

VKS Dojo Fundraising Update

By: Mindy Branigan Sensei

It has been a little over a year since the Vancouver Ki Society launched the fund raising initiative for our Dojo Building Project. In that time we have conducted a coin drive, sold gift cards, run a Silent Auction, held a New Year's Eve business groups and new camp. All the while members through the Monthly Savings \$13,000! Thank you very much



sleepover, offered Ki classes for students, and run a summer day have generously contributed Plan. Together we have raised for your ongoing support!!

Plans for future fund-raisers annual holiday Potluck Party Year's Eve sleepover. We welcome members with ideas for fund-raising to lend a hand to this important endeavour of building our own dojo, a permanent home for the many programs and events offered by the Vancouver Ki Society.

include a Silent Auction at the on December 11 and a New

Many hands make light work. Please speak to Mindy Branigan Sensei if you are interested in participating in future fund-raising projects.

Silent Auction

We will be holding a silent auction as part of our Holiday Class and Potluck Lunch on Saturday December 12th as a fundraiser for our Dojo Building Fund. The auction will be open to VKS students, their extended families, and friends. A catalogue of items will be available in late November.

We are looking for donations for silent auction items such as:

- Bottle of wine or spirits
- Getaways (stays in hotels, B&Bs, cottages)
- Services or experiences (spa treatments, services from your business etc)
- Unique items

If you have an item or experience that you are able to donate, please contact Craig Sexton at craig.sexton@telus.net.

Monthly Savings Plan

The Vancouver Ki Society would like thank students and parents for their continued support of our Monthly Savings Plan - we receive \$350/month toward our Dojo Building Fund.

Are you interested helping us to reach our goal of building our own Dojo? We offer the opportunity to students and families to provide support automated monthly donations. We can automate your donation through automatic withdrawal from your bank account or you can simply add any amount to your monthly dues payments. Please speak to any Instructor regarding this donation opportunity.

Please note:

As a Not-For-Profit Society, the Vancouver Ki Society cannot issue tax receipts for donations.

VKS Kids Summer Extravaganza

By: Mindy Branigan Sensei

June, July and August this year brought three fabulous training opportunities for the children and teens in our dojo.

In June, we made our annual trek south for the Oregon Ki Society's Children's Aikido and Sports Camp. As usual we enjoyed a weekend full of fun and learning. Saturday, we did Aikido classes with Tabata Sensei, Tam Sensei and other instructors, played games with the teen leaders, then swam and played at the pool. Sunday, we headed to the park to play basketball, kickball and soccer. As always our students showed great enthusiasm and skill in applying Ki principles to all they did, including our road trip. Many thanks to all the VKS volunteer drivers and assistants in the kitchen and on the mat who made this weekend possible.

In July, we headed to Vancouver Island to enjoy another fabulous camp with the Valley Ki Aikido group led by Michel Duhaime Sensei. For three lovely days, we trained Aikido, learned more about basketball, played on the beach, sang around the campfire and renewed our friendships with that wonderful community in Cumberland. Our host Michel once again treated us like royalty and cooked up a storm to keep us fuelled for our many adventures. Our time culminated in testing where Maite, Molly and Hannah earned their 7th kyu. Diana and Saman made it possible for us to bring our largest group so far and showed the kids how to keep playfulness alive at any age. Special thanks to Anthony Agatarap Sensei, his wife Samantha and his daughter Madeleine who joined us for this popular event.

In August, we ran our first Day Camp. With the help of our teen leaders, we enjoyed five days of Aikido, craft activities and outings that included table tennis and blueberry picking. Members from Cumberland joined us in time to enjoy the annual BBQ in the Park followed by a new tradition: a dojo sleepover! On our final day, the students put on an impressive demonstration for an audience of more than twenty family members and friends. Amy, Zhi Han and Frankie from the Cumberland dojo earned their 9th kyu. The week was a huge success that raised over \$1100 for our Dojo Building Fund. I owe many thanks to all the people who contributed in so many ways to the camp and BBQ. Special thanks go to our BBQ chefs Mike and Simon and Maria Frick who donated the costs of our Blueberry outing!

Events like these are the result of many efforts. Our dojo is blessed with a group of members and families who are always ready to lend a hand to support our various programs and events. Then there are those people who go above and beyond, making immeasurable contributions to the growth of our children. I could not have even imagined let alone operated the day camp without Diana and Gwen.

Congratulations to those Adults who recently tested:

Agatarap Sensei – Shoden
Alex Goldman – 2A
Andrei Odeski – 2C
Brendon Frick – 4B
Garrick Shepard – 4B
Jason Lee – 2C
Simon Nodel – 2C
Zhi Han Lim – 9B

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **Fall Camp:** Nov 20–21
- **Kiatsu Seminar 2 (VKS):** Dec 4–5
- **VKS Christmas Party:** Dec 11
- **Last day of classes 2010:** Dec 20
- **New Years Misogji:** Jan 9, 2011

Congratulations to those Youth who recently tested:

Amy - 9C	Austin - 9C
Carlos - 9B	Emile - 9C
Frankie - 9B	Hannah - 7B
Jaydon – 9C	MacKenzie -9C
Maite - 7B	Molly - 7B
Noosheen-8B	TJ – 9C

"WHAT DID YOU ENJOY ABOUT VKS SUMMER KIDS CAMPS?"

Molly:

I liked the one in Cumberland because we have one every year so I can look forward to it. I liked going to Goose Spit and swimming there. The VKS one rocked because we did different stuff and the dojo was really nice. We did fun stuff, but my favorite was the picnic and the sleep over. The food at the picnic was delicious and we got to hang out at an awesome park. I love the aikido summer camps!

Noosheen:

I like the blueberry farm, the chickens, and ping pong in the camp.

Jayden:

I like showing people how to play my cars and ping pong the most.

Zhi Han:

I liked going to the strawberry farm. I also liked playing table tennis and learning to use ki while I play soccer.

Dennis:

My favourite activities were ping pong, marble game and searching for riddles on the Internet

Nicola:

I enjoyed all the yummy meals and going to the beach at the Island Camp. I liked helping younger students which helped me improve my teaching.

Nasseem:

I liked playing ping pong and presenting what we learned at the end of the week.

Brendon:

I liked helping the younger students and working on taiqis.

Maite:

It is different than any other camp I've attended because everybody is really supportive of one another, and everyone was willing to help and to work with each other. Overall a very positive environment where it's easy to learn. Everyone had a plus mind and positive energy and was willing to work together as a team. I think that's what made it fun, a good camp.



Camp Memories

