

October
2013

Number 31

Dates to
Remember!!!

Sparks
Halloween Party
Tuesday 29
October

Sparks
Tournament of
Champions
Stonecrest School
Saturday 16 Nov
0930

Xmas Party
coming in
December... stay
tuned!



Newsletter



Silla dynasty 668-935AD

by Shane Mason

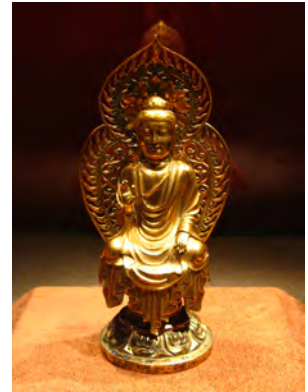
By the year 668AD the Silla kingdom of Korea had conquered the other Korean kingdoms of Baekje and Goguryeo; however, the Chinese T'ang forces still held a large portion of the conquered lands. The king of Silla, Munmu, decided to take action against the Chinese. He started by taking back the territory that was formerly Baekje and the southern portion of what was Goguryeo. This led the Chinese emperor Gaozong to renounce Munmu's kingship, declaring Munmu's brother to be king. Munmu, unwilling to let the throne fall to his brother, apologized to the Chinese. In order to avoid further conflict, he agreed to

let China keep the territory they still held. This territory, the majority of what had been Goguryeo, became part of the region called Balhae.

After the Silla – T'ang conflict, the kingdom of Silla began to thrive and flourish artistically and culturally. They also imported a Chinese style of government. The Buddhist religion became more prominent because of the work and writings of a noted monk and scholar named Won-Yo. The green belt pattern definition credits Won-Yo with bringing Buddhism to the Silla dynasty in 686 AD, this is misleading. Buddhism was brought to Silla in the 4th century, and became the state religion in 527AD. This being said Won-Yo's writings helped the people of Silla understand the philosophy better.

The 8th and 9th centuries became known as the "golden age" of Korean art. During this time many great sculptures and Buddhist temples were

built, and the artistry of metalworking began to thrive.



Unfortunately this golden age was to be short lived, and by the 890's Silla was in decline. The rulers became corrupt, and many rebellions shook the stability of the kingdom. These rebellions caused different factions to split from the Silla kingdom, eventually making the kingdom no bigger than it was 600 years earlier. During the time of the rebellions, much of what had been Goguryeo (or Koguryeo) began to rise in power. Gyeongsun, the king of Silla, abdicated in 935AD in favor of Wang Geon, who became King Taejo of Goguryeo. This king began the Koryeo dynasty.



Sparks Tournament of Champions



The poster features a central image of a Taekwon-Do practitioner in a white uniform performing a high kick, framed within a circular graphic. The word 'SPARKS' is written in large, bold, red letters at the top, and 'TAEKWON-DO' is written in large, bold, red letters at the bottom. The Korean characters '명예' (Myeong-e) and '정신력' (Jeong-shin-ryeok) are written vertically on either side of the central image. Below the main image, the text reads: 'TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS', 'MARK YOUR CALENDAR', 'NOVEMBER 16, 2013', 'STONECREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL', '3791 STONECREST RD', 'WOODLAWN, ONTARIO', 'START TIME 9:30AM'. At the bottom, it says: 'Pre-registration see your instructor for details. For more info contact Tournament Director- Mr. Sparks (613) 832-9201'.

All students are expected to participate in our tournament at Stonecrest Elementary School. There are also opportunities for parents and other family members to participate. Please give your contact info and how you would like to participate to Mrs. Sparks as soon as possible. Volunteers can make or break the event.



Registration for Sparks Students must be submitted by 29 October at the latest. Before you test for your Black Belt, you must have participated in at least 10 tournaments. This is a great opportunity!!!



Sparring Gear & Other Equipment

Sparring is an important part of our curriculum where we get the opportunity to develop our skills. It is also a big part of any tournament participation...AND it is lot's of fun!!!

By the time you receive your green belt you should own your own set of sparring gear. Speak to Mrs. Sparks to order your gear .

Prices for new equipment:

- gloves \$40
- boots \$40
- helmets \$40
- shin pads \$40

Gear can also be purchased as a set for \$150.

Also Available:

- T-Shirts — \$10
- Ball Caps — \$18
- Equipment Bags - \$35



Be ready for the tournament...invest in your own set of sparring gear, gloves, boots, helmet and shin pads!