

JUGHEADS

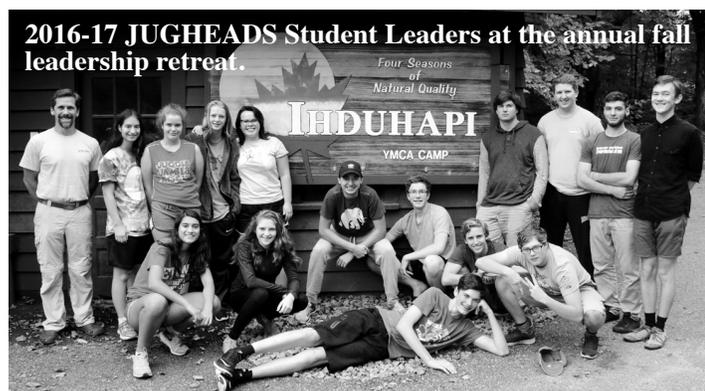
JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • October 2016

'16-'17 Student Leadership Team (SLT)

Vital Servers: Assistants, Volunteers, Captains

Intra-Jughead mentorship among our 10-year age range has long been one of the most valuable assets of JUGHEADS (JH). Our SLT has been developed over the years, from two Captains in 1995 to two after school Assistants by 1999 to now a group of 16 leaders who truly take ownership for many aspects of the company. SLT members connect with younger Jugheads and peers alike while gaining experience as “#1 Workers” and life mentors who learn to give of themselves. SLT names are listed below for parents to memorize, use and honor for the good work they do in their respective clubs. Here are our tuition-earning Assistants with grade, JH year, and member-clubs:



2016-17 JUGHEADS Student Leaders at the annual fall leadership retreat.

MONDAY REC.— **Eva H.+:** Soph., 7th year, Elite. **ADVANCED— Cole Dunbar+*:** Senior, 10th year, UC & Elite; **Elise J.+:** Senior, 10th year, Elite; **Mirrandra M.+*:** Junior, 3rd year, UC & Elite. **THURSDAY**— **Peter H.+:** Junior, 7th year, Elite & Adv.; **Steven K.+*:** Senior, 6th year, UC & Elite; **Erik R.+:** Junior, 7th year, Elite. **FRIDAY**— **Jacob C.+*:** Senior, 5th year, UC & Elite; **Danny M.+:** Senior, 6th year, Elite; **Joshua N.+:** Junior, 4th year, UC & Elite.

The intern-like Volunteers don't bear the same high expectations placed on the employee-like Assistants, but they immerse in at least a year of training before being named Assistants:

MONDAY REC.— **Grant Dunbar** (Freshman, 7th year, UC & Elite); **Bengt F.** (Senior, 9th year, Elite); **Elizabeth S.** (Freshman, 7th year, Elite). **THURSDAY REC.**— **Kayla M.** (Freshman, 6th year, Elite); **Hans J.** (Freshman, 5th year, Elite). **FRIDAY REC.**— **Libby H.** (Soph., 7th year, Elite).

Member-Captains lead warm-ups, lead by example, and spearhead the members' vision. Elite Club: **Jacob C.+;** Ultimate Club: **Cole D.+*** and **Steven K.+*.**

+*Officer in '16-'17. *Earned varsity letter in juggling in '15-'16.*

MEA Oct. 20-21; Emmaus Nov. 16-18

Mark calendars for special circumstances

MEA Camps: Consider sending your Jughead (or referring a new student!) to our only school year camps on **October 20-21**, 9-Noon (tailored to beginners/Rec.-level) and 1-4 pm (tailored to Adv./Elite/UC-level). Register online or via our blue form. **Note:** *Thurs. Rec., UC & Friday Rec. will NOT be held Oct. 20-21.*

From St. Stephen's to Emmaus: Twice a year, TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) meets throughout St. Stephen's Church, causing a displacement for us. Thankfully, **Emmaus Lutheran Church** in Bloomington is graciously continuing as our back-up facility for both November and April! Please plan on commuting/ carpooling your Jugheads to Emmaus (8443 2nd Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420) on **11/16 (Adv.), 11/17 (Thurs. Rec. and UC), and 11/18 (Fri. Rec.)**. In April, the dates for our TEC displacement are 4/5, 4/6 and 4/7, *plus* 4/13 due to Holy Week.

EYJA Supports Causes Close to Home

Non-profit widely enriches youth juggling

The **Edina Youth Juggling Association (EYJA)** was founded in 2005 by former Jughead parent **Doug Watson** under the **Edina Community Foundation** to promote youth juggling in Edina and its surrounding communities. Grants include sponsorship of the Showcase, Juggle Jam, guest instructors, props for performing and teaching, yard signs, SLT training, and a senior scholarship awarded each March. In 2016, **the EYJA passed the \$100,000 milestone** of funds raised since its inception!

