

# New school year brings cha

**KIMBERLY EPLER**  
STAFF WRITER

There will be tears of separation and cheerful reunions Tuesday as students from Carmel Valley to Carlsbad say goodbye to summer and return

## More than 12,000 pupils to hit the books Monday

to class.

More than 12,000 elementary, junior high and high school students in the Cardiff, Del Mar and San Dieguito school districts will arrive at local campuses Tuesday and

teachers have been gearing up for the big day.

"It gets you back into the frame of mind, so you're ready for the kids when they come back to school," said Cardiff Elementary School teacher Kim

Douillard of the week-long preparations before classes begin.

Jan Hamilton and Douillard — veteran teachers in the Cardiff School District — have spent the last several years

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1998

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

# Dancing with Madonna

■ Sisters in Encinitas to perform with popular rock star at MTV Video Music Awards show

**MARGA KELLOGG**  
STAFF WRITER

ENCINITAS — With graceful hands bent in the Shanti pose and limber bodies adorned in silver and silk, the Patnaik sisters dance to an ancient beat.

That beat meets the Material Girl this week when the three Encinitas young women take their Indian culture and Odissi-style dancing to Los Angeles, where they will choreograph and dance with Madonna during her 1998 MTV Video Music Awards performance.

"We were shocked," said Shalini Patnaik, 15, recalling the day several weeks ago when Madonna's assistant called to extend the invitation.

"We didn't really believe it," said Shibani, her 16-year-old sister, who took the phone call at their Olivenhain home. "I didn't even realize she was talking about the singer Madonna until the end of the conversation."

The sisters' names were introduced to Madonna by her yoga teacher, who saw them perform at the Venice Ratha Yatra in Los Angeles.

That performance was one of many. The trio dances publicly between three and six times a month.

Additionally, they have shared their discipline by teaching classes at Palomar College, UC San Diego and the University of San Diego, and performing at county libraries.

They view Thursday night's performance with Madonna as the next step in giving heightened exposure to the Odissi dance, which could not be performed



**BILL WECHTER** / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Patnaik sisters of Encinitas, from left, Shibani, 16, Laboni, 19, and Shalini, 15, have been asked by Madonna to perform with her on MTV.

► DANCING, B-6

# DANCING

Continued from B-1

publicly for about 200 years while India was under British rule. Sculptural evidence shows the dance dates back to 200 B.C.

The sisters will perform with Madonna as she sings "Shanti/Ashtangl," a track from her latest album "Ray of Light," which is nominated in eight MTV Award categories.

In "Shanti/Ashtangl," Madonna recites a hymn from the ancient Yoga Travall, a Sanskrit classic on Hatha Yoga.

"Through my dance, I've been able to do a lot," said Shibani. "I think of the American culture as a mosaic, and this is my piece. I'm contributing to make it diverse."

Shibani, like her sisters, speaks fluent English but says her first language is Oriya, the dialect of the family's native Orissa in eastern India. She also understands India's national language, Hindi.

Fame aside, the girls are at home this week bending themselves into graceful shapes and strengthening the muscles it takes to hold the positions.

Calf muscles, eyes, wrists — each joint that moves — must be trained and exercised.

"It's a really high maintenance dance form," said the eldest sister, Laboni, who gave her first performance when she was four years old and led the way for her sisters to become involved in dancing.

"It's very spiritual, most of our concentration goes into that," Laboni said. "You have to feel the songs and concentrate on the steps as well."

Over the years, the sisters have changed dance forms from Bharata Natyam to Odissi, and whittled the time it takes to put on their intricate head pieces, exotic makeup and heavy silver jewelry from several hours to about 45 minutes.

The makeup is detailed and takes the most time. The slope to the eyes must be perfect and the small red spot on their forehead — which represents the "third eye" and is the focus of meditation — is surrounded by an intricate design in white paint.

The sisters also paint their hands and feet to accentuate their movements.

When they're not practicing, the sisters are also working and getting ready for school to start.

Shalini will return to La Costa Canyon High School in Carlsbad this fall as a sophomore. She eventually wants to pursue acting at UCLA.

Shibani will attend La Costa

Canyon as a senior and plans to someday be an engineer, though she has not decided what her specialization will be.

Laboni, who turns 20 this week, will be returning to UCSD, where she is majoring in computer science and minoring in dance.

"I think all three of us have realized that this (dance) will always be our other half, no matter what our profession," Laboni said.

Popping in and out of the living room, Shalini puts the finishing touches on her peacock-blue dance costume.

In an effortless mix of Indian and American culture, Shalini converses in Oriya with her mother, Gopa.

The sisters' dancing is a family affair. Their mother helps on costumes, which can cost \$500, including the silver filigree jewelry, which is custom-made in India. Their father, Purna Patnaik, handles the lighting and equipment.

"We're really excited," said Laboni, of their performance with Madonna. "But most of all, we're really proud everybody can see Odissi dancing because it's a really beautiful art form."



## ADVERTISEMENT



**Marilynn Dworkin**  
President/Artistic Director

The Make-Up Studio of Beverly Hills has opened another facility in Solana Beach.

Heading up the studio is Marilyn Dworkin, leading make-up artist to stars and celebrities. Opening this facility will enable her to share some wonderful "secrets" as well as cosmetic knowledge with the people of San Diego.

The Make-Up Studio offers personal and private consultations, makeovers for day or evening, classes, and all phases of make-up artistry from beginners to professionals.

"My true love has always been make-up, application, and all of the artistic efforts involved in simply making women look the very best they can!

"Being able to understand women as individuals and that everyone's needs differ. Enhancement is the concept, and the cosmetic products have to nourish, protect, and help the skin!"

Appointments are being accepted now.  
To reach the Make-Up Studio, call  
(619)259-9155



Sony CM-S1101SPR (#17-2224)

# A Dir Anyt 500 mins

- That's as little as 1¢
- Pay no long distance
- Pay no roaming charges

# \$99.99

## Clear Digital by Sony with

- 99 name/number
  - Supports Caller ID
  - Lithium Ion battery
  - Up to 60 hours standby
- #17-2224

\*Offer good for consumers only, no dealers. All offers subject to credit approval. Offer/price may be combined with Sprint Residential long-distance promotions and may not be used with September 1 and November 22, 1998. \$50/500 minute promotion cannot be used with October through 1/31/2000. Subject to credit approval. Overage minutes will be billed at .25 per min. THE JETSONS and all related characters and elements are trademarks of Hanna-Barbera ©1998. CARTOON