2! 2!  
Our fall dance season is getting off to a great start with many DG2 dancers returning and new dancers joining us! The first few weeks in class after our summer break can be messy. But not this year! We have such a great team of dancers, parents and DG2 staff that everything has been smooth sailing! Much of this is due to our fantastic group of Student Teachers who were well prepared for all the new classes. The classes look GREAT!



**Our DG2 2021-2022 Student Teaching Staff:**  
Back Row L-R: Lillian Leahy, Anna Hult, Melody Weber, Dylen Sanders, Sophia Ampania  
Front Row L-R: Aditi Nair, Hayley Blankenship, Anessa Schmidt, Rachel Overmyer, London Newman  
Not Shown: Kobi Small

The Student Teacher program has been part of DG2 history for over 25 years and has become a tradition that many of our students look forward to being part of. To qualify for the program and to become a prestigious DG2 Student Teacher, a dancer must be well experienced in the Jazz, Tap and Technical Ballet dance genre, are continuing their dance education by actively taking classes and training, are at least 12 years of age and are keeping their grades up. The Student Teacher Director, Tina Blankenship an 12-year DG2 mom, meets with the group regularly to ensure that they keep up their Student Teacher classroom skills and develop a tight team. Tina, along with Student Teacher Advisor, Melody Weber, work together on a variety of Student Teacher events including fundraisers, bonding experiences and classroom training.

We are very proud of our Student Teacher program which offers many opportunities such as attending dance events, performances and even in a future of a dance related career. The leadership, teamwork, responsibility and accountability skills a student can gain from the program are endless and contributes to personal development as well as become lifelong memories! The Student Teachers are always willing to be involved in giving back to the community outside the DG2 studio as well. In addition, dancers who continue to serve and train in the Student Teacher Program through high school, are typically hired back as Teachers while they work their way through college. The experience results in becoming a responsible young adult.

Welcome back DG2 Student Teachers!!



## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Tuition Due</b>	<b>September 1st</b>
<b>Student Teacher Popcorn Fundraiser Due</b>	<b>September 4th</b>
<b>Labor Day - NO CLASSES</b>	<b>September 6th</b>
<b>Blingy Bling Week</b>	<b>September 20th - September 25th</b>
<b>Darren's Free Hip Hop Workshop</b>	<b>Monday's September 27th &amp; October 4th at 7:30pm</b>



There's more FUN ahead for our dancers! During the week of September 20-25, The Dance Gallery 2 will be celebrating "Blingy Bling" Week! Come to class with your shiniest, sparkliest, and most glamorous accessories! The Teaching Staff will have the difficult task of selecting a winner in the 3 - 7 year old group and the 8- Adult group Winners! So, be sure to wear your blingiest bling to class that week!



**We have a strict policy of NO FOOD, GUM or DRINKS (water only) in the DG2 Studios. PLEASE help us keep our studios nice for everyone!**

## Teacher Features



The Dance Gallery 2 is proud to announce the addition of a new and amazing choreographer, Melissa O'Sullivan Castillo, to our teaching staff. We are thrilled that Melissa has agreed to come in and work with our Tuesday 8:15 Tap Pack and Wednesday Adult Tap Class. Miss Melissa is trained in all dance genre, but is very well known for her award winning tap choreography and is highly recognized for her specialized work with the traditional Irish Clogging style of dance. Miss Melissa's list of dance experience and accomplishments include an array of teaching, directing, creative work, competing and choreographing throughout Northern CA. She has earned a BA from San Jose State University in Dance and for years

owned and operated her own, very popular school, O'Sullivan's Dance Academy and O'Sullivan's Academy of Irish Dance. She tells us that she is so excited to be part of this year's dance season and we can tell already, her choreography is going to be a standout hit for any of our showcases! The DG2 feels extremely fortunate that Melissa has such extensive dance knowledge combined with an excellent teaching style and has agreed to be the newest member of our already amazing teaching staff! Welcome Miss Melissa!!

More exciting news! The DG2 is thrilled to introduce and announce the addition of Darren Wong as our new hip hop director. Darren comes to us from Los Angeles where he performed as a member of the Kinjaz dance crew on NBC's World of Dance. For 17 years he



has been teaching, choreographing, and training dancers in the hip hop genre. His experiences and achievements have led him to many professional opportunities, including working and performing with such artists as Justin Bieber and Nicki Minaj. His skills have also landed him additional opportunities to appear on Saturday Night Live, The BET Awards, MTV's America's Best Dance Crew. As director of the DG2 hip hop program, Darren strives to help students to build their self confidence both inside and outside of dance class. Darren believes there are always events in a person's life where you will have the opportunity to dance. Being able to step out onto any dance floor is one of the greatest ways to conquer your own fears and build your self confidence.



Back at it again at  
The Dance Gallery 2  
for a very exciting  
2021-2022 Dance Season!



**Darren Wong**

**FREE**

**Hip Hop Workshop**

**Monday, September 27th**










**Monday, October 4th**

**Begins at 7:30pm**

**@ The Dance Gallery 2**



# September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	 Bring-A-Friend Week	←—————→				 Bring-A-Friend Week
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
 Tuition Due	Labor Day 					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						Student Teacher Sleepover Bonding Event 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Student Teacher /Jr. Student Teacher Team Building Event 	 BLING WEEK	←—————→				 BLING WEEK
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
	Darren Wong's <b>FREE</b> Hip Hop Workshop 					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9