



# Family News

JANUARY 2018



## West America TKD to perform on National TV!

★ Sat., Feb 24, 6 pm, KTVU Fox Ch. 2 or KTSF Ch. 26 ★

Southwest



Chinese New Year Festival & Parade



### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### JANUARY

MON 1

New Year's Day  
School is CLOSED

TUE 2

Day After New Year's Day  
School is CLOSED

MON 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
School is CLOSED

### TESTING SCHEDULE:

Pre-test: January 3 to 11

Test: (Fri) January 12

Make Up Test: (Fri) January 19

(all students will test during the same time as regular class. Testing for advanced belts (brown and up) will begin at 4:45 pm. Please remember to bring your testing paper, testing fee, and sparring gear (purple belts and up).



# We are Family...

## FIRST DEGREE BLACK BELT TEST December 8, 2017

Congratulations to  
First Degree Black Belts:



(From left to right) Aidan Williams,  
Kyle Wong, Maya Kocaman, and  
Tawnie Winchester



Earning a black belt is a significant milestone. These 1st and 3rd degree candidates have demonstrated they are worthy of this big achievement in life. Sensei is very proud of all of you!

# What a Blast!

## Photos from the Holiday Party

Courtesy of Shauna Heidenreich  
[www.shaunaheidenreich.com](http://www.shaunaheidenreich.com)

December 15, 2017



# THIRD DEGREE BLACK BELT TEST December 14, 2017

Congratulations to  
Third Degree Black Belts:



Cameron Hicks and Annie Schlabs

# Salute to Our Firefighters

The two tragic wildfires in California at the end of 2017 had brought devastations both in the loss of lives and properties. In appreciation of firefighters' heroic effort in fighting the fire, bay area residents lined the freeway with home made signs of well wishes. We have two firefighters among the dojo community. They deserve our recognition. Darrin Allen (father of green belt Valentino and purple belt John) and Michael McCarthy (father of brown belt Keira ).



**Darrin Allen**  
Mill Valley Fire Department  
Station 7/ Captain  
23 years in service



**Michael McCarthy**  
San Rafael Fire Department  
Station 54 /Fire Engineer/ Paramedic  
15 years in service

I recently returned from fighting fires in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The Thomas fire in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties is the largest fire in California's history. When my engine arrived, I was overwhelmed by the scope, pace and especially the surreal setting of fighting fires in and around communities festively decorated for the holidays. It was a stark reminder of the unique challenges facing California Firefighters today.

The fires in Sonoma, Napa, and Santa Rosa caused a massive amount of damage and took dozens of people's lives. When we drove through the active fire area to protect homes, the amount of damage was shocking. We received a lot of support from the communities that were affected as we were able to help prevent more loss of life and property. But the resilience and strength of these areas to come together and help each other was truly amazing. The real heroes are the folks that are rebuilding their lives and believing that tomorrow will be a better day.



*The Allen-Herrera Family. Valentino is in the front row, and John is in mother's arms.*



*Mike's daughter Keira recently tested for her brown belt*

Thank You

How 300 plus people can fit into the dojo? Thank you everyone for coming out and share a good time with us. We treasure your support for all these years.

We like to thank Jason Fiber (father of brown belt Charley) for helping out with the sound control.

Also, thank you Shauna Heidenreich (mother of brown belts Keegan and Ethan) for capturing the wonderful moments on camera.

We are already looking forward to next year for another great production.

# DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

**Way to Go!**



**BLUE BELT**  
Cooper Hatch



**WHITE BELT**  
Ceidric Waldsburger



**BROWN BELT**  
Keira McCarthy

**You  
Are A  
Star!**



**YELLOW BELT**  
Oberon McIntyre



**RED BELT**  
Renn Smith



**ORANGE BELT**  
Sean Miller



**SKUNK BELT**  
Sannah Javaheri

**Good Job!**



**PURPLE BELT**  
Daphne Yurch



**BLACK BELT**  
Monica Caruso



**GREEN BELT**  
Demir Kocaman



**ADULT**  
Krishna Dalal

## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:



**California Taekwondo  
Foundation Championship**  
Saturday, January 20, 2018  
Centerville Junior High School  
37720 Fremont Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94536  
[www.catkfoundation.org](http://www.catkfoundation.org)



**Golden Gate Tournament**  
Saturday, January 27, 2018  
Drake High School  
1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
[www.kimsma.com](http://www.kimsma.com)