



JUGHEADS

J O U R N A L

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • Summer 2017

JJ19: More than a Name Game

Members, Clubs, Company “grow” their names

“Each child comes equipped with a name; Using it daily isn’t just a game! Every day nomenclature is for gain; All part of JUGHEADS’ ‘Crazy Train!’” —One of the opening lines from JJ19’s “Poetic Pipes”

Among our company quirks, daily greetings reflect a culture that is both personal and safe to take risks and grow. Treebeard in *The Lord of the Rings* has this take on names: “I am not going to tell you my name, not yet at any rate...For one thing it would take a long while: my name is growing all the time, and I’ve lived a very long, long time; so my name is like a story.” Tolkien based his fantasy world around names and their meanings—a minor theme of JJ19. Like the fictitious 17,051-year-old Treebeard, our Jugheads (ages 8-18) and company (nearly 23) are “growing all the time.” Our names tell stories.

What may initially have been simply the choice of a parent or founder, names at first may merely be a handle but grow into a representation of the essence of that person or group. Everyone



involved in JJ19 has now added to their names, as it were, and added to the name of JUGHEADS. Among our longest-standing traditions of our decades-old spring show are the names “**Rock This Town,**” “**Reach,**” and “**The Slide Show.**” Even the new kid on the block, the 12-year-old “**Senior Presentation,**” now seems like it’s existed for time immemorial, going even deeper to celebrate several young adults’ stories as their names have “grown longer” over the course of 1-10 years here.

Our six separate clubs each carry a mini-reputation both in JJ history and in the hearts of those who have been members, student leaders, or staff, and each grew their names and history in JJ19. Both Thursday and Monday Rec. continued their tradition of vignette-based routines with “**Alternative Sports**” and “**Phone Apps,**” maximizing creativity of each subgroup; Advanced and Friday Rec. each paid tribute to musicals-turned-movies with “**Newsies**” and “**Peter Pan,**” with extra effort to incorporate many kids on stage throughout; Elite had a jam-packed comedic rendition



of the “**Shrek**” franchise, combining off-the-wall silliness with glimpses of sharp juggling; and Ultimate debuted “**The Heist**” on the heels of a successful IJA video audition on May 4 with hopes of competing at IJA in Cedar Rapids, IA on July 13.

Specialty Acts showed a variety of performing styles, from the moves of **Awesome Dawson** to the energy of **KEMS** to Saturday’s dropless performance of **It’s Greek to Me** to the patterns of **Untitled Unmastered**. Act Two showed precision character juggling by the **JUGHEADS’ Janitor**, technical creativity by **Rewind**, dazzling-daring three-ball moves by **It’s Miller Time**, and top-notch technicality by **GEOWR**. The range and quality of our skits continued to expand, from PVC pipes to politicians, musicals, movie icons, viral videos, classic contests, and club characters. Finally, Godspeed to our nine new grads **Evan, Jacob, Cole, Bengt, Elise, Steven, Danny, Corey and Liam!** Averaging seven years each, they grew their names, and ours, through diverse and meaningful experiences.

PAUL’S NOTE: *It sounds cliché, but the seniors (led by spokespeople Bengt, Cole & Elise) moved us with words and actions JJ19 weekend, including the gift from all the families which we’ll save for a 25th wedding anniversary trip in 2018. Such encouragement keeps us going after this particularly tough winter, reminding me to “lay aside every weight...and run the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1). I may have less social energy than as a younger man, but THIS is a worthy investment of my time and career.*

WENDY’S NOTE: *Juggle Jam season (January–May for us) is an intense, taxing, and testing time for us. It pushes and pulls us in all sorts of ways and I think we are continually amazed at how much it takes out of us, because we think it should get easier and are surprised when it doesn’t! But, we also know we are not unique in that regard. Many of you parents face similar hard journeys in your vocation, life mission or parenting. What is remarkable for us, however, is the amazing gratefulness, helpfulness, prayer, love and encouragement that is poured out to us from all of you in big and small ways. For that we are deeply grateful. Thank you, Jugglehead families, for the beautiful presentation and gift on Saturday night and so much more.*

Officer Voice by Jacob G.:

