



# The East Valley Kicker

“We are like chameleons, we take our hue and the color of our moral character, from those who are around us.” -John Locke

1829 S. Horne Ave. Ste. 8, Mesa, AZ 85204 www.EVMA.net Dojo Ph: (480) 892-4240, Renshis' Cell: (480) 330-8886

## MARCH 2015

### Welcome

- ♦ Averi Besenhofer (Little Dragons)
- ♦ Evan Davis-Beauchamp (Kids)
- ♦ Wyatt Rupert (Little Dragons)
- ♦ Elliott Schultz (Little Dragons)

### Welcome Back

- ♦ Evan Hall (Kids)

### GLADIATORS' NIGHT IN APRIL

The long-awaited event is just around the corner. We are saving the date of Friday, April 17th, from 7:15pm until 10:00pm for Gladiators' Night. Kids are encouraged to bring their Nerf guns & join in the fun! Price will be around \$25 per kid (age 6 & up), which includes fun, active games, snack and drink.

*The East Valley Kicker is provided courtesy of East Valley Martial Arts—Kenshin Kan*

Head Instructors:  
Kirk Gauger,  
Renshi, 5th Dan &  
Jenifer Tull-Gauger,  
Renshi, 5th Dan

## CHARACTER INFLUENCES

By Jenifer Tull-Gauger Renshi, 5th Dan

In Japanese, Dojo Kun #1 is more literally translated as “it is important to use perseverance in the completion of human standards.” The Dojo Kun goes on to talk about the virtues of honesty, perseverance, respect and restraint. Some say those are the human standards or moral character traits referred to in Dojo Kun #1, so it is an overview.

John Locke, born in 1632, is quoted as saying that we tend to shape our moral character based on the people who are around us (see quote above). That wisdom holds true over 300 years later.

More recently, Jim Rohn said, “You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with.” In his rags-to-riches story, he became a success by being around and learning from successful people. His words have helped others improve their lives, when

they realized that the people you spend the most time with have a big influence one’s life.

It is important to understand that our character is influenced by those people we are around most. Knowing that, I am proud to be a part of our traditional dojo. Here, we influence each other in a positive way. As Kaicho says, we give “positive peer pressure” to our young students.

Some aspects of moral character are solid and virtually unchanging in a grown person. But there are many choices we make, on a regular basis, that are grey areas. Holding those choices up to the Dojo Kun can make the grey areas more clear.

The dojo provides good role models for our young students. We give them a positive influence to reinforce the values they are learning at home.

Teens are in a state of flux in their lives. We are

a vital support system for them. The stability of our particular dojo is extremely helpful for adolescents. The support system they find here is indispensable.

I have seen those influences help our youth, but I started karate as an adult. I have not felt the benefit of being a child with the support of a dojo and influence of a Dojo Kun. However, as an adult I enjoy the benefit of a supportive dojo and the help of the Dojo Kun in guiding my actions. I find those things priceless. It’s easy to see how those things will help a developing young person even more.



MAR. WEAPON: *tonfa, sai*  
 (for Apr.: bo, jo)  
 FOCUS: *Moral Character*



# March 2015

RENSHIS' CELL: (480) 330-8886

**NEW Bo or Jo**  
**10% off**

In-stock or order by Sat. 3/21

| Sun  | Mon | Tue   | Wed  | Thu | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|-----|---|--|-----|---|--|
| 1  | 2   | 3   | 4  | 5   | 6 Spring Camp Registration begins 6:30pm, Opening Ceremony 7pm. (No 6:10 or 7:10 class) | 7 Spring Camp 9:30am to 8:30pm (regular classes cancelled) |
| 8 Spring Camp Breakfast 8am. Training 8:45a. Closing Ceremony 12n, Potluck 12:30pm | 9   | 10 Kids Program may join the 9:30am class while on break. (No Yoga today.)              | 11   | 12  | 13 Black Belt Club for BBC members 7:10p (No 7:10 Adults class today.)                  | 14   |
| 15   | 16  | 17 Kids Program may join the 9:30am class. (No Yoga today. No 7:10 Adults class today.) | 18   | 19  | 20  | 21 Last day to place Century orders for this month.        |
| 22   | 23  | 24  | 25   | 26  | 27  | 28 Certs* & Test* 10:10a.                                  |
| 29   | 30  | 31  | <p><b>Certificate Ceremony &amp; Testing</b> takes place the last Saturday of the month, except holidays. NOTE: Every Saturday, class for All Ranks is at 9:10am.</p> <p>EASTER: No classes Fri. 4/3 or Sat. 4/4</p> |     |   |  |

\* = Wear full formal gi / uniform.