

THE OKAMI KAI HOWLER



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More Instructors added for Break Fall 2009!

The Nov.7 portion of Break Fall just got busier! We've added Renshi Brian Aylward who is a 4th degree black belt in the art of Jiu-Jitsu! Joining him and the already announced 6 other instructors is Duncan Ashworth. Duncan is an Aikido student from the Buyukan Dojo in Oshawa and also a Registered Massage Therapist. He'll be teaching a brief class on how to recover from some of the aches and pains often associated with martial arts training.

Our current roster for Nov.7 now includes...

Kyoshi Kevin Blok (8th Dan Aikido)
Shihan Dai Patricia Blok (5th Dan Aikido)
Renshi Ted Theelen (5th Dan Karate)
Renshi Brian Aylward (4th Dan Jiu-Jitsu)
Renshi Scott Campsall (4th Dan Karate)
Sensei James Gibson (3rd Dan Karate Jitsu)
Sensei Justin Martin (2nd Dan Aikido)
Duncan Ashworth (RMT)

Price is \$99 per person which includes a full day of training with each instructor and a buffet dinner to follow at Jersey's Restaurant on the Saturday. Those just wishing to attend the dinner can do so for \$35 per person.

There will also be a 2 hour specialty class with Kyoshi Blok on Nov.8. The separate cost for this is \$40 per person.

Space is limited and we've already started taking reservations. Don't get shut out. REGISTER NOW!



Class Schedule Changes

Please note that on the week of **Oct.7**, the Wednesday morning classes taught at 10:30am (Karate and Aikido) and 11:30am (Weapons) will be moved to Thursdays at the same time.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Don't forget that Senpai Lisa Hill is continuing to teach a class on Wednesday mornings at 6:10am. You can now train three mornings per week!

Halloween Coupons Are Returning

We will once again be making coupons that can be given to trick or treaters who happen to knock on the door of our students and their families.

Each certificate will entitle the bearer to a free Karate Start Up package. We strongly recommend that our students write their Wolf Pack colour on the back to receive points, but **DO NOT WRITE THEIR NAMES** on any certificate going to someone they do not know.

Coupons will be put in packs of 50 with singles also becoming available. Each student or their parent should feel free to take as many as they feel are necessary in order to be sure every ghoulish or goblin gets one.



Mark Your Calendar!

For more information visit www.okamikai.com!

Oct.10-12 – Thanksgiving Weekend (**No Classes**)

Fri. Oct.16 – Brown and Black Belt Class

Nov.7-8 – Break Fall 2009

Dec.11 – Black Belt Grading

Dec.12 – Kyu Belt Grading

Dec.12 – Okami Kai Christmas Party

Dec.17 – Blast Class 2009

Wolf Pack Report

Yellow Pack

639 points

Red Pack Welcom Owen Bartley! Evan Bartley got 100 points for bringing you in!

424 points

Blue Pack Welcome Bridget Mitchell. Lillian Mitchell got 100 points for bringing you in!

408 points

Green Pack Congratulations to Spencer Rusnell for being chosen as Ichiban for this month! Welcome Arthur Noble!

367 points

Congratulations To All Those Who Ranked Up!

9th Kyu Aikido

Duane Larcombe

5th Kyu Karate

Brian McLean

7th Kyu Karate

Hunter Rodych

Spencer Rusnell

4th Kyu Karate

KC Lenardich

Dane Van Bakel

6th Kyu Karate

Jacob Campsall

Eric Duchesne

Austin Cutrara

Evan Bartley

Lillian Mitchell

3rd Kyu Karate

Jack Hughes

Ask Renshi

Has anyone ever failed a grading?

Yes, although it is very rare that one does fail, it does happen on occasion. In the 10 years that Okami Kai has been running, we have only had one student actually fail a test so far. Some others have been put on what we call "probation". This means that they needed to spend some extra time and effort on a piece of the curriculum before we were willing to let them wear their new belt in class and receive their certification.

We have tried to make every effort possible to see that any student being tested will be well prepared and able to pass and move on to the next rank. This is one of the reasons for "Request to Grade" forms. Any student orange belt or higher needs to submit one of these if he or she feels they are ready to take the test. Then, another Sensei or I can review their performance in class and "sponsor" them so they can take the test on the grading date specified. The sponsorship of a student does not mean they will automatically pass their test even if it is me that sponsors them. They must show they not only know the material, but they can also perform like a true martial artist of the level they are trying to obtain. A student may not perform well under the pressure of the test and make many mistakes, or they may decide for one reason or another to not work at their full potential during their grading. It is then the panel's right to decide whether or not this particular student should pass.

Sometimes belts are awarded in what I have termed as "Grey Gradings". This means that there are other things going on that stop the decision of the panel from making a clear cut "Black or White" decision. This would be an area where the panel must decide if the circumstances warrant a fail, probation, or a pass. Sometimes a student may not kick or punch as well as another, but their character development or some other area that martial arts promotes has well exceeded the requirements of a certain rank. In this case, a person may still be promoted and in my opinion, Okami Kai should be just as proud to have this person involved in their school.

Belts are fabric around your waist and nothing more. The student is the one that makes the rank valid. It is their personality both on and off the dojo floor that should be evaluated and a grading day is an excellent time to look at this.

It should also be noted that a failure is not as bad as it sounds. There are many great individuals that accomplished much both in and outside of the world of martial arts who failed first and then succeeded when trying again. A failure can sometimes be a blessing. Problem is that you have to try again in order to see that.

OSU!

Renshi