



# Oct 21 Newsletter for Gentry Martial Arts

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR TRICK OR TREAT GUEST PASSES

For any ninja turtle, master of spinjitsu, or sword wielding trick or treater that comes to your door, we have guest passes you can give them to try the real thing. Even if you don't recognize them, if they use your pass, you still get the referral credit and receive a free month!

## Congrats to our Latest Lil Dragon Graduate- Kellan Gray

**Good luck** to our newest black belt candidates: Maya Mras, Nassim Florestant, Jack Higgins (2<sup>nd</sup>), Kaiden Ceden (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Ryan Spires (4<sup>th</sup>)

## Upcoming events:

**\*\*\* RAK's are due at beginning of the month\*\*\*\***

Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Demo Team 9:00-10:30
Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mandatory Demo team practice 7:30 (no BBC that evening)
Oct 8	Fall foliage Demo Performance—fairground 6:45 pm (Demo meet at school at 5:00)
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Stick fighting 9:00-11:30
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fall foliage parade (see details below)
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rory Miller and Randy King (no classes) 6:00-9:00
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Hapkido testing in class
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Stop Bullies FAST 9:00-11:30
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Leadership team 9:00-10:30
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	BB prep and bb breaking open mat 10:30-12:00
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lil Dragon testing (beg 9:00-10:30, int/adv 10:30-12:00)
Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween party 5:00-7:00 (see below)
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	TKD black belt testing and black belt stripe testing
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	TKD tournament in Indy

## Halloween Party info and help

The school Halloween party will be Oct 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-7:00. As always, we will need help with set up starting at 1:30 pm and take down. Students are encouraged to bring in a bag of candy anytime between now and then so treat bags can be prepared. Please have in by Thurs, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Parents, we will be stuffing the bags on Thurs the 28<sup>th</sup> around 5:45, so if your kid is in class please come in and help.

While we know for a fact that our students can be scary, we encourage our students to dress as heroes, role models, or something fun.

## FALL FOLIAGE PARADE

As usual, we will be doing the fall foliage parade on Oct 10<sup>h</sup>. We will be *in place* at the Martinsville High School parking lot by **12:00**. We are in Division 2, unit 21 in case you need to ask, but look for the other hero shirts). All participants need to be in dobok pants, belts, and Hero in training T-shirt. If it is cold, a long WHITE sleeve T or sweatshirt can be worn UNDER the Hero in Training T-shirt. Parents will be expected to pick up their kids promptly *when we are finished with the parade, not when the parade ends*. Keep in mind that the parade will be going long after the first groups are finished, and that the parade will affect the travel routes back to the school.

Make sure to bring acceptable footwear to class to practice marching outside the week prior. Acceptable footwear for the parade is white tennis shoes or TKD shoes (lighter, easier to kick for 2 miles!)

Anyone wishing to help with the float can meet at the school at 10:30 am.



## GMA Wishes Happy Birthday to:

Stevie Kirk	10/1	Wyatt Stiles	10/1	Hayden Mount	10/3
Brandon Cox	10/4	Max Bailey	10/5	Evan Trapp	10/5
Adrian Martin	10/7	Liam Canada	10/9	Parker Canada	10/9
Nate Wilson	10/10	Master Sieg	10/12	Holly Brown	10/14
Jonas Stewart	10/14	Jared Hamilton	10/21	Wyatt Rike	10/22
JK Tucker	10/26	Isaiah Hanscom	10/28	Luke Voorhees	10/28
Dean Murray	10/29	Eric Hanscom	10/31		

## Training Anniversaries

Special Congrats to those who started with us a year or multiple years ago.

Nico Inman (TKD 10 yrs.)	Jack Higgins (TKD 6 yrs.)	Eli Thompson (TKD 5 yrs.)
John Hirt (TCC 5 yrs.)	Nassim Florestant (TKD 3 yrs.)	David Whittaker (HKD 2 yrs.)
Brian Houchin (HKD 2yrs.)	Anakin Lakin (LD 1 yr.)	Samson Kirk (LD 1 yr.)
Parker Canada (LD 1 yr.)	Liam Canada (LD 1 yr.)	Zack Norris (TKD 1 yr.)
Jason Lamb (HKD 1 yr. returned)	Austin Brummett (BJJ 1 yr.)	

## Quotes of the Week--Perseverance

This month we have a several key events that are great examples of perseverance and offer great lessons to our students. Marching our legs off in the parade will be a real test for some of us. We also have black belt testing, which is a great example of perseverance in the martial arts, over the long haul. This month, we are hoping all our students will learn a bit more about the importance of not giving up.

