

The East Valley Kicker

“Listen to your intuition. It will tell you everything you need to know.” ~Anthony J. D’Angelo

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JUNE 2011

Welcome

- Nicholas Arvadin (Kids)

Sixth Sense

"We can now demonstrate in the laboratory what at some level we've known all along: Many people literally get a gut feeling before something bad happens. Our viscera warn us of danger even if our conscious mind doesn't always get the message." (From "Is There a Sixth Sense?," an article by Dean Radin, Coleen Rae & Ray Hyman, www.psychologytoday.com/articles/200007/is-there-sixth-sense.)

For a Samurai, it may not always be a strict sixth sense that gives a gut-feeling warning. It may be small, barely detectable signs like an opponent's body language or facial expression, a voice inflection, or a sound that tells of imminent danger. Since we deal mostly with people and how they may help or hurt us, learning to read these signs is important for good Samurai Training. This is learned through practical application.



HELP YOUR JR. SAMURAI

Jenifer Tull-Gauger Shihan, 4th Dan

It can be confusing being a Jr. Samurai, or in other words a Karate kid. You are expected to learn how to physically protect yourself and even defend others. Yet, you are also expected to be well behaved, follow the rules, and use self-control. In kids' lives this can be conflicting information.

My true story about young Johnny in Little Dragons, illustrates this confusion. But this situation is not only for Little Dragons, it also happens to older kids, especially in school. Parents need to talk to their kids about their expectations and their support before their karate kid faces this.

Johnny started Little Dragons when he was four. He did really well and listened to his teachers about not misusing his punches and kicks. After a couple of months, he did great in sparring, blocking what was thrown at him, and hitting his targets.

Then one day Johnny went with his mom to a restaurant that had a kids' play area. He loved to climb and play, so off he went while Mom took care of ordering food and watching Baby Brother. What Johnny's mom saw next alarmed and dismayed her: two bigger boys

were standing on each side of Johnny, punching and kicking him, while Johnny stood there and took it. Mom told the boys to stop it and called Johnny to her.

While they ate, she asked, "Why were those boys hitting and kicking you?"

"I don't know, they just came up on each side of me and started hitting," said Johnny.

"Did you tell them to stop?"

"Yes."

"Why didn't you hit back? You've learned how in Karate," Mom said.

"I didn't want to get in trouble."

"You could block. You can always protect yourself."

Then Mom told Johnny her view, which is what we karate teachers always ask parents to do. We know some parents would only like their kids to block and not strike back to other kids, and that is their prerogative. Johnny's mom, even though they practiced a pacifist religion, told Johnny that if someone was striking him, she wanted him to strike back, to get the person to stop. She told him that if someone started a fight with him, she wanted

him to finish it. And, very importantly, she told him she would always back him up. He would not get in trouble with her for *defending* himself, even if it meant hitting another. She said that when he went to school, if he had to fight to defend himself, and if he got in trouble with the teacher or principal, she would come in and talk to them and support Johnny in protecting himself and even protecting other innocent kids, if that was needed.

That was Johnny's mom's viewpoint. It is very important that parents talk to each of their Karate kids about this, express their beliefs, and tell how their child can apply those beliefs.

In an effort to prevent fighting, schools these days tell kids that anyone caught fighting will be in big trouble. They will be suspended, even if they didn't start it and are only hitting back. Unfortunately what can happen is the well-behaved kids take the rules to heart & the kids who start fights don't care about rules. Then if physically assaulted, a good kid feels they must take it in order to follow the rules. Kids are tough, but I feel that is child abuse.



June 2011

SHIHANS' CELL: (480) 330-8886

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NEW Sai's & 2-piece Weapons 10% off order by Sat. 6/18</p>	<p>SAMURAI TRAINING Every Saturday - 9:55am this Summer, starting in June Ages 6 thru adult are welcome to drop in, see flyer for pricing, free to our students, family discounts. SAMURAI WISDOM, HONOR & STRENGTH focus on life-protection</p>		<p>1 Wednesday Summer classes remain the same.</p>	<p>2 No Yoga. Little Drag- ons class now 6:30pm on Thursdays for the Summer. (Kids may join 9:10am Adults.)</p>	<p>3 Dojo Closed, No Classes on Fri- days for the Summer, thru Aug. 6th</p>	<p>4 Saturday Summer classes remain the same (with guests included for Samurai Training, 9:55).</p>
5	6 Monday Summer classes remain the same.	7 Lil' Dragons 9:10-9:40am, Adults & Kids 9:10-10am for the Summer (plus Tues eve. classes) T-G S.	8	9 Black Belt Club for mem- bers 5:35pm- 6:20pm	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Tull-Gauger Shihan 9:10am	17	18 Instruc- tor's Meet 10:45am (ch. 15, do pg. 116- 117). Last day to place Cen- tury orders.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Certifi- cates & Test 10:55am* (Black Belts wear formal gi) * = Wear full for- mal gi / uniform.
26	27	28	29	30		2 (July) No Classes, Dojo Closed July 1 st —4 th Summer Sched- ule resumes 7/5