



Ballet Master Danny Ryan at work in Broomfield's CCD studio. He personally does dozens of sessions in schools each year.



One-on-one instruction is a hallmark for CCD students and instructors. (Photo from CCD)

Colorado Conservatory Of Dance's COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

By Dan Jorgensen



foothills pediatric DENTISTRY, P.C.
Minutes from The Broadlands



DR. EDWARD A. CHRISTENSEN
5280 Magazine TOP DENTIST 2008-2014
University of Colorado School of Dentistry
Pediatric Specialty, The Children's Hospital, Denver



DR. DAVID T. RAMIREZ
5280 Magazine TOP DENTIST 2011-2014
Baylor College of Dentistry
Pediatric Specialty, The Children's Hospital, Denver

You'll see a difference at Foothills Pediatric Dentistry and can't imagine taking your kids anywhere else!



FREE 3 UNDER

It's all about your kids and their teeth.

We care about your toddlers oral development. Free exams, cleaning and fluoride for kids under 3

Longmont
916 S. Main, Suite 302
phone: 303.702.9501

Lafayette
1140 W South Boulder Road, Suite 102
phone: 303.604.9500

Thornton
2750 E 136th Ave, Suite 100
phone: 303.452.9502

The Colorado Conservatory of Dance's (CCD) mantra – and recently adopted mission – is straightforward and to the point: a better life through dance.

“We carry that out through all our community programs; in-school programs, and right here at our facility (located at 3001 Industrial Lane on the west side of Broomfield),” noted Julia Wilkinson Manley, CCD’s chief executive officer who has been the driving force behind an outreach program that is now touching the lives of more than 25,000 individuals each year in the five-county area.

CCD’s major community education project is its partnership with four low-income Title I elementary schools – Bryant-Webster Dual Language School, Greenlee Elementary and Pinnacle Charter School (all in Denver) and Molholm Elementary in Lakewood – to reinforce curricular goals like gravity, electromagnetic waves, literacy, history and more through dance. “These students need new, innovative ways to be inspired about learning ... to be reached in different ways to maximize their learning,” Manley said. “Our approach has been lauded by public educators, particularly for students who live in poverty and/or have distressed home lives.”

Manley, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in ballet pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma prior to her professional dancing career, came to head up CCD in 2003. “Our organization was founded

to serve the community through dance education back in 1992, so we’ve always worked with area elementary schools by bringing them performances in their schools and enhancing their learning. In 2003, we worked with area leaders in education to see how we could provide a learning experience that could really improve the way kids learn. We wanted to make sure that our programs were relevant for today’s kids, and that they truly met their educational needs. Today, we continue to work with educators to create tailored programs that target specific academic goals – but we use dance and movement to help kids learn and retain information.”

Each school’s annual sessions are year-long efforts, starting with planning each spring to determine what students will most need in the way of academic reinforcement during the next school year. “While we are teaching in the classrooms (during the school year) we’re looking toward the next school year at the same time. It’s hard work and time-consuming, but the results are very rewarding.”

An example of CCD’s curriculum might be to teach about the life cycle of an insect through movement. “We can use our bodies to show the life-cycle of an insect, relate to classroom vocabulary, and use movement to solidify understanding. The word antennae, for example – we might use our antennae to make each letter. It’s choreography, but it is also experiential.”

Leading the effort is Danny Ryan, CCD’s Ballet Master and Community Development Manager. He personally works at least eight to 10 sessions with each classroom group, and in some cases sets up weekly after-school ballet classes that are age group appropriate.

“He’s a magnificent ballet teacher,” Manley said. “And he’s able and willing to use his skills to craft something special for each particular school.”

Each school receives two grade level programs to be used in as many classrooms at that level as are needed. Ryan tailors his approach to what each individual classroom needs. In one school this spring he held sessions in all six 2nd grade classrooms; in another there were two 2nd grade classrooms.

CCD was formerly known as the School of Ballet Nouveau Colorado. In 2013, the organization underwent a monumental shift, with the professional company becoming Wonderbound (now located in Denver), and the school becoming a new organization in its long-time home in Broomfield.

“Colorado Conservatory of Dance performs a gorgeous production of The Nutcracker each December, which includes dance students as young as 7 years old dancing alongside world famous principal dancers,” Manley said. This year, CCD will welcome world-renowned dancers Adiarys Almeida and Taras Domitro.

“Here in Broomfield, we have roughly 350 students, ranging in age from 1 to 80,” Manley added. “And, we have a vibrant population of adults. Our adult program is a really thriving community.”



Kids at one of the elementary schools show their appreciation for Danny Ryan following a session in the classroom. (Photo from CCD)

OUTREACH IS MAJOR FOCUS FOR CCD

CCD’s Community Education Programs are some of the most comprehensive in the Denver metro area, praised for their collaborative approach and highly skilled instructors and reflecting CCD’s deep commitment to collaboration and enriching lives through dance.

Besides the elementary partnership (featured), additional programs include:

- A nationally known (and emulated) anti-bullying program using interactive dance performances to engage school-aged children in thoughtful and engaging conversation about bullying.
- Adaptive dance education programs designed to serve kids of all abilities with therapeutic dance experiences.
- Before and after school ballet to provide free ballet lessons to students each week. A professional instructor from CCD’s faculty works with students at their elementary school, guiding them through the beginning level syllabus used at The School of CCD. Ballet lessons heighten physical awareness and confidence; teach students how to create and work toward new goals; and increase focus, memory and creative skills.
- A free ticket program for families and individuals with challenges such as economic limitations, social isolation, physical or developmental disabilities or long-term illness to provide access to performances.

**COLORADO
CONSERVATORY
of DANCE**