



GMA NEWS

November

Upcoming events:

Nov 7 th	Purdue collegiate tournament
Nov 8 th	GM Ko's tournament (BBC only)
Nov 14 th	Holiday Sale at GMA 8:00-11:00
Nov 14 th	Lil Dragon Testing: beg 1:00-2:30 and int/adv 2:30-4:00
Nov 14 th	TKD black belt ceremony in Louisville 1:00 pm
Nov 20 th	HKD testing (possibly lunch class)
Nov 21 st	FAST Extravaganza 10:00-4:00
Nov 25-27	No class—Happy Thanksgiving
Dec 13 th	Master Chen Tai Chi seminar, Indianapolis
Dec 29 th	Winter Weapons daycamp 9:00-3:00
Dec 30 th	“Tweener” FAST extrav 9:00-3:00

We also might work on coordinating a “big kid” movie outing to watch “ninja assassins” at the end of the month.

Congrats to:

- **TKD black belt testing.** Congrats to our newest dan promotions in TKD. Mr. Carl Underwood, Mr. Bobby Brouse, Mr. Trae Brouse, Mr. Austin Brummett, and Miss Mya Freed.
- **Our newest BJJ promotion.** Several people got stripe promotions during the Professor Caique seminar, but special congrats goes to our newest blue belt: Vince Kreipke.

Holiday Sale set for Nov 14th Get a jump on your holiday shopping with our annual holiday sale. Use the gift giving season to get them some necessities that they need anyway- like new sparring gear or uniforms, some extra training gear that will help them practice at home, or splurge on some fun seasonal items for their room that will help reinforce that they are part of a positive, powerful martial arts lifestyle. Our annual holiday sale will be Nov 14th from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. This gives you a chance to come to school and shop without the kids, so it can be a true surprise for them. There will be special sales for that day as well. Catalogs and ideas are also available now so you can maybe research what your kids like and want.

Holiday Class Cancellations:

No classes on Wed, Nov 25th, Thanksgiving (26th) or Friday Nov 27th. Classes will resume as normal the following Monday. Have a happy Bird-day!

Winter Camps set

This year we will be doing another winter weapons camp during the holiday season. 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. Sign up at the front desk.

Winter Weapons camp, Dec 29th. This year we will be featuring a very rare tai chi staff routine. Our tai chi students will benefit from the new challenge. Those more interested in the weapon will hopefully also pick up a little tai chi concept. Yes, it is done slower, and we will be learning a form, but there are A/B sides which results in a interactive fighting routine when it is complete.

Our other camp this year is going to be a TWEENER/TEEN FAST extrav. This is going to be advanced FAST training for those kids who aren't quite of age or ready for the adult class, but are past the whole “stranger danger” age. Handling more teenage bullies and fights, school shootings, or kidnappings. It is still a camp with lunch provided and some dodgepad time, but some of the most cutting edge self defense for your child.



GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

Justin Roberts	11-03	Alexandra Sichtung	11-4	William Wells	11-5
Hunter Meredith	11-13	Michael Sheppard	11-18	Liam Kidwell	11-23
Charles Branaman	11-26	Brandon McGuire	11-27	Ken Hawkins	11-29

Training Anniversaries

Special Congrats to those who started with us a year or multiple years ago.

Austin Brummett (TKD 5 yrs)	Caleb Allen (TKD 5 yrs)	Morgan Williams (TKD 2 yrs)
Hunter Meredith (TKD/LD, 2 yrs)	William Wells (TKD/LD 2yr)	Chad Handlon (TKD 1 yr)
Ken Hawkins (TKD 1 yr)	Marshall Leitz (BJJ 1 yr)	

Quotes of the Week

It has been a while since we have revisited the focus points, and some of our newer students need to learn the importance of these traits to success.

Special recognition to our families:

In addition to Thanksgiving, November happens to be family appreciation month, so we at GMA would like to do both—a special thanks to our families. Of course, we like to think of all of GMA as a family, and we have several pairs of siblings in the classes, but we would like to point out those families that actually need our family discount or those families with more than one generation involved....Perhaps someone else in your family is ready to try it out?

Marc Shotts (TKD, HKD), Caleb Shotts (TKD) and Raven Shotts (TKD)

Bobby Brouse (TKD), Shae Brouse (TKD) Trae Brouse (TKD),

Plus 3rd generation to both the Brouse's and Shott's: Woody Shotts (Tai Chi), and Ally Sichtung (TKD)

Mike Dodge (HKD, BJJ), Collyn Dodge (TKD, BJJ)

Greg (TKD, HKD, BJJ), Jared Hamilton (HKD, TKD,) and Alex Hamilton (TKD,)

Noah and Gabe Wilson (TKD), Nate and Luke Wilson (LD)

Morgan Williams (TKD) and Frankie Williams (Tai chi)

John, Christopher, and Patrick Mosby (TKD)

Brandi and Roarke Ireland and Quinn Purtee (TKD)

Bryan Neal (BJJ), Zada Neal (LD) and Sydnee Twardoski (TKD)

Jon and Zac Speer (TKD)

Zach (LD) and Ryan Dyer (HKD)

Taylor (TKD), Nathan (TKD) and Melissa Payne (HKD)

Chris, Brandon, and TJ Dunbar (BJJ)

Jesse (TKD), Sabrina (TKD), Christian (HKD) and Michael Chouinard (HKD)

Jia Jones (TKD and Vee Titus (Tai Chi)

Don and Isaiah Roach (TKD)

Elijah (TKD), Erich Klippel (TKD) and Lise Roberson (HKD)

Cope, Cheyenne, and Mike Taylor (TKD)

Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida and Kylie (LD)

Mr. Sieg and Haley (TKD)

Special Thanks for Fall Foliage and beyond.

