

JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • January 2012

JJ14 Q&A for Rookie Families...

...and Reminders for Veteran Families!

Q: What is Juggle Jam?

A: Juggle Jam 14 (JJ14), **May 18 & 19 at 7 pm at Hopkins HS**, is the climax to our year, featuring all six clubs, skits, specialty acts, a Slide Show, and a Senior Presentation. New audience members are *surprised* with JJ's scope, entertainment value, and inspiration.

Q: Does my Jughead have to audition to be in JJ14?

A: No and Yes. Every Jughead is guaranteed to appear in our Opening & Finale, club routine(s), and Slide Show, but "specialty acts" (solos & small ensembles) are determined by auditions in April. Even Ultimate-level specialty acts may not make it into JJ.

Q: Are there extra time commitments involved for JJ14?

A: The only extra rehearsals involving the entire company are the evenings of May 8 & 16. However, all Jugheads should try to stay at club until 5:45 pm (9 pm for Ultimate) from now on. Please email or call Paul with absent kids (esp. for May 8 & 16) and kids leaving early from club rehearsals through May 17.

Q: How does the process of selling tickets work?

A: Formerly, the kids were the primary means of selling tickets. While there still will be an opportunity for kids to sell general tickets, half of the house will be sold as reserved seating online only. Keep posted; and once available, buy your tickets early!

Q: How will you communicate JJ14-related info.?

A: This monthly newsletter; a separate "Final Memo" in late April; and occasional emails to our group list will keep all parents and performers apprised of JJ14 info. Please contact Wendy if you're NOT receiving any emails from "[juggleheads_parents]".

Coach Corner: "Reflecting on Past Struggles"

by Kelvin Ying

One of my favorite bits of wisdom especially appropriate for this time of the year comes from Dr. Kelso, a character from the TV show "Scrubs": "Nothing in this world that's worth having comes easy." It was around this time during my school years that homework, extracurriculars, music, and juggling suddenly picked up the pace and I found myself playing catch-up. My sleep always suffered, and I stayed up until 3:00 a.m. many nights wondering how much longer I could continue this pattern. But after several months of hard work, I would leave an honors concert, national trivia competi-



tion, or Juggle Jam finale and realize not just how much fun I'd had, but more important, how I'd earned my fun. It definitely wasn't easy to get to that point, but I never forgot how it felt to reap the rewards of an accomplishment that had cost me months of effort and frustration.

As we enter the season for Juggle Jam preparation, each of us will face our own set of obstacles. Some might find that the struggle to learn a new trick or skill will bring about more disappointment than joy. Others will find their friendships stretched thin because of routine troubles. A few might reach a breaking point simply by trying to balance a hectic schedule of sports, school, and friends. Even as a young adult, I'm struggling to balance my ongoing musical pursuits, my friendships, and multiple jobs. But if there is anything I have learned from those years of work and sleeplessness, it is that hard work towards a worthy goal never goes unrewarded. Ask any seniors who ever left a final "Reach" bow with tears in their eyes--no struggle ever overshadows the value of the result. So keep striving, and know that every ounce of effort you put into your endeavors will return tenfold.

—Kelvin Ying: *Jughead and Student Leader from 1999-2007; IJA Competitor from '02-'07; 1st Year JUGHEADS Coach (3 days a week).*

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Thursday Rec.

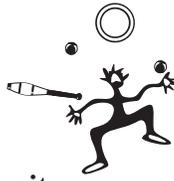
Formerly small club nearly doubles in size

Thursday Rec. is a club that goes through a lot of flux in size, but one common denominator is that it's traditionally dominated by middle school boys with a lot of energy who often need an extra nudge to focus. This year, the club nearly doubled from last year's 15 member roster, prompting Paul to visit each week and welcome back **Coach Stefan Brancel** to help **Coach Scott Richter** lead--and *challenge*--the kids who may otherwise have too little (or too much) confidence. This club's structure endeavors to balance the recreational needs of the kids with the innate human need to keep progressing, lest membership lose its purpose. As a fitting parallel to this club's personality, this year's JJ14 routine is "Live Action News."