## This Month in Martial Arts History (selected from "Dates with Destiny" in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

Oct 1, 1913 (-Jan 29, 2009)	Birthday BJJ founder Helio Gracie
Oct 9, 1932,	Birthday Judo Gene Lebell
Oct 18, 1961,	Birthday Jean Claude Van Damme
Oct 27, 1936,	Birthday HKD founder Ji Han Jae
Oct 28, 1929 (-May 4, 1938)	Birthday founder of Judo and innovator Jigoro Kano
Oct 20, 1957,	Arguably the first modern Karate tournament- the All-Japan Karate Champ. Is held.
Oct 14, 1972,	Kung fu the TV series debuts
Oct 11, 1997,	Pride Fighting Championships debuts.
Other martial arts films include The Transporter and Kill Bill.	

## What the case of Gabby Petito "Teaches" Us

This is another ripped from the headlines self-defense rant. The impetus of this one is the case of Gabby Petito, which I am not really following but can't escape. If you have been more elusive, Gabby went missing and was found dead, presumably at the hands of an alleged toxic, abusive, manipulating boyfriend. Much commentary has been made about this, and a lot of it in regard to toxic, controlling relationships has been of good quality. \* Unfortunately, there have been other posts or memes that have gone viral that have been less productive, like this one:

Stop using Gabby Petito and her case as an excuse to say we need to "teach our daughters to leave toxic and abusive relationships." Teach your sons not to be abusive. Teach your sons to take no for an answer. Teach your sons to be better.



Now, I am certainly not opposed to teaching young men these things, although I honestly have doubts about how much impact “additional education” might have (see below). But first I want to focus on those who would take the positive conversation we are having about domestic violence and spin it into victim blaming.

If I were in front of the person who wrote that post, I would ask to see their phone-likely the same device they just used to make the above declaration. My guess is I wouldn’t be able to use it because it would be locked. Likewise, I further suspect that person locked the doors to their car and residence. Which is weird, because that is a lot of time spent on preventing theft instead of educating people that stealing and robbery are wrong!

Now, if in fact, they did leave those things unlocked, I would have mad respect for their consistency of position. I would certainly think them misguided in many ways, but we could have a conversation because at least they believe in their position. But if that is not the case, then they are being a hypocrite.

Gabby’s case is not the first time I have come across this line of thinking. Below is an excerpt from an article I wrote for Conflict Manager Magazine three years ago that illustrates the same attitude in a different setting, and further elaborates on my doubts about the impact of additional education \*\*

One night at this same university, a safety alert text was issued that a date rape drug had been used on campus and urged everyone to exercise caution. An opinion piece in the school paper took issue with the text and called it victim blaming. This lauded editorial insisted that the safety alert should not have been telling women to be careful, it should have been reminding men not to drug women. For comparison, the article pointed out that the PSAs for drunk driving don’t warn motorists to be careful of drunk drivers, but rather bluntly tell people not to drink and drive. But I wonder if the high functioning alcoholic really cares. Nor does the rapist care about a text.

The article goes on to assert more time needs to be spent educating men not to rape women and less time educating women how to avoid it. Perhaps that is a worthwhile social goal, but it is a horrible self-defense strategy. What college age male doesn’t know that society frowns upon drugging and raping women? Based on that logic I can fix the campus rape problem in five minutes. On the admission application, add an additional question is it ok to drug and rape women (check the box yes or no.) If they check “yes,” don’t let them into the school! Problem solved; they don’t meet the educational standards of the university. So apparently the real problem must lie in the admissions office because they keep letting rapists in!

Or maybe it is that some people don’t give a crap and are going to take what they want anyway. Too many people, however well intentioned, spend too much time and mental effort complaining that someone needs to educate the predators and not nearly enough time preparing to deal with the predators who choose to flunk the lesson.

Some say stop using Gabby as an excuse to teach our daughters about danger. To them I would likely say, “Hey hypocrite, how about you stop with the virtue signaling.” Or here is a better idea, how about we do both and teach our sons and daughters. And while we are at it, I hope that Gabby’s case teaches people to recognize the difference between virtue signaling, long term social goals, and honest self-defense conversations.

\*I recommend the book Coercive Control by Stark, which was recommended to me by an expert of the field of stalking and DV and a friend of our FAST program, TK Logan.

\*\* Sieg, Brandon (2018) Can’t fix Stupid, Nor Can You Educate Predator Out of Someone. Conflict Manager Magazine (July 2018). Retrieved from <https://conflictmanagemagazine.com/cant-fix-stupid-nor-can-you-educate-predator-out-of-someone-brandon-sieg>