

JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • April/May 2013

Juggle Jam 15 Final (Hard Copy) Memo

Logistics enclosed for three-week countdown

The annual **Final Memo and Checklist** for all JH families regarding JJ15 logistics and etiquette is enclosed with this *Journal*. Four key dates that should be memorized: May 9 & 15; 17 & 18. Remember that student-created/borrowed/purchased costumes enhance all routines. Every Jughead should know the basic contents of the Final Memo; this will prevent long meetings at rehearsals. Also, see “Tickets” about a special prize drawing for any Jughead who sells 10 or more tickets!

Specialty Acts, Skits & Seniors

Distinguished Jugheads of JJ15

JJ15 “specialty act” auditions (solo, duet, ensemble) were held on April 16 in the Wooddale-Edina gym. Six acts were chosen: one solo, four duets, and a trio. We’re also working on a good line-up of comedic/musical skits. Eight Jugheads completing their senior year active in the company will be featured according to their seniority/club involvement/leadership (four each night of JJ), joining the 47 graduates who have gone before them.

Officer Voice: Rory B.

Ten years ago when I joined JUGHEADS (JH) as a member of Monday Rec, I was not the most passionate of jugglers. In hindsight, this probably was not the biggest deal in the world as I was young and inexperienced. It took me a while before I became emotionally invested in JH. I remember observing Riley Wiklund, an assistant at the time, and thinking about being as talented as him one day. Each subsequent week I would watch different assistants do various magical tricks with three or four balls. I would proceed to attempt them with minimal success and soon revert back to my beloved “over the top” trick I had become so well acquainted with. Watching those student leaders and striving to be like them is what helped me advance through JH and become the three-time International Jugglers’ Association (IJA) Teams medalist, *America’s Got Talent* semi-finalist, and Minnesota State Fair Amateur Talent Contest Teen Division champion.

It is important to have a role model. Whether it is a role model in juggling, running, exotic bird collecting, or even football. Without someone to look up to, a person will fall into complacency. One of the lessons JH has taught me is to always go for more; something can always be better.



With only fourteen weeks left in my official JH career, I ponder what my legacy will be. Will it forever be the kid who danced around on stage wearing a dress that was slightly too small singing along to the angelic voice of Celine Dion (JJ13)? Or will it be the kid who wore tights and a muscle shirt and danced to the driving beat of Beyonce’s “Single Ladies” (JJ12)?

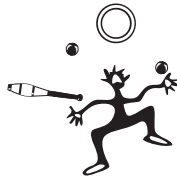
The various assistants and coaches I’ve had have left a huge impact on me. I can only hope that I have influenced my students in a similar manner. As I prepare to leave JH, I find solace in knowing that the assistants who will take my place have worked hard to get to where they are and have the experience to continue a legacy of excellence in JH. These students are the unsung heroes that help make JH such a fantastic place. I would like to personally thank every assistant, past and present, for all the hard work they have put in. —*Rory Bade: Deca-Jughead, EHS Senior, Monday Rec Assistant, Officer, Elite Member & Ultimate Club Captain*

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Ultimate

Intense top club enjoys group unity, ownership

“Ultimate Club” connotes many different images and expectations for students and adults alike. For younger Jugheads, it’s something to shoot for as our top club. For Edina High School, it’s the letter-winning arm of our company. For parents, it’s a way for their teens to immerse in their beloved juggling activity either alongside or instead of other high-level extra curriculars. For audiences, it’s the perennial club passing routine that graces the latter part of Act Two. And for the actual members, U.C. has its extreme ups & downs, but it’s both a pinnacle club experience and a dream to reach even higher, such as this year’s goal to once again compete in the IJA Teams Championships (video audition on May 4!). *A lot* goes into this club, and historically, it’s the most challenging and most rewarding experience of immersing in JH.

