



DECEMBER 07 GMA NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events:

Nov 30th	TTCA testing
Dec 1st	Michigan Open BJJ Tournament
Dec 1st	Demo Team Practice 9:00-11:00
Dec 1st	Leadership team 11:00-12:30
Dec 1st	Stickfighting refresher 2:00-3:30
Dec 8th	USHF HKD black belt testing and ceremony 9:00-12:00
Dec 8th	Demo Team performance. Afternoon, TBA
Dec 9th	Master Chen Tai chi seminar in Indianapolis
Dec 13th	GMA Xmas Party, Awards Banquet, and Dance: 5:30-9:00. Morgan Co Fairgrounds. No class
Dec 15th	Lil Dragon Testing: Beg 9:00-10:30; Int and advanced 10:30-12:00
Dec 15th	TKD Black belt class/stripe test 1:00-2:30
Dec 15th	TKD Black belt prep class 2:30-4:00
Dec 15th	Deadline to register for Winter Daycamps and ensure we have the gear or to order Xmas gifts
Dec 27th	Winter Weapons daycamp 9:00-3:00
Dec 28th	BJJ daycamp 9:00-3:00
Dec 29th	Stickfighting seminar with Jason Winkle 1:00-4:00
Dec 29th	MMA style workout with Jason Winkle and Fight Night 6:00-9:00. UFC to follow.
Jan 5th	BJJ blue belt pretest 9:00-12:00 (tentative)

Xmas Party, Dance and Awards Banquet

This years Christmas party/awards banquet and dance has been scheduled for Dec 13th at the Morgan County Fairgrounds. Arrival and set up will be from 5:30-6:00. The dinner and awards banquet will begin at 6:00. Following the awards, Santa will make an appearance and there will be a DJ for a dance that will continue till 8:30 or 9:00 pm. This is a chance to join in some fellowship, recognize some key students and parents, and give Santa any last minute list revisions. Signs up for the pitch in dinner will be posted soon. We also need a very close idea of people attending for seating arrangements. No classes will meet that Thurs. We hope everyone will be able to share in our annual event.

Winter Camps Coming Up Fast

Rather than having the kids sitting around stuffing themselves with candy, we take the vacation time to offer something special. Don't forget you can also make it a X-mas present. Camp price includes lunch and all the weapons or gear needed for the seminar and you can put the gear under the tree! Deadline to register to ensure the gear is here for the camp is Dec 15th.

Winter Weapons Camp, Dec 27th: This years weapon will be cane. Everything from basic (and not so basic) blocks and strikes to locks and throws to punch defenses, kick defenses, situational grabs, etc. This is especially applicable to both our HKD and our stickfighting students, as there is applications in both. We are excited because we have never been able to cover this weapon so thoroughly as we will at the camp. Come see why cane it one of Mr. Sieg's favorite!

No Gi and Tricky Stuff with Mr. Sledd on Dec. 28th: Obviously based on Brazilian jujitsu, but with a change in emphasis. This seminar will be primarily focused on no gi applications, which is great on account of a) no gi tournaments we are doing and MMA appreciation b) Cross over to HKD ground techniques and c) self defense applications. We will do some additional fancy techniques as well. A great chance to log some serious training hours on some stuff not normally covered.

Stickfighting Seminar on Dec 29th with Jason Winkle: Technically this isn't a camp since it is Sat. afternoon (1:00-4:00), but it fits with our week of serious training perks. Several have had the pleasure of doing stickwork with Sifu Winkle other places, as a perk to our stickfighting students, we are bringing him back to GMA. Come see Mr. Sieg's primary instructor in the Filipino martial arts.



Standup/Takedown Fighting Seminar (MMA style) and Fight Night with Jason Winkle: After a break for dinner, Sifu Winkle will be coming back for a stand up to take down clinic from 6:00-9:00. Much like the one we had with Dr. Winkle in the summer. Awesome training and awesome fellowship as we stay together to watch the UFC PPV later that night. We are also planning on this seminar to build on the No gi seminar by Mr. Slodd the day before, so people can get the complete training spectrum.

