



DECEMBER 10 GMA NEWSLETTER

Upcoming events:

Dec 3 rd	TTCA testing
Dec 4 th	FAST Adult basics 9:00-12:30
Dec 4 th	BJJ seminar in b-ton with Mr. Sledd 2:00-4:00 pm (ish)
Dec 11 th	Leadership Team 9:00-11:00 (ish)
Dec 11 th	Lil Dragon testing: beg 9:00-10:30, inter/adv 10:30-12:00
Dec 11 th	Black belt prep 12:30-2:00
Dec 12 th	Master Chen Tai chi seminar in Indianapolis
Dec 14 th	Deadline to register for Winter Daycamps and ensure we have the gear or to order Xmas gifts
Dec 16 th	GMA Xmas Party, Awards Banquet, and Dance: 5:30-9:00. Morgan Co Fairgrounds. No class
Dec 17 th	Hapkido testing 7:00 pm
Dec 18 th	TKD black belt stripe test/class 9:00-10:30
Dec 18 th	HKD black belt class 10:30-12:00
Dec 22 nd	Winter Daycamp: Kids FAST Extravaganza camp 9:00-3:00
Dec 24-27 th	NO CLASS—Happy Holiday (see below)
Dec 28 th	Winter Weapons daycamp: Cane workshop from 9:00-3:00
Dec 29 th	BJJ no gi workshop with Mr. Sledd 4:00-6:30/ Blue belt class for purple—7:30 till ?
Dec 30 th	Winter Daycamp: Martial Arts for Movies/Stage 9:00-3:00
Dec 31 st -Jan 1	No CLASS

Xmas Party, Dance and Awards Banquet

This years Christmas party/awards banquet and dance has been scheduled for Dec 16th 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 ups 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.

Kids FAST Extrav, Dec 22nd. This FAST is designed for advanced training for those not old enough for the adult version but taken the FAST basics and looking for more challenges and more custom scenarios. Advanced scenarios (like school shootings) will be done. As a camp, there will still be time for lunch and dodgepad.

Winter Weapons camp, Dec 28th. This years camp covers one of Mr. Sieg's favorite and a Hapkido staple—the cane. If there is one weapon we wish we did a lot more of, it would be cane. Here is the chance! From strikes to blocks to locks and throws, see how versatile the cane can be.

Movie/Stage combat camp 30th. Things that look good on the big screen aren't always what they appear. Come see how they do the stunts without getting the stars hurt. Mr. Yoshida who has worked on martial arts films and done fight choreography will show some secrets. Participants will make their own movie fight scene, and we will unveil our action stars at a red carpet event. The release date of this debut has not been set. Great for anybody in demo or anyone with an interest in movies/theater, etc.



And the NOMINEES are:

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

Student of the year: *Annabelle Cleary, Brandi Ireland, Melissa Payne, Ryan Spires, Mason Storm*

Black Belt of the year: *Noah Wilson, Gabe Wilson, Austin Brummett, Ryan Jerome*

Most Improved Student: *Dalton Leitz, Kaitlyn Nolan, Sammy Petraits, Lise Roberson, Luke Gamble*

Competitor of the year (BJJ): *Doug Bailey, Dalton Leitz, Marshall Leitz, Colton Lynn*

Competitor of the year (TKD): *Jake Waltz, Brandi Ireland, Haley Sieg, Noah Wilson.*

(honorable mentions to Luke Wilson, Annabelle Cleary, Dominic Tejera and Jonny Harmon)

Training Anniversaries

AJ Bottorff (TKD 4 yrs)

Doug Bailey (BJJ 4 yrs)

Collyn Dodge (BJJ 2yrs)

Angela Fields (TKD 2 yr)

Dalton Leitz (BJJ 1 yr)

Cameron Rutledge (LD 1yr)

Quotes of the Week: Dec will be a catch all: we will be continuing to work on our focus points, goals setting is around the corner on Jan, etc.

GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

John Mosby 12/01

Elijah Roberson 12/02

Richie Long 12/07

William Eirhart's 12/12

Christian Marion 12/18

Mrs. Yoshida 12/26

Clayton Smith 12/03

Collyn Dodge 12/12

Frankie Williams 12/14

Don Roach 12/23

Trinity Britton 12/27

Austin Brummett 12/03

Kyler Chylaszek 12/12

Noel Dickinson 12/15

Carl Underwood 12/26

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. 14th. Keep in mind, some things are already backed ordered past the holidays.*

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 (BJJ uniforms more). 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.

