

JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • January 2013

Seasonal Roster Downsizing

Company sees net loss of 11 students

The above headline isn't meant to be a downer, but rather an honest statement that things don't always trend upward. In some ways, mid-year losses are more difficult to accept than the inevitable year-end turnover (i.e., after the school year), simply because the coaching staff and vast majority of the members enter each school year with the expectation that our clubs will change little (if at all) from September through early June. However, two things can be observed as blessings in disguise with such mid-year roster changes: 1) spots have opened for kids who caught a belated juggling bug through our fall camps and/or were relegated to our waiting list since summer; and 2) although it's often a let-down to see kids leave mid-stream, the calendar year-end at least provides a natural break in the rhythm of our company's focus.

All in all, turnover reminds this director that the kids moving on were gifts of God to the company while they were here; He provided new kids to fill eight of the 19 openings; and those that are sticking out the whole year are appreciated all the more.

Happy 2013 to our very robust company of 135 Jugheads!

JJ15 Q&A for Rookie Families...

...and Reminders for Veteran Families!

Q: What is Juggle Jam?

A: Juggle Jam 15 (JJ15), **May 17 & 18 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. Audiences are *surprised* with JJ's entertainment value and inspiration.

Q: Does my Jughead have to audition to be in JJ15?

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 JJ15?

A: The only *extra* rehearsals involving the entire company are the evenings of May 9 & 15. 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 9 & 15) and kids leaving early from club rehearsals through 5/16.

Q: How does the process of selling tickets work?

A: A link to purchase tickets will be available on jugheads.com. Stay posted for details—specific information on how to promote JJ15 and purchase tickets will be available in March.

Q: How will you communicate JJ15-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 JJ15 info. Please contact Wendy if you're NOT receiving any emails from "[jugheads_parents]".

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Advanced Club

Kids step it up in this step-up from Rec. Club

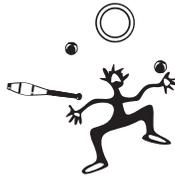
Advanced Club is a great example of how this company was built as we went along, without hard-and-fast plans save for the basics of youth + juggling + development & virtues. Wednesdays used to be the day of the most popular Rec. Club, and in order to make the roster more challenged, we added higher standards around 2006. Monday & Friday now have the former spirit of the large, loud & exuberant Wednesdays, and the resulting Advanced Club serves as a nice hybrid between the entry-level Rec. Clubs (with year-end standards) and the Elite & Ultimate Clubs (with *entry* standards which often take 2-4 years to achieve). Whether an aspiration for Rec. Jugheads, a step towards Elite, or a club to accompany Ultimate Club membership, Advanced Club fills a key role in our company.

8th Annual EYJA Winter Showcase

March 15 (or 22), 7:30 pm; venue TBA

The 8th annual EYJA Winter Juggling Showcase is targeted for Friday, 3/15 at 7:30 pm. (Back-up date: 3/22. We haven't confirmed a venue as of 1/8/13; 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. Led by the JH coaching staff and student leaders, the Showcase 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 by Fri., 2/1 (incl. song choice)** and **preview their routine** for him by **Fri, 3/1**. Acts are encouraged to keep their acts to three minutes (3:00) or less; acts can go up to 4:00 with special permission. The cast will be confirmed in early March. *NOTE: The EYJA Showcase is a pre-requisite for JJ15 specialty act auditions on 4/16 in the Wooddale-Edina gym.*





JUGHEADS Community News

- **WELCOME WAGON:** Three new rookies join us for the Winter Session: **Evelyn D.** is a new 6th grader in Friday Rec., having taken camps the past two summers; 2nd graders **Laura L. & Hannah L.** are younger than our age range, but they were admitted to Monday Rec. due to space and interest inspired by big brothers **Andrew & Hunter.**
- **WINTER MEGA CAMPS** are from 9-5 pm on 1/21 & 22, 2/19 and 3/9 led by **Coach Scott.** He especially encourages Showcase acts to attend! \$60 w/lunch; \$30 half-day w/o lunch.
- **RELEASE DAYS REMINDER:** Monday Rec. will NOT meet on 1/21 or 2/18; Elite will NOT meet on 1/22 or 2/19. Camps are offered each day except 2/18 (Presidents' Day).
- **MONDO Juggling & Unicycling Festival is February 15-17** at Concordia U. in St. Paul. Options to attend with JH are Friday (1st 10 to register) and Saturday (up to 40 kids). Reg. forms are either attached or in our gym office.
- **THE IJA FESTIVAL** is July 14-21 in Bowling Green, OH. **A choice of two mandatory info. meetings will be held 1/29 and 1/31 at 6 pm in South Hall for anyone considering traveling with our group.** Email with questions.
- **Next Officer Meeting:** 1/12 @ Hinikers'.

Paul's Platform: "Use Well the Days!"

While I'm not a strict adherent of New Year's Resolutions per se, I am an avid *year-round* goal-setter. Thus, when a close friend recently asked me if I had any resolutions, I replied, "I have updated discipline goals." In other words, I'm not endeavoring to change any behaviors overnight merely due to the turning of the calendar, but I do use occasions such as New Year's, my May birthday, and Labor Day (the start of a new school year) to set and revise ongoing and long-term goals.

I referred to J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* in last month's column, and I'll now refer to his grander epic *The Lord of the Rings* for an excellent quote that reflects the purpose behind all resolutions and goal-setting. When Galadriel (an immortal Queen among the Elves) bids farewell to the mortal Aragorn as he begins his 120-year reign as King, she says, "Through darkness you have come to your hope, and have now all your desire. Use well the days!" I interpret these words of Prof. Tolkien to mean that we need to be cognizant daily of how we're stewarding the time and opportunities given to us during our short time on Earth.

The Apostle Paul delivers an even deeper and more comprehensive admonishment in Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV): "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." The phrase "making the best use of the time" is better translated "redeeming the time," meaning we're to impart good in exchange for the evil we find in any situation or relationship. Easier said than done, yes; but I can think of few higher goals than redeeming the time, literally conquering evil with the good done through us.

On the heels of the cinematic release of *Les Misérables* on Christmas Day last month, I can't help but hold up Victor Hugo's character of Jean Valjean as an amazing redeemer of evil times. He exchanged bitterness for joy, hatred for love, thievery for generosity, and self-sufficiency for caring for others. I'm praying that I will be more like Jean Valjean (that is, like Christ, my Redeemer) in 2013 and beyond.

None of us are guaranteed another breath, let alone another week or month or year of normalcy. We don't know what the future holds. But as we kick off 2013 with all its promise and worries, may we use well the days and redeem the time in ways large and small. May we be found faithful in little things so that we will be entrusted with big things, according to the will and grace of God—who transcends evil times.

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