

TANG SOO TIMES

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PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 18 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.
Dec 25 - Christmas. No classes.
Jan 1 - New Years day. No classes.
Jan 14 - Winter Championships at Valley Forge
Jan 29 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Dec 4 - Regular adult class.
Dec 11 - Black Belt class. Red belts and higher.
Dec 18 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.
Dec 25 - Christmas. No classes.
Jan 1 - New Years. No classes.
Jan 8 - Regular adult class.

MASTER'S CORNER

The holidays are upon us. December is one of those months where attendance drops off, people do not attend classes because they are too busy getting ready for the holidays, don't have the money, or any other reason limited only by the imagination of the student. The school still goes on. Decisions to not come to class at any time are met with an instant action/reaction scenario. To test (at least the lower ranks), you need 36 hours of classes to be eligible to be considered for testing. At the most recent test, one student was ineligible to test for promotion because he had only 34 hours and it had been 7 months since his last test. Time taken off in the summer, missed classes for whatever reason did not allow him to accumulate class time. This is the action/reaction principle that I alluded to. His action of deciding not to attend classes resulted in my reaction of not allowing him to test. In all of life, every action has a reaction, every cause an effect. If you don't study for a test; you won't get a good grade. If you don't work hard during the year, you won't get a good review from your boss and hence, a not too good raise.

On another note, all the instructors here at Pal Che wish everyone a happy holiday season.

NEW STUDENTS

Rita Salkof has transferred to our school. She is a 3rd degree Black Belt and has been training for over 15 years. She and I trained together many years ago.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

With the start of the new millennium underway we at Pal Che have decided to start a new tradition for the holiday season. In keeping with our belief in brotherhood and always trying to help the underprivileged, we will be holding a month long collection of items to provide winter goods for St. John's hospice. St. John's is a shelter for homeless men in Philadelphia. Father Kevin, a priest who once served at St. Gabriel's in Norwood, runs it.

We have been asked to collect gloves, hats, socks and hand lotion to provide some relief to the men during the winter months. New and used items (in good condition) that will fit men can be donated up until Saturday December 23.

We also have volunteered to serve lunch and provide sandwiches to hand out to the men on Saturday December 23. Over the course of the month I will be soliciting delis and other stores for donations of lunchmeats, bread, and rolls. And we could use your help in the following.

1. Donation of either peanut butter or jelly.
2. Wax paper and lunch bags to package the sandwiches.
3. Your time to help make the sandwiches.
4. Adult volunteers to go to the shelter and serve lunch and distribute the sandwiches.
5. Have the children bring in the donated items gift wrapped so the children feel part of the good will.

We also have decided to hold year-end holiday parties after Christmas to reduce the problems of conflicting schedules. The dates will be posted later this month.

Thank you everyone for all your help with these projects, and have a safe and happy holiday season.

FEATURE ARTICLE

I have been staring at this screen for a long time to come up with an idea for an article for this month's newsletter. Nothing has really hit me, so I'll just call this feature article, "Ramblings."

Inspiration is a two edged sword. Certainly as teachers, we should inspire our students to become the best that they can - to grow in the martial arts - both physically and mentally. A student must understand the purpose of techniques and how to apply them in a real life situation. They must also learn that in building the skills to defend themselves, they can become bullies and that restraint must always be practiced. Restraint has always been the hallmark of a warrior in history. Samurai,

the elite warriors in feudal Japan, were allowed to kill a disrespectful commoner for any reason. This was granted by the Emperor and was called ***kirisute gomen*** and is literally translated as "killing and going away." This was very infrequently practiced because the Samurai also practiced restraint.

I originally said that inspiration is a two edged sword. It is also paramount on the student's part to inspire the teacher to become the best that they can be. A student by continually practicing learned techniques to perfect them, to constantly strive to better themselves, and to apply warrior thinking in their daily lives makes a teacher feel that the hours spent are not wasted. The eager look in students' eyes tell the instructor that what he is saying is not falling on deaf ears but rather is slowly sinking in and being applied - whether in techniques or in mental applications.

I've heard people say, "What are you teaching at Pal Che? I don't see my child as more respectful, disciplined, etc." Well, you must remember that we only have your child for 3-4 hours out of the 168 hours in a week. What we do is require them to use these values in the dojang and hope that repetition and the slow awakening of the warrior spirit will cause these virtues to be carried over into their secular life. For the most part, we are trying to re-enforce the values they are learning at home. By seeing them applied in situations outside the home, hopefully they will realize that other people expect the same application of courtesy, etiquette, politeness, and fine manners that their parents do. The change in their thinking may take a long time and sometimes, especially during the teenage years when hormones are raging, they forget in the darkness what they learned in the light.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

IF YOU FOCUS ON PEOPLE'S SHORTCOMINGS AND FORGET ABOUT THEIR STRENGTHS, THEN IT WILL BE HARD TO FIND WORTHY PEOPLE IN ALL THE WORLD.

2001 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 14 - Winter Championships at Valley Forge
Jan 29 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

Feb 24 - Red Rose Championships. No classes.
Feb 26 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

Mar 12 - Black Belt pretest. No adult class.
Mar 26 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

May 7 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.
May 17-20 - Master Clinic.

Jun 4 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.
Jun 15-17 Youth Dan clinic.
Jun 22-24 Adult Dan Clinic. No classes.

Jul 2 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.
Jul 16 - Black Belt pretest. No adult class.

Aug 13 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

Sep 10 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

Oct 8 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

Nov 19 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

Dec 17 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.