



# KEIKUKAN News

## SHOTOKAN KARATE



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### WORLDWIDE JKS

See what's been happening and what's coming up in the JKS Universe by checking out our "Upcoming Events" on page 3

### KATA WISDOM

Kata is one of the three equally important pillars of Shotokan which include Kihon, Kata and Kumite. Check out a little history and wisdom from Sensei Gichin Funakoshi on page 5

May 2025 - Kyu Testing is coming soon. Watch for the dates.

Sensei Gordon will begin teaching a new group of Katas for the dojo. Be on the lookout for Joko Katas  
From  
Asai Sensei

Contact Sensei Gordon today by  
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Or emailing  
[keikukandojo@gmail.com](mailto:keikukandojo@gmail.com)  
or visiting  
<https://www.keikukandojo.org>

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - MELODY

At Keikukan Dojo, we are dedicated to building not just strong martial artists, but strong leaders - and this month we are proud to spotlight one of our finest: Melody.

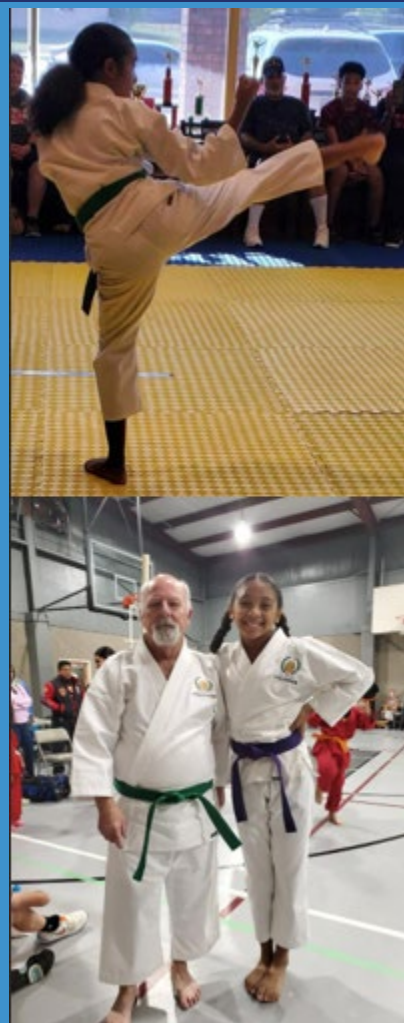
Melody, a 6th-Grade student, is an outstanding Purple Belt Karateka whose excellence shines both on and off the mat. She is an amazing big sister, a natural leader, a mentor to younger students, always standing up for the “little guy” and demonstrating kindness, courage, and humility. Melody is deeply respectful, exceptionally well-spoken, and openly shares her love for Jesus. She sets a powerful example for everyone in the dojo.

Academically, Melody is just as impressive. She maintains a 3.86 GPA with all A's and one B. On her state assessments, she scored 9th-grade level in math and beyond 12th-grade in reading. She is a lead member of her school's show choir, which earned a Superior rating at their first contest, and she landed a lead role in the school play. Melody has been named “Star Student” every year throughout elementary school and was invited to join an accelerated reading class.

Athletically, Melody brings the same drive and passion. She helped her 6th-grade basketball team go undefeated, earned a spot on the 7th-grade team and was even offered the opportunity to play with the 8th-grade team. In track, she earned two second place finishes along with third and fourth place achievements. In Karate tournaments, she has earned two first-place medals and a third-place medal - Clear evidence of her hard work and spirit

Melody is an example to everyone at Keikukan Dojo, reminding us daily of the power of dedication, respect and heart. We are incredibly proud of all that she has accomplished and look forward to seeing her continue to grow and inspire others.

Keep reaching for greatness, Melody - The future is yours!



## JKS Worldwide



The Global JKS Shotokan Karate community has been vibrant in 2025, with numerous events fostering growth, competition and camaraderie among practitioners. Here's an overview of recent and upcoming activities.

February 16<sup>th</sup> - Dublin, Ireland: The JKS Open Karate Championships took place at the Tallaght Leisure Centre, providing an excellent platform for skill development and competition.



April 27<sup>th</sup> - JKS England hosted a SOLD OUT open course with Makita Sensei followed by a Shodan Grading, offering valuable training opportunities for participants

## Upcoming International Events

May 2-4: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the 4<sup>th</sup> All Ethiopian Lion Order Championship Tournament will be held featuring Kata and Kumite competition

May 17-18: Helsinki, Finland, JKS Headquarters Instructor, Sensei Daisuke Watanabe (5<sup>th</sup> Dan) will lead a Kumite-Focused Seminar, open to Karate Practitioners across Finland and neighboring countries

June 15: England, JKS England's Summer Course will take place, followed by Dan Grading for Nidan and above.