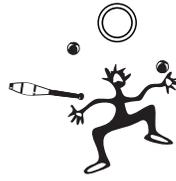
Each fall, the EYJA sends out a mailing requesting **tax-deductible donations** to promote local youth juggling. JH does *not* directly benefit from these donations, but the EYJA supports many activities that support our own mission to develop youth through juggling. The EYJA can even be a designated fund through your company's United Way campaign drive!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Thursday Rec. Club

No rookies, amazing retention in youngest club



Of the 28 Thursday Rec. Jugheads who performed in JJ18, six switched club days and only one discontinued. The remaining 21 kids all returned from last year, making this the only club with no new members. This continuity is unprecedented and makes for both a breadth and depth of friendships. Add to that three returning assistants and two eager



new volunteers, and Thursday Rec. is a beloved bright spot of mentoring kids among a seven-year age range using both intense goals and abundant laughter!

JUGHEADS Community News

- **JUGGLE JAM 19 (JJ19): May 19-20, 2017** with all-cast dress rehearsals **May 9 & 16** (6-9 p.m.). All Jugheads are strongly encouraged to be part of JJ! Look for details this winter. *We target the weekend before Memorial Day for JJ (plus two evening rehearsals).*
- **“YOUTH JUGGLING CAUGHT HERE!”** Show your team spirit by displaying your EYJA/Jughead yard sign in fall & spring. Don't have one? Pick up a sign in our office.
- **“JINGLE JAM 2016”**, our annual all-Jughead holiday party, is targeted for Sat., Dec. 3 from 5-9 pm; location TBD.
- **October ENDURANCE CONTESTS: Rec. Clubs, 4 Balls:** 10/24, 27, 28 (Rookie Rec. members are exempt but encouraged to compete); **Adv. & Elite, 5 Balls:** 10/25, 10/26.
- **UPCOMING OFFICER MEETINGS, 9-Noon:** 10/15 at the **Karschnia** home; 11/12 at the **Rutzen** home.

Paul's Platform:

“American Ideals and JH, Part 8: Mercy”

“Life isn't fair.” That phrase is often used by authority figures toward youth who complain of an injustice. However, such an axiom can be equally applied to the concept of a person experiencing a form of mercy--the topic in this year-long series on American ideals as they relate to JUGHEADS, LLC.

Well-known radio personality Dave Ramsey holds a daily talk show focusing on personal finances. Each time a caller asks the cliché phrase, “How are ya, Dave?,” his reply is both witty and profound: “Better than I deserve.” He speaks from both personal experience, having bounced back from financial devastation as a younger man, but also from proper theology, understanding that most if not all of God's blessings on him (and us) are actually undeserved--i.e., forms of mercy.

Despite my Type-A personality, Minnesota-German-Norwegian work ethic, and conviction to not be a burden on my government, family, or friends, I fully agree with Mr. Ramsey's take on life. We can (and should) strive daily to be our best, get ahead, be responsible, and all the other things that seem proper and good. But when we realize that every breath is a gift from God to live and work and love and grow and develop from infancy to old age (if we're granted a “long life”), our perspective changes. Life

becomes more precious. We become more humble. And loving others is a joy rather than an inconvenience.

I'm preaching to myself here. The older I get, the more impatient I feel in some ways. Set in my ways, I expect traffic, health, money, and relationships to come more easily due to experience, and frankly, a presumption of deservedness. However, when I remember the concept of mercy (manifest on a macro-level but more precious and arguably most effective when offered on a personal level), I'm humbled. I can strive to “do justice” as it says in Micah 6:8, but I aim for the even more profound command in the same verse: “to love mercy” (NKJV). James 2:12-13 puts it this way: “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment” (ESV). James, along with the Apostle Peter, goes on to quote Proverbs 3:34: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Grace equals mercy, often defined as “unmerited (undeserved) favor.”

So, while I really do enjoy mentoring youth toward hard work and earned rewards (treats, pins, standards, club levels, etc.), to love kids when they *don't* deserve it is an even more God-honoring call. Mercy is a virtue and ideal to which America itself is indebted through our rebellious founding and past/present sins. Despite my love of our country, I deem “God *have* mercy on America” to be a deeper prayer than “God *bless* America” (but I still pray for both!). Nonetheless, our nation remains a beacon for the world of showing mercy to the weak. And knowing how much mercy is shown to *me* by God on a daily and even moment-by-moment basis, I try to show mercy to the Jugheads, fostering in them a love of that divine virtue, lest it be forgotten in all of our clamor for getting what we supposedly deserve.

Developing Youth Through Juggling Since 1994,

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*Tom will be the U.C. Specialist from Nov.-March + IJA Festival.

**Betsy will resume her work with us in November.