

Amberley School's Jump Jam Journey

From Nicky Lotz



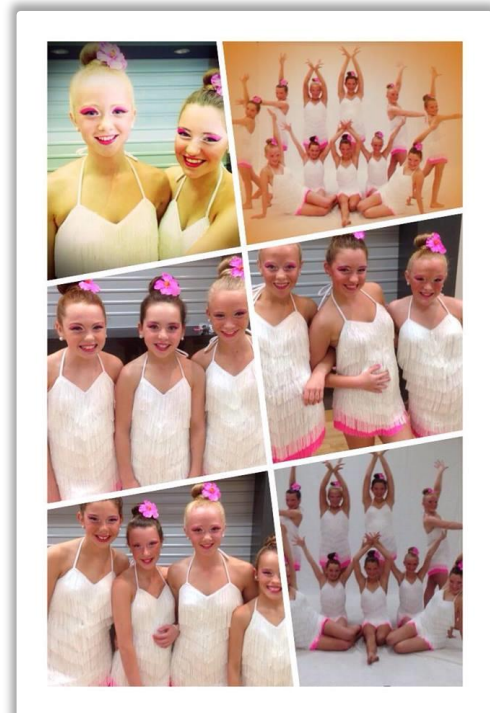
Into my 5th Year and still loving it.....

I had been following the success of Amberley School Jump Jam Teams for some time before I started teaching there in 2013. Attending 2 competitions, one regional, 1 National level, to support both Year 4-6 and Year 7-8 teams from Amberley School – I was blown away at the level of performance and presentation.

In 2013 I began teaching and running a Junior Jump Jam club one lunch time a week for students Year 1-4 at Amberley School. We chose a song to practice "I Like to Move it!" and began thinking about entering a video into the preliminary round. We practiced one lunchtime and one after school club a week. After practicing for over a term we held auditions in Term 2 and chose a training team. We continued to train 2-3 times per week, soon realizing that the junior team didn't cope well with after school practices.



Year 7-8 Team 2016 – Regional Winners



Year 5-6 Team 2015 – National Winners

We switched to a before school practice and lunch practice times and found this worked a lot better for the students. I also research and ordered the outfits in Term 2 for them to wear.



During the third term we are practicing at least 2-3 times a week with additional occasion weekend/holiday practice. The team understand how important it is for us to video and watch back the practices and they find this helpful to actually see the formations and changes we make. It is important to time the changes you make, checking that they are within the time limitations.



Year 4-6 Team 2017 – Nationals 2nd Winners

Leading up to competition day the nerves and stress can sometimes be over whelming – it is so important to keep your parents informed and keep the team calm and healthy! We try and have some fun times together too!



Last year (2017) we headed to Auckland for the Nationals. We were lucky to have a great team of parents and supporters to travel up with us. Organising a trip like this takes time and money – we were incredibly lucky to have a wonderful fund-raising committee.



Preparing the team for the actual day gives them the tools and skills to cope with performing in front of a big audience, success and not doing as well as expected. I love the competition day when it comes together, hair, make up, costumes, team work! This year I am already planning to enter two teams!

Year 1-4 Team 2016 – Regionals 1st
Winners

Top Tips....

- Give your team lots of practice time
- Prepare your team for the big day – talk them through it
- Chose a song that won't drive you mad after 8 weeks!
- Costumes and make up, make them 'POP'
- Make practice and participating FUN!!!



Amberley School's plethora of trophies across the years and age levels – we have been lucky to have some very dedicated coaches, parents and teams over the years!