GMA's Team Caique Members Place in IU BJJ Championships

Congrats to our BJJ team who competed in the latest tournament. Collectively, we were given the most supportive team award. Those who medaled included Dan Wiggins, Doug Bailey, and Bryan Neal.

And the NOMINEES Are:

This year we are announcing those students who are nominated for our yearly awards:

Student of the year:

Jared Hamilton
Greg Hamilton
Adam Hamilton
Timothy Thomas

Black Belt of the Year:

Seth Wilson
Marc Shotts

Most Improved Student:

Christopher Grider (LD)
Taylor Dodge (TKD)
Brenner Williams (TKD)
Doug Bailey (BJJ)
Ryan Jerome (TKD)

Competitor of the Year—BJJ:

Doug Bailey
Dan Wiggins
Lain Stocke
Bryan Neal

Competitor of the Year—TKD:

Greg Hamilton
Mrs. Yoshida
Noah Wilson
Adam Hamilton
Obed Soto

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

John Mosby 12/01
Clayton Christian 12/02
Chris Grider 12/03
Clayton Smith 12/03
Austin Brummett 12/03
Brenner Williams 12/09

Richie Long 12/12
Drew Wilson 12/12
Collyn Dodge 12/12
Jacob Grider 12/14
Frankie Williams 12/14
Noah Crawford 12/15

Michaela Reidy 12/20
Carl Underwood 12/26
Mrs. Yoshida 12/26
Griffin Selch 12/30
Brett Hopkins 12/30

Training Anniversaries

Tylor Martins (TKD, 6yrs.)
Jesse Stuard (TKD, 4 yrs.)
Raven Shotts (HKD, 2yr)

Zach Baker (TKD 1 yr)
Doug Bailey (BJJ 1 yr)
AJ Bottorff (LD 1 yr)

Benjamin Marino (LD 1 yr)

Please Plan Ahead for Xmas Items

If you have any last minute Christmas shopping to do (don't we all) or need that stocking stuffer or whatever, just a reminder to please plan ahead. Many of our suppliers go out of stock of seasonal items and we want to make sure we minimize the delays in getting any special orders to you! The last day to order Xmas items to ensure shipping (assuming availability) is Dec. 15th.



Give Another Person the Chance to “Be More” This Christmas

Don't forget that you can get a gift certificate for a uniform and month of classes –100.00 value, for only a 25.00 cost to you. If you know anyone who has ever “thought about” doing martial arts, or if there is someone you know who “this would be good for”, this is your chance to get them off the fence and really reaping the benefits of training.

Quotes of the Week

This month we will discuss the importance of asking questions—in order to learn...and also how to ask, and how it relates to the martial arts tradition of transmitting knowledge.

Parent Committee News:

Thanks to everyone who help sell cookie dough. We are closing in on the defibrillator. Nominations for parent committee. Elections are being held for next years group of officers. Nomination slips are available on the half wall at the school. Actual voting ballots will soon follow

Class Cancellations for Holidays, Class Adjustments, and General Policies

No class on Thurs Dec 13th on account of the Christmas party...see you there.

Holiday class cancellations: No class on Monday Dec 24 through Wed Dec 26th on account of Xmas. Classes resume Thursday, December 27 and run through that Friday Dec 28th. (Evening classes in addition to the camps) No class on Mon. Dec 31st or Jan 1st. Classes resume on Wed Jan. 2nd

Also a reminder of our general policy regarding bad weather. We try to follow the lead of local schools—if they cancel school that day, cancel evening events or let out early, so do we. If on morning delay, we will meet as normal. This applies to universal problems such as snow and ice, not things like flooding or other issues that may be more regionalized. The only exception to this may occur when the school cancels in advance of a huge storm and the forecast is clearly off. When in doubt, simply call, check the website, check your email for announcements, listen to WCBK, etc.

