

USA KARATE ACADEMY

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Safety Reminder!

Please remember to come *inside* the dojo to pick up youth students after class. The safety of the children in our karate program are in the hands of respective parents and guardians. Please help your children remember that *horseplay is not allowed* in the dojo or the parking lot at any time.

Washington State Tax Law Changes

Beginning January 1, all martial arts schools will be required to charge sales tax on tuition. Martial arts training and activities will be considered retail sales according to House Bill 1550. As a small business, we unfortunately cannot absorb that cost, so your monthly tuition will show a 9.5% increase. Please consider signing the online petition through change.org to see this law amended.

Tournament Report - Championship Karate Weekend and the Pacific Northwest Karate-do Classic

We've had an exciting and rewarding beginning of tournament season. At the Championship Karate Weekend in Canada, we brought home 27 medals! Our 16 athletes were awarded 8 1st-place medals, 12 2nd-place medals, and 7 3rd-place medals. Senpai Abby acted as coach and everyone had a great experience.



More recently, we hosted our 21st Annual Pacific Northwest Karate-Do Classic at Lynnwood High School. Our home dojo was awarded a total of 43 medals! Our athletes claimed 11 1st-place medals, 18 2nd-place medals, and 14 3rd-place medals. Also, Nicolas B. and Abby Knapp were awarded trophies for Most Outstanding Athlete in their respective divisions. Congratulations to all our participants, both athletes and volunteers! We could not put on this amazing events without all of you.

Tournament season reminds students of their need for sparring gear. Please remember to bring all gear to every class. Students should begin purchasing sparring/safety equipment once they earn their yellow belts. Shop now for holiday karate gifts!

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Birthday Ninjas

Happy birthday to our November and December babies:

Ian P. - 11/1

Euan D. - 11/20

Ava L. - 11/29

Manuel Moreyra - 12/2

Bella H., Dane P., Emela M. - 12/6

Eric D., Kyle D. - 12/15

Bria Bloom - 12/30



Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars and Save the Date!

Dec. 2nd *Free Santa Photos!* Everyone is invited to get a photo with Santa and hot cider and cookies. Join us at Shihan Joni's office at Windermere Real Estate/Northlake, located in the Lake Forest Park shopping center (17711 Ballinger Way NE). Photos will be from 4-6pm. Donations to the Windermere Foundation to help those in need are gladly accepted.

Nov. 30th - Dec. 19th *Spread the Warmth of the Season.* Our dojo will be taking donations during the holiday season to donate/distribute to the homeless. Please fill a backpack with items such as small toiletries, clothing items, food, and blankets. We have urgent need lists available in the dojo.

Feb. 19-21 *24th Annual Walla Walla Invitational.* Travel with the team to Touchet, Washington to participate in Sensei Dave Lybbert's annual tournament. This is a great, friendly tournament suitable for all of our students. We'd love to reciprocate Sensei Lybbert's continual support of our dojo by taking a large group of athletes.

Upcoming Closures

USA Karate Academy will be **closed** on the following days:

Thursday - Sunday, November 26-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday

Thursday - Sunday, December 24-27 for the Christmas holiday

Thursday - Sunday, December 31 - January 3 for New Year's

Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Special note: Membership renewal should be complete at this time. If you have not yet turned in your completed renewal form and/or your annual membership dues, please do so as soon as possible. Adult students are reminded to register with the AAU independent of our renewal process as they don't allow us to renew your AAU membership for you.