

JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • April/May 2015

Juggle Jam 17 Final (Hard Copy) Memo

Logistics enclosed for three-week countdown

The annual **Final Memo and Checklist** for all JH families regarding JJ17 logistics and etiquette is enclosed with this *Journal*. Four key dates that should be memorized: May 6 & 12; 15 & 16. Remember that student-created/borrowed/purchased costumes enhance all routines. Every Jughead should know the basic contents of the Final Memo to minimize long meetings at rehearsals.

Specialty Acts, Skits & Seniors

Distinguished Jugheads of JJ17

JJ17 “specialty act” auditions were held on April 14 in the Wooddale-Edina gym. Seven acts were chosen: four solos, two duets, and a trio. We’re also working on a variety of skits. Six Jugheads completing their senior year active in the company will be featured according to their seniority/club involvement/leadership roles (three each night), joining the 65 graduates since 2006.

Officer Voice: Carolyn L.

Whether you have been involved with the company for one year or 10, most of you have realized that JUGHEADS (JH) is jam-packed with valuable life lessons and experiences. I started JH in 6th grade, along with my older sister and JH Grad Erica Liddle. From the beginning, she picked up juggling quickly and was working on the 3 Ball Cascade after just three days of summer camps, while I myself was still stuck at two balls. These first three days would then set the pace for the rest of my JH career. As my sister rose through the ranks, I stayed at what felt like a turtle pace. At first, I resented this and felt like a failure. In that first year, there were multiple occasions when tears were shed from feelings of being “less.” After spending many hours at JH, I started to realize that being a slow learner is not necessarily a bad thing.

As the years progressed, I learned not only to accept the fact that I take a long time to achieve standards, but also to embrace it. Even when all my friends moved up to the next club and I was “left behind,” I was able to find good in the situation. I ended up forming many new friendships with people I never would have interacted with otherwise. I learned how to have a good work ethic and began to view my sister’s skills not as something to be jealous of, but as goals to reach. Learning to turn this challenge into a positive thing has been a very beneficial and rewarding experience.



As I have pushed through the hours of seemingly fruitless labor (e.g.: spending every day of camps one summer on getting 200 with 5 balls), I’ve learned just how important it is to not give up. There is nothing like the feeling of accomplishing something that you have put hours of sweat and hard work into. I have learned that giving one’s best effort is always good, even when the results take longer than expected. Not only does persevering improve work ethic, but it also improves character. That’s a skill set that will help in JH and in all of life. And in the end, you can know that you have tried your very best, and put your spirit to the test.

—Carolyn L.: 6th Year Jughead, Officer, Friday Rec. Assistant, Thursday Rec. Vol., Elite Member, Junior

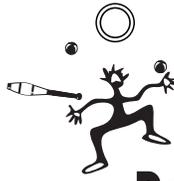
CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Ultimate

Complicated club contemplates championships

Ultimate Club (UC) currently consists of 16 9th-12th graders with widely varying perspectives, talents, expectations, personalities, and friendships--and that’s just in their *juggling* lives! Managing, coaching, participating in, and training for UC is “complicated.” Every year, UC pushes the limits of technical creativity in preparing many months for a top-notch JJ routine. And in what will be our last attempt in the foreseeable future, UC is once again submitting a video audition to the IJA Teams Championships in hopes of all 16 members competing against jugglers from all over the world this July in Quebec City, Quebec.

Paul & Wendy are currently conducting a written survey of current members of UC, Elite, and selected Advanced Jugheads who are interested in (re-)joining UC this fall (or in 2016). This input will help us to create a clear vision for the future structure of the club so that members’ expectations can be both realistic and clearly understood. Our facility relocation makes the timing for any changes ideal. Some of the UC restructuring ideas include: making it a “specialty act” club (with no group routine in Juggle Jam); emphasizing performing over technical standards (ala The Performance Team in JJs 1-3); relaxing the standards so we can return to a roster of 20 members; and/or keeping the standards but reducing the coaching staff (with occasional specialists) in light of smaller rosters. The Arnebergs’ goal by this fall is to clearly define the UC structure and better prepare future members for the overall expectations of the club. Any changes will not be made lightly, but our hope is that the dynamics of UC become much less complicated than their passing patterns. :-)

Meanwhile, look forward to seeing UC perform their JJ17 routine in the wake of their IJA video audition!



JUGHEADS Community News

—**SENIORS:** The deadline to submit Senior Presentation photos is 5/3. JJ17 program bios are due 5/10 (look for an email w/ details).

—**SUMMER JUGGLING CAMP FORMS** were sent home and posted online in late March. **Reminders:** 1) Coupons expire 5/1; 2) punchcards are a popular option; 3) kids can bag-lunch-it with us if juggling all day; 4) note several special events: family picnic, parades, possible juggling meet. Grab extra forms/coupons from our gym office!

—**THE FALL 2015 REG. FORM** and the post-JJ17/Summer 2015 newsletter will arrive at the homes of all current Jugheads on 5/22, at which time fall roster spots will be open for current members (with director approval for Adv, Elite, UC). “Tier 1” prices will last through 6/5, then Rec. Club spots will be offered to new rookies starting on 6/8. (Prices will incrementally increase on 6/6, 7/18, and 9/4.) Whether to secure a roster spot or simply get the best tuition rate, plan to register for fall between May 22-June 5!

Paul's Platform: “Integrity (Wholeness)”

It's been a while since my monthly column focused exclusively on one of the many virtues we try to reinforce here at JUGHEADS. On the brink of our 20th annual show and our big move in May, reflect with me on one of the most precious virtues: integrity.

I'm not a math guy (my brothers got those genes from my dad), but I find it interesting that the root word of “integrity” is “integer”—the same word for a whole number. Just as a whole number has neither decimal points nor fractions, a person of integrity avoids compromise and compartmentalized character. Integers and integral people are whole, complete.

The problem is we as humans have a fallen nature, and integrity needs to be both taught (by mentors) and caught (by soft-hearted learners). Compromise is easy; living by convictions (even when no one is looking) is hard. Integrity is doing the right thing and having the right character even when it's neither popular nor convenient, and even, dare I say, when it could get one in trouble, hurt, or even killed. Our world is often hostile to integrity.

Sober words for a juggling newsletter, are they not? Well, I prefer large talk over small talk, and I prefer to mentor youth toward potentially difficult lives of deep purpose and meaning rather than shallow lives of mere temporal comforts and worldly fame and fortune. Of course it's possible to have both integrity and worldly success. However, it's never a good bargain to trade integrity for riches, fame, acceptance, etc. Steal a trinket, and one may get away with it, but is the resulting loss of integrity worth it? Pursue the American Dream apart from learning to love one's neighbor, but is selfish ambition and vain conceit worth it?

Introspectively, I'm a work in progress, seeking sanctification. On many days, my own self-doubts and shortcomings seem to disqualify me for leadership. But as I grow every day in my mission to become more Christlike (modeling myself after the ultimate Whole Person), my solace is that a mentor need not teach integrity from a place of arrival—he teaches just a few steps ahead on the journey toward true, lasting wholeness.

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JH Location (as of 5/26): St. Stephen's Church, 4439 W. 50th St., Edina

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