Seven years ago, when I first went to JH summer camps only at the insistence of my mother, I had no clue as to the adventure I was starting. To be clear, I mean that I had not even the *slightest inkling* of what the next seven years held for me. I wouldn’t have dreamed that I would stand on stage in front of hundreds of people with a big smirk on my face, joke around with the audience, and do five club tricks. In fact, I planned to try to get out of JJ15 when I joined school year clubs two years later, but I didn’t. I went on stage and badly acted out a Wild West scene for Thursday Rec.’s “Americana.” I wasn’t even scared to make a fool of myself on stage to the amusement of the audience. Why wasn’t I afraid? Because if you go out and



do you best, nobody at JH is going to criticize you; they'll just slap you on the back and laugh with you until late in the night with blue drink in hand at Perkins. JH pushes you to shoot for the stars, but if you miss, all your friends at JH will catch you and get you ready to try again. My favorite example of this is when everybody in Advanced was told to come up with a variety of goals: ones to complete today and ones to complete before we graduate. Our coach, **Stefan Brancel**, who is unbelievably good at so many things, set his goals for the long term as a flash of ten balls and eight clubs. This blew my mind since he really was capable of accomplishing these things (he has flashed eight clubs now and maybe ten balls too) while I was probably still struggling with five balls. I decided to be ambitious and set my goal to qualify seven clubs. Today, I've qualified seven clubs and flashed nine balls.

So what I'm really trying to say is that JH has changed my life. Maybe it's cheesy but it's true. When I started I was shy, I didn't have any hobbies, and I didn't have much of anywhere I belonged. Now, I'm so confident that it has gotten me into some trouble on stage with the unforgettable and un-thought-out clock-breaking emcee bit. I also have a skill, a lifelong passion, and I know that even though I'm leaving JH, the friends I've made here and the amazing juggling community will always be a place I can say I belong.

—**Jacob C.:** 5th Year Jughead, Officer, Friday Rec. Assistant, Elite Club Captain, Ultimate Club member, High School Senior

Coming Attractions: 2017-2018!

- **1st Semester Registration:** The enclosed form details signing up for next school year's 1st Semester. All clubs fill first-come, first-served starting **Friday, May 26**; the earlybird discount for next school year's 1st Semester expires **Friday, June 30**.
NOTE: As a kindness to the SLT & staff, please encourage your kids to depart gracefully if not returning. We appreciate the closure. Thanks! —PA
- **Juggle Jam 20 dates set!** **Friday & Saturday, May 18 & 19, 2018** at Hopkins HS; Dress Rehearsals will take place on **Wed., May 9** (cast photo) **and Tues., May 15** (full run of the show).

Bulletins & Birthdays

- **SUMMER CAMP FORMS** are available in our St. Stephen's office and online for five (5) weeks of juggling camps **June 5-July 7**. Same-day registration is fine, but pre-reg. is preferred.
- **THREE PARADES!** **St. Francis, Sat., 6/10; Parktacular, Sat., 6/17; Edina Parade, Tue., 7/4**. Sign up on our website.
- **JH FAMILY PICNIC:** Wed., 6/28 @ Edina's Utey Park.
- **IJA TEAM SEND-OFF/POT-LUCK:** 7/5 or 7/6 (see email).

Paul's Platform: The 'Versus' Series Part 6: "I'm proud of you' vs. 'I'm pleased with you' "

The blessed man in Psalm 1 "is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season" (v. 3a). Spring for us means *Juggle Jam* season, followed by much motivation to achieve records at every level, yielding a harvest of all kinds of fruit throughout May each year. With the applause of *JJ19* still echoing in our ears and hearts, I'll compare two kinds of accolades (i.e., fruits) and why I avoid one in favor of the other.

As with some of my other linguistic convictions, the following preference isn't an indictment on others' choices. But for me, I avoid the phrase "I'm proud of you." First, it's not a sentiment I see in Scripture (every form of "pride" in a concordance is almost *always* negative); second, I'm not sure what it means.

Regarding my second objection, I realize that for an authority figure (parent, coach, teacher, peer-leader, etc.) to express pride in an individual likely means a satisfaction in knowing from where a student has come in achieving any given feat. A younger person may have overcome a broken bone, a broken heart, or a learning disability to conquer a performance or task. I understand that "pride" could describe my emotion when I get teary any time a group dance move is pulled off, a big laugh is heard, or a dropless routine is performed. But to describe that as *my* pride may be claiming too much credit.

The word I strongly prefer to "proud" is "pleased." The related word, "pleasure," is a much broader description of my emotion toward a person who has accomplished something, and it avoids presumption on my part that I had much if anything directly to do with said milestone. Even God the Father didn't say He was "proud of" Jesus at His baptism or Transfiguration. "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). *That's* a good Model to mirror.

So I say to the Jugheads: Well done this year and in *JJ19*! I'm pleased with you immeasurably; you bring me joy as someone who (by God's grace) has had any part in your development. I'm inspired as you overcome, grow (including your names!), and reach beyond what you thought possible. Keep seeking pure, true pleasures this summer and beyond.

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