

Congratulations!

Your child has now passed *Stage 6* of CanSkate and is ready for our *Junior Program*!

Here are some things we thought you might like to know:

Your child will continue to have group lessons and you can also request individual lessons from a private coach. You are usually billed by the coach, every two weeks for these lessons. One private lesson is typically 15 minutes long and can be anywhere from \$10 to \$11.25 per lesson. Just ask the coach how much time they can set aside for your child per week. If this is too much or you feel they need more just let them know.

Your child will now work on 3 things skills, dance and free style. At the Junior level, they will typically start working on the preliminary dances, the Dutch Waltz, Canasta and Baby Blues.

There are 3 days set aside each year for tests. Approximately two weeks before this day, *if your child is ready*, he or she will get an envelope with the test date and what they are being (i.e. Dutch Waltz) tested for. There is a fee for these tests and this money goes to skate Canada. As a club, we charge \$3.00 for catering. This money goes towards food, snacks and a thank you gift for the judge (*who volunteers their time to do this*). On the day of the test you will be charged for a partnering fee (if it is applicable), as well as the time spent with the coach before the test (which usually runs anywhere from 2–15 minutes).

Our test days are usually in mid-December, mid-March and at the end of Spring School, in early May.

Low test days are not always at our own rink. A schedule should be up approximately 1 week prior to the test day with your child's name and scheduled warm-up and test time, and the rink the test will take place. You will be asked to come 1 hour before this test to be sure to be on hand, in case testing is running ahead of schedule. Stretch pants, (*no jeans please!*), a skating dress or skirt with tights are acceptable. Helmets are at the discretion of the parents. *Many skaters sell the dresses they outgrow, so be sure to ask around or check out our skate swap on our website, before you run out to purchase a brand new one.* There are also parents in the club who sew dresses if you would like one made to your liking or to suit your child's particular program.

Sometimes at this level your child may find they need skates with better support (*especially as they add new jumps etc..*). Again, always ask around as there are many parents with second hand skates for sale. We have recently started an email skate swap that we will no doubt continue if interest remains.

At the junior levels we also like to ask parents to help out if they can and play the music for the girls. This is most important while learning a new skill or dance. It is easier to learn the dances if the right music is being played and this of course can be controlled if there is someone in the music room. It is not hard and the coaches are very forgiving—they will just come to the window and clarify what to play if you don't quite have it right. You can also, always “shadow” another parent who does the music at your child's level until you feel comfortable enough to go it alone. And finally, there is another perk to playing music- a \$50 reduction in your fees!

Speaking of fees, because kids move up to Junior Level at their own pace, the club will adjust what is owed (if anything), at the time your child starts the Junior Program, and invoice you accordingly.

Please take a look at a list of our current executive for the Riverview Figure Skating Club. These are all dedicated volunteers who help out in many ways, and on many levels, in support of one thing, helping our kids have the most pleasurable, fun, and worthy skating experience possible.

We always can use an extra hand, especially during registration periods and for fund raising initiatives, as we are a volunteer driven club-so if you are interested in participating, we would be delighted to have you help out. **To find out where you can best help out, contact a member of the executive or email us at riverviewskatingclub@gmail.com**

We typically communicate by email, voice mail and our website: www.riverviewskatingclub.ca and will be notifying you of our community meetings, activities, schedule changes, registration information and other pertinent information that comes up, in this manner.

Please also check out the current skating schedule to be aware of the skating times for your new junior skater!

If you have any more concerns or questions, especially concerning your child's participation with the club, please contact any member of the executive who will be happy to chat with you.

Thanks, and congratulations again, on your child's advancement!