GMA—Our Compass Might Not be Golden, But it Points in the Right Direction

Undoubtedly you have seen the movie promos and trailers for the next big Narnia/Lord of the Rings type movie called “The Golden Compass.” Fewer but no doubt many of you are also aware of the controversy with the film. While the film is supposedly “toned down”—or at least the first one is—the books are an outright attack on the church and Christianity. The book series, with each installment getting more vitriolic, follows the uprising of demons, with the help of humans, particularly children, in the war and eventual killing of God—a fact the author, to his credit, admits. While I have certainly become accustomed to having my beliefs attacked and maligned, on a personal level I find this one particularly troubling is its focus is on undermining children. Suffice to say that neither the movie nor the book, or any merchandising from Happy Meals or the like, will be tolerated in my household. Nor will Scholastic Books be supported again with my money. But that is my personal response, and while part of me wants to use these pages as a platform to lead a movement, I will instead limit myself as how it is relevant to GMA. I feel it is not only anti-religious, but it is also anti-Gentry if you will. And regardless of your personal beliefs and opinions about religion, if you enjoy being at our school and the benefits that come from training at Gentry, then this should concern you.

The movie looks like Narnia and Lord of the Rings for a reason. The reason those predecessors were so successful and so powerful was the return to a classic struggle of good versus evil with good winning. I would like to think that most of society, regardless of religious affiliation, still believes in that. Now if you have watched the previews, the Golden Compass is also hailed as good versus evil. But the big difference is that side of good and the side of evil is reversed! While I forget the source, I once heard the significance of this explained as thus. Throughout literary history there are certain archetypes that represent evil, and certain generally accepted archetypes for good. Making a werewolf actually be good for example, is more than a novel plot twist, it blurs the line, and this can be especially confusing for children who are still trying to figure out the sides.



So how is any of this really relevant to martial arts? Because at GMA we have always maintained that martial arts are a vehicle for personal development. We take the character development aspect of our program very seriously, including traditional values like respect, self-discipline, a strong work ethic and personal responsibility. There are a good number of our families that are here because those values have already started to erode in society. Enter the “Golden Compass”, where one of its God-killing characters is quoted as saying: “Every church is the same: control, destroy, obliterate every good feeling.” The book maintains that religion controls and manipulates through all these rules. Translation: religion is bad if it doesn’t let you do what you want to do whenever you want to do it. [I am not sure what parent wants their child to adopt that philosophy at home] “Freedom” in their sense, isn’t the American concept, it is hedonism. While I have been accused of being preachy at times, I never thought of as a GMA church, but I guess it might be according to Pullman because we do expect our students to follow the basic rules of courtesy, respect, and citizenship.

I am not sure the role the actual compass plays in the movie, but I can tell you where it points. Unfortunately, we have already seen the beginning of that journey down the road of eroding traditional values. Today’s society already breeds instant gratification and entitlement. Infomercials tell us we should be getting rich quickly while working part time from home...instead of expecting to work hard and save with discipline. Fast food restaurants tell us “we can have it our way” and “we deserve a break today”. We can get rock solid abs in only 6 minutes (or whatever the number is down to). Self help books tell us to ignore our social obligations and to do what makes us happy, to be fair to ourselves.

This is not just the graying or blurring of the lines. What happens when evil and good are switched when it comes to traditional values? Our compass points to people being regarded for having principles. Their compass points to looking down on the same person and labeling them intolerant of other viewpoints. Our compass points to giving respect to those in authority. Their compass points to the attitude, “I won’t show anybody respect till they give me some.” Or the gangbanger mentality that if you can’t earn respect you have to take it. Our compass points to personal accountability and no excuses, their compass points to why they deserve to be the exception to the rule (legitimate or not) and why they deserve special treatment. Our compass points to working hard and finishing the task. Their compass points to a sense of entitlement. Our compass points to taking our responsibilities and social obligations seriously, their compass points to only honoring them if it makes them feel good and they still want to. Our compass points to having the discipline to hold ourselves to a higher standard, their compass points to having no discipline and doing what you want.

You have to choose a way you are going to look the world, you have to pick a side so to speak. Perhaps I am being a bit overdramatic, but as I said, we take our job of character development very seriously. If I am charged with pointing our students in the right direction, I can tell you that I won’t be pointing them to the Golden Compass. ---BLS