

The East Valley Kicker

"This is the first test of a gentleman: his respect for those who can be of no possible value to him."
-William Makepeace Thackeray

2401 E. Baseline Rd. Ste. 98, Gilbert, AZ 85234 www.EVMA.net Dojo Ph: (480) 892-4240, Shihans' Cell: (480) 330-8886

FEBRUARY 2011

Welcome

- Roger Alexander (Adults)
- Aiden Valdez (Kids)

Dress Code

From page 4 of the Student Handbook. A groin cup and supporter are part of the uniform for guys. Also:

CLEANLINESS: Your uniform and you should be clean, including the bottom of your feet. Please make sure fingernails and toenails are trimmed and filed regularly to prevent sharp edges that can injure you and your classmates.

ABSENCE OF JEWELRY: For your safety and others' safety, and to protect equipment: only band rings may be worn (nothing may stick out of the ring); earrings must be small so that they cannot catch on a finger; necklaces, bracelets, watches, anklets and other jewelry must be removed prior to class.

ADDENDUM - CLOTHES: You may wear a t-shirt or tank top under your *gi* top, but not a shirt with a collar or buttons. You may wear bicycle-type shorts under *gi* pants if you wish, but not long pants, and no shorts with grommets. With the exception of a t-shirt at the "V" of your *gi* top, clothes must not hang out or show under *gi*.

All Prissy and Ready for Karate ?

By Jenifer Tull-Gauger Shihan, 4th Dan

A while back, a mom of a karate girl came to me with concerns that her daughter was not being given as detailed instruction as the boys. I asked questions to try to get to the root of this issue, and she told me that she thought it was *me* giving the boys more individual attention than her daughter. I could not agree that I, of all people, would favor students based on gender. But I knew there was a reason for this mom's observation.

After much thought, introspection, and soul-searching, I figured out why I might treat this student different from the others. I learned from this. You can learn from the root of this issue too. It was not that she was a girl. It was that she did not come to class presenting herself as a student ready to seriously learn.

All the other students in her class dressed as per the dress code: *gi* pants, *gi* top or dojo t-shirt, belt, no jewelry, and bare feet. The young lady in question, however, came to class and lined up 80 percent of the time with either a necklace, bracelets, watch, tights, or other clothes sticking out from under her uniform. I asked her repeatedly to remove the jewelry; disrupting the class and her own learning. She was a young child, so when she would rush in at the last minute wearing tights, I did not ask her to remove them, figuring that if she had to go change, she would miss most of the warm-up.

I thought back to other students' accessories. In the past I have been bemused to see students wearing long sleeves and even jeans (jeans!) under their uniforms. I have had repeat

offenders who seem to forget to remove their jewelry *every time* they attend class. I have had people who claim a strong preference to wearing a special piece of jewelry, for various personal reasons, despite the risk of damaging it or themselves.

I realized that yes, I do see these students differently, and apparently I teach them differently too. If you come to class as per the dress code, symbolizing your open mind, ready to seriously learn, I'm going to seriously teach you. If you come with various memorabilia clinging to your person, you are telling me you are just going through the motions of a karate student. You are not really willing to focus on your training or train hard. It's difficult for me to teach you seriously when you tell me that by your appearance.

February 2011



SHIHANS' CELL: (480) 330-8886

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NEW NUNCHAKU 10% OFF in Feb. By request when ordering.</p> 		1	2 <i>Phoenix's & Skylar's B-day</i>	3	4	5 Brown & Black Belt Instructors Meet 9am (ch. 12).
6 <i>Dave's B-day</i>	7	8	9	10	11 Certificates & Test 7:10pm*.	12 Black Belt Club for BBC members 9:05a (no weapons today).
13 <i>Grace's B-day</i>	14	15 <i>Varun's B-day</i>	16 Special Training with Newland Ren-shi 6:10p.	17 Tull-Gauger Shihan in 9:10a class. Last day to place orders this month.	18	19 Today's classes are changed to: 9:10-10a Padded Weapons Sparring, 10:10-11a All Ranks Special
20	21 No Classes, Dojo Closed <i>Presidents Day</i>	22	23 Special Training with Newland Ren-shi 6:10p.	24	25 <i>Sayonara</i> Dinner for Miss Kaci Schiessl, bring your family & \$ for dinner out, 7:20pm.	26 Field Trip (see below). Black Belt Certificate <i>Kamiza</i> Ceremony* 7p bring food (BB's & families 6p).
27	28	<p>Dojo Field Trip to Matsuri Festival—a celebration of Japan, in downtown Phoenix!! All dojo families are invited to join in! Wear your dojo t-shirt and join us on Sat. 2/26. Pay for parking, free entry to the Matsuri. Japanese food, books, crafts, bonzai, drumming, sword & martial arts demos, etc. (www.azmatsuri.org) CARPOOL from dojo at 9:30am or 12:30pm. Let Tull-Gauger Shihan know if you're interested in carpooling with either group.</p>				<p>Mar. 5 (Saturday) Teen Meeting 9:05am, Bring a pic of your fav cartoon character.</p>