Parent Committee news:

- Please sign up for the Xmas party—also please consider helping set up at the fairgrounds during the day.
- There will be a meeting on Dec 3rd at 6:30.

Congrats to

- Gabe Wilson, on completing his 2nd dan requirements and being our newest dan rank promotion.
- Dalton Leitz, Marshall Leitz and Colton Lynn competed in EGO BJJ tournament. While just three of them attended, they performed so well they still took home 3rd place in the team points for gi!



Class Cancellations for Holidays, class adjustments, and general policies

- No class on Thurs Dec 16th on account of the Christmas party...see you there.
- Holiday class cancellations: No class on Thurs Dec 24 through Mon Dec 27th on account of Xmas. Classes resume Tues, December 28 and run through that Thurs Dec 30th. (Evening classes in addition to the camps) No class on Fri. Dec 31st or Jan 1st. Classes resume on regular schedule Mon. Jan. 3rd
- 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 (tai chi in the morning will follow the 2 hr delay). 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* incorrect, or when crews have all day to work on the roads. When in doubt, simply call, check the website, check your email for announcements, listen to WCBK, etc.

Tis the season for snowflakes, various feasts, school programs, and shopping lists. It is easy to focus on wants during this time of indulgence, but is also the season for giving thanks and counting blessings. Perspective makes all the difference. Parents get caught up in getting their kids the hottest toy. Kids (and adults) dwell on the one thing on the list they didn't get instead of the pile of things their received. We focus on the slight of an omitted Xmas card rather than the multitude of friends we have. I have to admit, during my first round of "thanksgiving" for the school and all the wonderful, hard working students I do have, my thoughts tended to linger on past students/friends who are not among our ranks this year. Instead of focusing on all we have accomplished this year, my thoughts immediately turn the list of things we haven't done yet, or the problems/hassles we are dealing with. This is the season we should work on being "joyful in all circumstances". And I am talking about true gratitude about the deeper things, rather than simply being grateful for the food before us or the gifts we receive. Obviously I am biased, but I think martial arts gives us a lesson here as well.

Martial arts has only recently become a commercial venture; historically there were few "professionals." Even most of the great masters were trained as or had other means of employment as they taught a select few in the backyard or the park, etc. In our tradition, Gichin Funakoshi (founder of shotokan) was an educator, GM Won Kuk Lee (founder of Chung Do Kwan) studied law, Professor Cheng Man Ching was a doctor, artist, and academic, Professor Caique was a rancher in Brazil. The arts were not taught via contractual relationship, but as a labor of love. That didn't mean students didn't support the master—but not always monetarily and out of respect and thanks. Students cleaned the school (if there was one), did the office work, and I even read an account of one Aikido student/attendant who prepared and assisted in Ueshiba's baths—now that's gratitude! Again, it isn't about the gift but the sentiment behind the gesture, because really, how can you honestly reciprocate?

What is the proper gift for my teachers (in all facets of life, not just martial arts), who are sources of inspiration and role models for me? How do you repay the gift of confidence, perseverance, fighting spirit, respect, and other life skills? One of my teachers and I recently had a disagreement on some policies. But fortunately I was reminded that I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for him. And I am very grateful for where I am! I wouldn't be nearly the person I am without the martial arts.

I didn't write this article to angle for more cookies this Xmas or to sell more gift certificates for classes. As heroes in training, I hope we can take the time to really appreciate the heroes in our own lives, to be grateful for all those that teach, inspire, touch, and fulfill us. To be truly thankful for the positive experiences we have had, and to try to pay if forward. I am thankful for all my parents, teachers, and mentors who have helped me to BE MORE. I am thankful for my friends and family who have give me perspective, even on gratitude. Tis the season for me to be thankful for my ultimate hero—the Savior of the world. And I also learn and grow from my students and from our GMA team, so I am grateful for all of you. Thank you for the honor of training you at Gentry. All I ask (besides the cookies) is that you foster an attitude of thankfulness for your heroes as well. ---BLS