7th Annual EYJA Winter Showcase

March 23 (or 16), 7:30 pm; venue TBA

The 7th annual EYJA Winter Juggling Showcase is targeted for Friday, 3/23 at 7:30 pm (with 3/16 as a back-up date); we haven't confirmed a venue as of 1/6/12. (We'll email and post the info. online ASAP.) Sponsored by the **Edina Youth**



Juggling Association (EYJA) via the **Edina Community Foundation**, this event is free and open to the public. The Showcase, led by the JH coaching staff and student leaders, offers both a valuable performance experience and an entertaining show. Any polished solo or ensemble from any club is invited to perform. Prospective acts should inform **Coach Scott** or **Coach Kelvin** by Fri., 2/3 (incl. song choice) *and* preview their routine for one of them by Fri, 2/24. Acts are encouraged to keep their acts to three minutes or less; acts can go up to four min. with special permission. The cast will be confirmed in early March. *NOTE: The EYJA Showcase is a pre-requisite for JF14 specialty act auditions on April 17 in the Wooddale-Edina gym.*

JUGHEADS Community News

- **WELCOME WAGON:** Three (3) new rookies joined Friday Rec. for the Winter Session! **Graham Anderson** (6th grader), **Will Fergeson** (4th), and **Nicholas Rewey** (4th).
- **WINTER MEGA CAMPS** are from 9-5 pm on 1/16 & 30 and 3/9 led by Coach Scott. He especially encourages Showcase acts to attend! \$55 w/lunch; \$25 half-day w/o lunch.
- **REMINDER:** Monday Rec. will NOT meet on 1/16, 1/30, or 2/20 (Edina release days). No camp is offered on 2/20.
- **MONDO Juggling & Unicycling Festival is February 17-19** at Concordia U. in St. Paul. Options to attend with JH are Friday (1st 10 to register) and Saturday (up to 50 kids). Reg. forms are either attached or in our gym office.
- **THE IJA FESTIVAL** is July 15-22 in Winston-Salem, NC. *A choice of two mandatory info. meetings will be held 1/26 and 1/31 at 6 pm in South Hall for anyone considering traveling with our group.* Email with questions.
- **Next Officer Meeting (9-11:30 am):** 1/7 @ Schlenders'.

Paul's Platform: "Juggling Priorities, Part 1"

If you wouldn't have guessed it, I come from a family of word-smiths. All four of my siblings and I enjoy writing in various forms, from regular community newspaper columns to poetry to some dabbling in fiction. Since my early years of youth work, I've thought about writing a book combining life experiences with wisdom/mentorship-type advice. That, combined with my passion for discipline in several diverse areas of life, caused my brother (Jim) to come up with a book title for my hopeful endeavor: *Juggling Priorities*. While this book isn't even in its planning stages yet, it gives me an excuse to focus the opening columns of 2012 on that title. This month is about JUGHEADS' priorities; next month will be about life's priorities.

January through July are markedly more busy for this company than our half-summer shut-down and our contests-and-standards-driven fall months. The first half of each year has big events that permeate almost everything we do here: regional festivals (MadFest & MONDO); the EYJA Showcase; Juggle Jam; and the IJA Festival. With these immovable milestones in mind, each club day places a priority on routine planning, skill honing, team creativity, music studying, and goal setting. Even though this makes for a relatively highly structured atmosphere, the free times are all the more sweet: e.g., snack conversations, basketball or combat at club's end, and a bonding that takes place because of such extra efforts to work toward common goals.

As Wendy, the coaches & I juggle the priorities of what it takes to make JH tick, I'll venture to say that we keep five basic balls in the air: **hospitality** for the members; clear **communication** to the parents; maintaining and adding to **traditions** that give us **roots** and ever-expanding **branches and fruit**; keeping **finances** solvent regarding prices, equipment, rent, supplies, and compensation; and ongoing **leadership development** so that the company runs smoothly at all levels.

Running a juggling company is a balancing act in itself. May this year be richly rewarding as we all juggle priorities *within* this truly unique priority of youth juggling.

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