This year, the club was reduced to 16 members due to kids moving on last spring and this fall. However, rather than the spirit of the club taking a hit, the group unity and ambition both increased despite the roster setbacks. Even though two coaches are paid to lead this relatively small group, the kids share various leadership roles, from Captain Rory leading warm-ups to kids generating ideas and/or running various patterns and drills. The result is that while the club is (by necessity) highly structured, there is always room for individual expression and a sense of shared ownership. 13 of the 16 members have committed to traveling to Bowling Green, OH this July for the IJA Festival (whether or not we make it past video auditions), and while U.C. membership is by no means the sum total of a Jughead’s



experience, it presents an opportunity every week and every year to test the mettle of the kids who are willing to push the boundaries of team juggling which has earned our group four IJA medals and countless bonded friendships, life lessons, and memories.

Look forward to seeing U.C. perform their competition-hopeful routine in JJ15 set to the music of “Riverdance.”

JUGHEADS Community News

—**WELCOME** to new Jughead **Isaac N.**, 5th grader in Thursday Rec.! While it’s very rare for rookies to be admitted in late winter, we had space and Isaac has extraordinary eagerness!

—**ULTIMATES:** Lettering applications and \$25 to EPS is due 6/6; turn in to Paul. JH standards sheets (on our website) must also be filled out by 6/6, but you have until 7/31 to finish *achieving* them.

—**SENIORS:** The deadline to submit Senior Presentation photos is 5/5. JJ15 program bios are due 5/11 (look for an email w/ details).

—**Coach Paul will be gone from clubs the week of Memorial Day (May 28-31)** for Wendy’s heart surgery at Mayo Clinic. **Coaches Scott & Kelvin** will be in charge all that week.

—**SUMMER JUGGLING CAMPS:** Forms are printed and online. Reminders: 1) Coupons expire 5/24; 2) punchcards are a very flexible option; 3) kids can bag-lunch-it if juggling all day; 4) The St. Louis Park Parade is 6/15 (sign up by 6/13); 5) The Edina Parade is 7/4 (sign up by 6/28); 6) the EYJA Juggling Meet is 7/13 at ECC’s track; 7) U.C. Boot Camp (invitational) is tentatively August 12-16 @ EHS.

—**THE FALL 2013 REG. FORM** and the post-JJ15/Summer 2013 newsletter will arrive at the homes of all current Jugheads around 5/25. Immediately thereafter, all after school clubs spots will be up for grabs for current members (with director approval for Advanced, Elite, and U.C.). Fall discounts (for returning members) last just over two weeks (post-marked by 6/8), then Rec. Club spots will be offered to new rookies starting on 6/10. So whether to secure your spot or simply to save \$20, plan now to register from May 24-June 8 for your fall club(s)! Contact P or W with questions.

Paul’s Platform: “Strength in Weakness”

In a recent update to the JH families’ group email list, I quoted 2 Corinthians 12:10: “When I am weak, then I am strong (in Christ).” This is a paradox, and although it’s never initially pleasant to experience weakness and the surrender of one’s control, there is a surprising strength that comes (by faith) only through trials. My deep belief is that God Himself through Jesus is my strength, *especially* in my weaknesses, but even in “secular” settings such as Juggle Jam 15, we can all experience being strong for each other when somebody else is weak.

Consider our annual production. Ultimate Club members, specialty acts, and skits have more stage time than the average Jughead. However, even the strongest individual or team is “weak” when ones remembers that we need a stage, an audience, a sound man, a lighting technician, ushers, safety codes, and audience amenities to make the show complete. The “star performers” would not have any fame without a strong network to make up for their weaknesses. And that all applies to our most *seasoned* performers! For the younger and/or less experienced Jugheads, stage fright and self-doubt can sometimes be overwhelming. One young performer literally prayed about his stage fright in last month’s EYJA Showcase, and his success led him to say, “Now I finally know that God is real.”

Wendy and I have expressed that same sentiment countless times, and we do so now daily perhaps more than ever as we’re between two major surgeries while peaking JJ preparations and approaching our 20th wedding anniversary. I’ll reiterate what I often wait until JJ to say, here quoting one of the great hymns of the Christian faith: “To God be the glory, great things He has done!”

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