

# JUGHEADS

JOURNAL

Monthly news of JUGHEADS Youth Juggling Company, LLC • Edina, Minnesota • January 2018

## JJ20 Q&A for Rookie Families...

...and Reminders for Veteran Families!

**Q: What is Juggle Jam?**

A: *Juggle Jam 20 (JJ20)*, **May 18 & 19 at 7 pm at Hopkins HS Auditorium**, is our pinnacle event! It features all five clubs, specialty acts, skits, a Slide Show, a Senior Presentation, and this year, special appearances by several grads and former Jugheads. Audiences are *inspired* and *surprised* with JJ's entertainment value.

**Q: Does my Jughead have to audition to be in JJ20?**

A: No and Yes. Every Jughead is guaranteed to appear in our Opening & Finale, club routine(s), and Slide Show, but "specialty acts" (solos & small ensembles) are determined by auditions in April. Even Ultimate-level specialty acts may not make it into JJ.

**Q: Are there extra time commitments involved for JJ20?**

A: This year, our Dress Rehearsals (D.R.s) for the entire cast are the evenings of **Wed., May 9 & Tues., May 15**. (Our all-cast photo will take place at the *1st* D.R.; guest grads will be invited to the *2nd* D.R.) Please text/email Paul with conflicts (esp. for D.R.s & shows), incl. kids leaving regular club rehearsals before 5:45 pm.

**Q: How does the process of selling tickets work?**

A: Specific information on how to promote JJ20 and purchase tickets through [www.jugheads.com](http://www.jugheads.com) will be available in March.

**Q: How will you communicate JJ20-related info.?**

A: This monthly newsletter; a separate "Final Memo" mailed home in late April; and occasional emails to our group list will keep all parents and performers apprised of JJ20 info. To join the JUGHEADS group list, send a blank email to: [jugheads\\_parents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:jugheads_parents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## 13th Annual Winter Showcase

Sat., 3/17, 7:00 pm at Hopkins Little Theater

The Showcase is set for Saturday, 3/17 at 7:00 pm at Hopkins HS Little Theater. Led by our SLT headed by **Student Director Joshua N.** with **Student Assistant Director. Eva H.**, the Showcase is free & open to the public, offering both a valuable performance experience and an entertaining show. Polished solos, ensembles & emcees from any club/ability level desiring to perform should **apply in writing** (submit the app. by **Wed., 1/31**) and **preview their routine for Joshua by Wed., 2/28**. Acts should limit their routines to 3 min. (1-2 min. for emcees & skits), but they may perform up to 4 min. with permission. The cast will be confirmed by 3/3. *NOTE: The Showcase is a pre-requisite for JJ20 specialty act auditions on 4/17.*



## 2nd Semester Tuition Reminder

One payment covers Feb. 5-June 8, 2018

Our semester system alleviates our former (mutual) hassle of seasonal, trimester registration that we had for many years. Our 1st Semester goes longer than the typical school district in order to even out JJ20-related fees (T-shirts, DVDs, etc.). Several families have yet to register for our 2nd Semester; please do so (by check, cash or online) by **Feb. 9** to avoid a late fee added to base club tuition. (*NOTE: See "Calendar Reminders" on page 2.*)

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT: Advanced Club

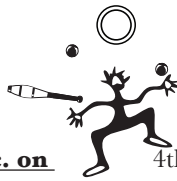
A welcome upgrade for the challenge-hungry



The consistent experience of Rec. Jugheads making the leap to Advanced Club is that they're surprised at the upgraded level of skill, maturity, and group challenges. In fairness to our two Rec. Clubs, such upgrades are due in large part to the entry standards which make the kids work hard *before* they join, giving them momentum and a new appreciation for peers who share their higher-level focus and company experience. Some see Advanced as merely a stepping stone to get to Elite, while others relish the presence of Assistants (there are none in Elite) and **Betsy** taking her movement challenges to an even higher level than her work on Fridays. Empowered by a rich history of *Juggle Jam* themes and an XL SLT (**Grant & Elizabeth** joined **Mirrandra & Hans** upon Monday Rec.'s cancellation), Advanced has already started its JJ20 routine, "The Best of Advanced Club," with a special ensemble revamping "Bollywood" from JJ15!

