

December 08

Silla Taekwon-Do Newsletter

Upcoming events

6th December

Grading day. Maeroa Intermediate School, Churchill Ave, Hamilton

Time: 8:30am to 3pm approx.

Don't be late! **All club fees must be up to date**

11th December

Final club training night:

Last training night for the year, be here for a major prize for someone!

14th December (CHANGE OF DATE)

Club end of the year BBQ:

The club is putting on lunch at Sapphire Springs, all you have to do is bring a salad, we will provide the rest. Parents especially invited! It's free, the club is paying, and the Demo team is performing.

11am to 3pm approx.

25th December

Santa arrives, but only for those students that have been good...you know who you are!

20th January

Club starts up again. That's right, we train in the holidays. Be there or be square.

Hanna & Claire Kendall, assistant instructors at the Kids Camp, and world champs medallists! This could be you...(More kids camp photo's on website)



ITFNZ Annual Subs:

These are due in January and are:

\$20 per person

\$40 per family

These fees are not mine, but are for ITFNZ (our parent organisation). Without them you cannot grade, go to camps, seminars; in fact, I cannot teach you without these fees paid. They are yearly, and are due this month. I suggest you keep paying your AP/Fees (again, can everyone see me and change to AP's) throughout December and January and as we have a break from hall fees, I can use that for your subs. Please put aside for them now, I know that Xmas is an expensive period, but \$20 a year is not much of a fee.

The New Year:

Next year will be a big year for most of you. Our big beginners class should be all yellow belts, providing you pass your grading, and eligible to enter ITFNZ's tournaments. I will be organising these trips and encouraging ALL eligible students to attend. Some of you are very capable of winning these events.

We will also continue to organise more fundraising events to get us to them. I would like to invite you, or your parents, to please assist Mr Skedgwell and I in this by getting together and helping. Perhaps we can do this at the breakup?

Website news

The address is:

www.sillataekwondo.com

Please visit often as all important updates will be here first.

This months contest:

Translate into Korean and demonstrate:

Right walking stance, inner forearm middle side block

Your prize: \$20 financial freedom (open to all Silla students)

Decembers proverb:

You already possess everything necessary to become great. (Crow Nation)

Student of the Month

Congratulations to last month's winner, Sam Collins.

This months winner is the last for the year, and well deserved. They are always courteous...but will they be student of the year?

Congratulations to: **Royce Wihapi**

Previous winners: Graham Woods, Jade Gibson, Kaha Wihapi, James Brown, Bonnie Gibson, Sam Collins

Silla History:

Our club, your club is named after the Silla (pronounced Shilla) Dynasty, a period in the history of Korea stretching from 57 BC – 935 AD.

Silla was one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea. it was founded by King Park Hyeokgeose, who is also known to be the origin of the Korean family name Park. It began as a chiefdom in the Samhan confederacies. Allied with China, Silla eventually conquered the other two kingdoms, Baekje in 660 and Goguryeo in 668 (This number should sound familiar to you!). Thereafter, it is sometimes called Unified Silla or Later Silla, occupying most of the Korean Peninsula, while the northern part re-emerged as Balhae, which was a successor-state of Goguryeo.

After nearly nine hundred years, Silla fragmented into the brief Later Three Kingdoms, and submitted to its successor dynasty Goryeo in 935.

Today, we remember Silla most for the Hwa Rang (pronounced Wa-Rang) youth group. Read the pattern history for the red belt pattern Hwa Rang in your student handbook. The Hwa Rang youth group was instrumental in Silla's conquering of the other two Korean regions mentioned above. If you like, Silla was a comparable nation to ancient Sparta, although not as brutal. General Choi also mentions King Leonidas's brave stand at Thermopylae where some 300 Spartans gave their lives to protect Sparta and eventually deny the Persians expansion into Europe, as an example of indomitable spirit, amongst others.



Entrance to the Seokgulam Grotto

The Hwa Rang youth group trained hard and formed the foundations for Taekwon-Do. In your Hand Book is a picture of Kumkan Yuksa, one of only a few surviving examples of warriors from this age practising martial arts, and taken from a relief at Seokgulam Grotto, a Buddhist temple. I have been there and seen the original, one of two in the temple and quite a sight. So while Taekwon-Do is regarded as a modern martial art, don't let anyone tell you it doesn't have ancient beginnings.

Silla's legacy in Korea can still be seen today, with many temples and burial places tourist attractions. Unfortunately the true Taekwon-Do that you learn is not practiced anymore in Korea due to the interference of the Korean Government...it's all very political! If you want to ask me about how that all happened, put aside a couple of hours and see me at the break-up!