Thanks to all the demo team and parade marchers for making a great fall foliage.

Special thanks to all who helped with the parade...especially Greg Hamilton and sons for providing the trailer, and Don Roach for manning the booth during the parade.

Special thanks to all the parents committee and all the parents who helped organize, decorate, or worked the school Halloween party!

Thanks for everyone's support of the parents committee fundraiser.



Our school wouldn't be able to be the place that it is without the support of our students and parents. These recent events really demonstrate just how caring of a group we have, and we appreciate everyone's willingness to contribute in order to make GMA a family.

Tournament notes

Altogether our team of 23 competitors brought home 34 trophies—17 forms and 17 sparring. Some divisions were quite full, some were light, but we are proud of everyone's performance. Congrats to those who placed:

Richie Long	3 rd sparring		Sarah Kush	4 th forms	1 st sparring
Greg Hamilton	4 th sparring		Alex Hamilton	4 th forms	3 rd sparring
Bobby Brouse	1 st forms		Trae Brouse	4 th sparring	
Jon Speer	2 nd forms	2 nd sparring	Collyn Dodge	4 th sparring	
Ryan Jerome	3 rd forms		Noah Lambert	1 st forms	1 st sparring
Malana Harmon	2 nd forms	1 st sparring	Jonny Harmon	1 st forms	1 st sparring
Annabelle Cleary	2 nd forms	3 rd sparring	Collyn Blevins	4 th forms	4 th sparring
Sarah Smith	2 nd forms		Carl Underwood	1 st forms	
Taylor Payne	2 nd forms	2 nd sparring	Ethan Minton	4 th forms	4 th sparring
Morgan Williams	3 rd sparring		Austin Brummett	3 rd forms	3 rd sparring
Dominic Tejera	4 th forms		Ingrid Elias	1 st forms	2 nd sparring
Liz Stannard	2 nd forms	1 st sparring			

Finding Inspiration on Vacation—right here at “work”.

During fall break my family went to Orlando to visit my brother in law, and of course, the Magic Kingdom. If you saw my Halloween costume then you know that I managed to find inspiration while I was there (for those who didn't, I was that obnoxious tourist). But I have to say, I got on the plane looking for inspiration in other ways. Some of the most successful martial arts franchises in the country are also located in Orlando. One that boasts 10 locations and over 2,000 students has a school 1.3 miles from my brother in law's house. In the professional consulting material that we regularly get, it is the likes of these that remind us how important great customer service, a friendly atmosphere and energetic classes are. (It is not like we need consultants for us to figure those things out). Nevertheless, as a successful franchise, this was one group who had supposedly found a quality formula that can be replicated. I was looking forward to seeing how these icons did it. I was really hoping to have an eye opening experience that gave me lots of ideas on how GMA's entire staff can improve. The head instructor I met at that location was very nice and welcomed me in. I could tell he was a great role model and was sharp technically—I would love to have him on our staff.

I walked in the second night to watch some of the more advanced classes. I stood because all the chairs to sit on were filled with gym bags of the students on the floor. (keep in mind, this was only about 8 chairs total, cause the consultants would likely tell us not to pay extra rent for wasted space in the lobby so parents could watch.) After a class change, I sat down and was finally approached after about 10 minutes by what turned out to be the program director. The classes I saw were no more energetic or exciting than ours. (I would argue less). I watched students sit around waiting for their turn to spar for longer than the time they actually spent sparring. Even in the FL climate, students walked out less sweaty than ours (or at least, than they should). There was little interaction among students or among parents before, during or after class. To be sure, the school was family friendly, but I didn't get a feel that the school was family.

I sometimes tell a joke to people who have had previous martial arts experience. (I am sure I took the joke from someone, but it has been so long I can't give credit). How many martial arts instructors does it take to change a lightbulb? [pick your number]. One to change the lightbulb, and the rest to say, “In our school, we do things a little differently.” I am not saying we have all the answers, or that the way they do things is wrong. On a commercial level, they must be doing a lot of things right. To be honest, probably the biggest one is requiring long term contracts. But some things aren't always about maximizing commercial viability. And we have the balance that lets me actually sleep at night.

I went on vacation looking for one of the best martial arts schools in the country. I might be biased, but I certainly came back inspired...that I already live at one. I certainly haven't given up on my quest to improve the school. If you have ideas on how, I would welcome them. But I am inspired by where we have come from and where I think we are going. ---BLS