## JUGHEADS Community News

- **WELCOME** to 2nd grade Thursday Rec. rookie Jughead **Brady Reuben!** Also, 4th grader **Isaac Anderson** is trying out Thursday Rec. with a 5x punchcard. Both boys visited during "Bring a Friend" week just after Thanksgiving.
- **FAREWELL** to discontinuing Jughead **Nate P.** (9th, Elite). After 6+ years as a Jughead, Nate is now pursuing his goals of varsity Ultimate Frisbee. Godspeed, Nate!
- **CALENDAR REMINDERS:** Spring Break for all our clubs is **March 26-30**. However, on other *Edina-specific*



release days, these clubs WILL meet: Friday Rec. on 1/26, 3/2 and 3/23; and Elite on 2/20. This maximizes consistency for our programming since 54% of our members do not attend Edina Schools. As always, Jugheads may attend make-ups for *any* missed clubs; text Paul with notice/q's. (NOTE: There are no clubs on JF20-related weekdays: May 9, 15, 18.)

- **MONDO Juggling & Unicycling Festival** at Concordia U. in St. Paul is our 24-year-old tradition! Look for yellow forms at JH (or our website PDF) to join us on **2/17** for all day juggling, workshops, Pizza Luce, and a show at Central HS. (Camp experience & Rec. standards advised.) Earlybird discount deadline (and Tee/hoodie orders): Fri., 1/26.
- **THE IJA FESTIVAL** is July 16-22 in Springfield, MA. Qualified Jugheads interested in traveling with us should attend one of two *mandatory info. meetings*: **Thurs., 2/1 or Tues., 2/6 at 6 pm** in the Creekside Room (near our office).

## Paul's Platform: Reflecting on 20 Juggle Jams: A Six-Part Series



**Introduction.** There is something special about multiples of five in celebrating birthdays, careers, and marriages. This six-part monthly column series celebrates this double-deca-milestone in our annual *Juggle Jam* tradition. I'll start by crediting our three "prequels," the childcare-based *Wise Guys Youth Juggling Shows* (1995-1997).

### **Part 1: "Emerging Traditions: The Wise Guys Prequels"**

Anyone familiar with the classic *A Charlie Brown Christmas* knows that the central plotline is that Charlie Brown attempts to direct his Peanuts peers in their Christmas play. He dives in head first but hits many roadblocks, including much criticism for his emphatic choice of a rather pathetic Christmas tree. Even though the show doesn't depict the end product of the Peanuts' play, Charlie Brown found the true meaning of Christmas and a supportive community.

Like other pop culture references in my own life, I resonate with Charlie Brown in many ways. When I succeeded in teaching three

4th graders to juggle in July 1994, I had no plans for any future shows let alone successful clubs. Those three initial kids yielded 10 in Fall '94, forming a weekly elective club commitment within Wise Guys (the older childcare program of Edina KIDS Club) to learn and develop as jugglers and friends.

When we grew to 24 kids by the winter of '95, I decided (somewhat reluctantly) to put on a formal show at the end of the school year. We scheduled the old South View Little Theater for the Wednesday after Memorial Day. Fittingly (perhaps a subconscious nod to my animated directorial predecessor), I chose "Linus and Lucy" (Peanuts' jazzy theme) as our opening song. The choreography was very minimal (up to one ball each) and our finale was also quite humble: kids entering the stage one at a time to show their best juggling to "Sweet Home Chicago." We had emcees, a dance specialty act, and special pro guest **Craig Carlson** performing juggling, magic, and acrobatics.

A year later, 39 Wise Guys Jugglers from two clubs graced the old Edina Community Center Auditorium. In addition to a much more spacious stage, our upgrades included seven specialty acts (with yours truly, prodded on by the kids), our first rendition of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" to send off our inaugural group of kids to an IJA festival, and our first version of an Awards Slide Show in which I read all the kids' names and awards as they walked onstage to *Rudy* music. We reprised "Sweet Home Chicago" for our finale on a lone Wed. night.

In 1997, we were up to 53 jugglers in three clubs with production values trying to keep pace with the company's success. This was the first year with no "outside" guests (the **Twin Cities Unicycle Club** performed in '96), but we invited non-jugglers from Wise Guys to perform: the **Daneline Club** and the **Drama Club**. World-class juggler **Jay Gilligan** choreographed a routine for our IJA Club (now Elite), and we ended the show with "Reach" for the first time with the same basic theme and structure that has lasted for 20+ years.

I didn't direct a show in '98 for two main reasons: my Wise Guys Asst. Manager/Asst. Coach, **Carrie Proctor**, was on maternity leave, and I was burned out from six years of intense management duties (including expanding the juggling program to Saturdays, gigs & festivals). Also that spring, **Wendy & I** were diagnosed as infertile; that summer, I resigned my manager post to coach youth full-time.

Next month, I'll highlight our new name, further upgrades, and continued efforts to *reach* for youth development through a spring variety show which celebrates this supportive community.

Developing Youth Through Juggling Shows Since 1995,

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