

## I am Grateful

I try to write a little something each year to our studio population to illustrate my gratitude during this time of year where we celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving time is my all-time favorite--so many fond memories and beautiful sentiments/traditions to remember and embrace.

I am grateful for the magnanimous honor to be part of this amazing dream. Where art inspires growth. Where love, support and trust are evident, purposeful, effective. Where parents, faculty, dancers, volunteers, staff come alongside one another at any given time to offer individual gifts whenever possible. Where we all can be ourselves (if you ever peek in on Fridays with Miss Giselle and me, well...it's sometimes an interesting but hilarious montage). I always look forward to coming in to our haven of beauty. This might posture as personal, but...during times of studio closure (holiday breaks) or if I fall sick/injured, it actually feels very trying to not be there. The studio feels more like home to me than any other home I have lived in. The people there feel as close as my own family. I am grateful for Harbor Dance.

I am grateful to be in partnership with Harbor Dance and Freedom Dance with two of the most amazing women I have ever known. We have such different strengths and gifts, and if ever we are lacking we have a beautiful pool of other amazing staff and women/dance dads who come alongside and support us. I am grateful for Sue, for her impeccable ability to put people at ease with thorough processes and genuine customer service. For making me laugh with our randomly detailed knowledge of the show "Frasier." For always seeing where a gap might open and her forethought at how to manage it. I am grateful for Dawn, for her relentless dedication to both studios. For her ability to speak into my life with wisdom and love, which she does for countless others at the studios and in her ministry. For every way she figures out how to be part of a solution in any problem...the pathway that overcomes the obstacle.

I am grateful for a healthy son. One who steps in with the small stuff like carrying groceries, yard work, doggie-care without prompting. Who is currently choreographing to Bruno Mars in the living room while I start dinner. Who shows love without restraint or embarrassment in word and action. Who is not concerned or afraid. I pray he keeps that part, the fearlessness.

I encourage you and your family to think about the areas that are worthy of gratitude in your life. Gratitude goes hand-in-hand with a beautiful existence. Every single student I teach nowadays has a wealth of gratitude for dance and our practices at Harbor Dance. Let's keep going.

Love,

Simone Peterson