September 19-21: Spain, the WSKA World Shotokan Karate-do Championships are scheduled, offering a global stage for elite Shotokan competitors.



## U. S. - Upcoming in Texas The Main Event!!!

Closer to home, the North Texas Karate Academy is hosting a **Kihon and Kata Seminar** on **May 3, 2025**, led by **Sensei Gordon Andrade**. The seminar will focus on fundamental techniques and kata practice, suitable for practitioners aiming to refine their skills.



**Keikukan Dojo welcomes some new faces.**

**We currently have a few Dojo Visitors who are top-notch performers. Please welcome and give a big Oss to: Lola, Cora, Lilly, Timothy and Khalees.**



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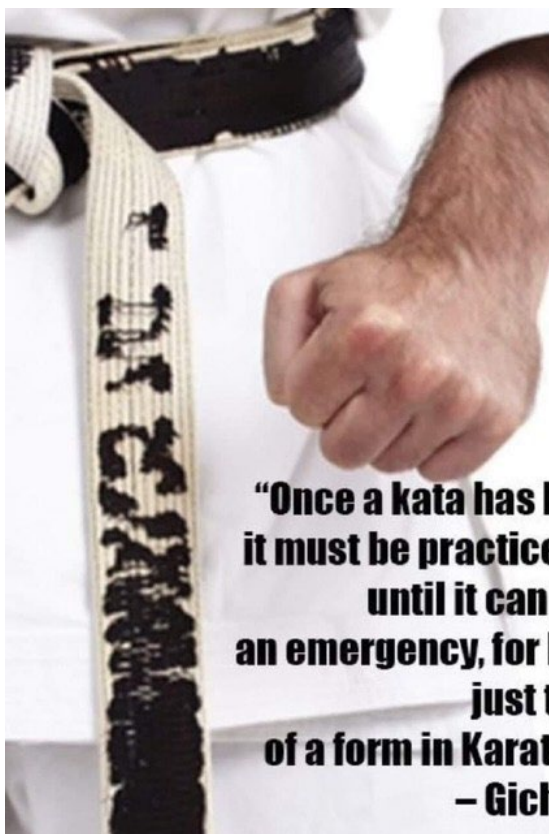
# Kata Wisdom

## Who is Gichin Funakoshi?



Gichin Funakoshi is honored as the founder of Shotokan Karate and is often referred to as the "Father of Modern Karate." In the Shotokan tradition, he is respectfully called "Sensei Funakoshi" or simply "Master." Although he did not hold a formal dan rank—since the kyu/dan ranking system was introduced later, partly due to his influence—he was recognized during his lifetime as the ultimate authority in Karate-do. After his passing, many organizations continued to honor him by referring to him by his pen name "Shoto" and acknowledging him as the Founder of Shotokan Karate.

Funakoshi dedicated his life to spreading Karate from Okinawa to mainland Japan and eventually to the world. His quiet leadership, deep respect for discipline, and belief in Karate as a way of life—not merely a method of fighting—shaped the spirit of modern Karate-do. Today, every Shotokan practitioner carries forward his legacy with each kata, each kihon drill, and each act of self-discipline and respect in and outside the dojo.



**"Once a kata has been learned,  
it must be practiced repeatedly  
until it can be applied in  
an emergency, for knowledge of  
just the sequence  
of a form in Karate is useless."  
— Gichin Funakoshi**

# The Importance of Commitment - Sensei Gordon

In the world of martial arts, growth comes not from ease, but from perseverance. The double image in this newsletter offers a striking contrast—a tale of two parenting mindsets. On one side, we see a family unified in purpose, expressing to Sensei their desire for young Johnny to develop discipline, respect, and self-defense. On the other side the message is much different: a mother, seemingly more concerned with her child's temporary comfort, tells Sensei she doesn't want to make him do something he doesn't want to do, while the child is absorbed in a video game on his tablet.

This contrast reflects a common challenge many parents face today: balancing love with leadership. While it is natural to want our children to be happy, true growth rarely happens without effort. When we allow children to quit when things get tough or inconvenient, we rob them of the opportunity to develop resilience, work ethic, and the kind of mental toughness that will serve them in every area of life. Martial arts is more than just a physical activity—it's a structured path to personal excellence. It teaches perseverance in the face of adversity and the discipline to keep going even when motivation fades.

Success in life—whether in academics, relationships, health, or career—requires the same qualities forged in the dojo. Every black belt was once a white belt who didn't quit. Let's not raise children to believe that discomfort is a sign they should give up. Let's teach them instead that it is a signal to dig deeper, to grow, and to rise.

By supporting our children in seeing things through, especially when it's hard, we give them a gift far greater than immediate gratification—we give them the tools to conquer life itself. Martial arts isn't always easy, but the journey is worth it. And one day, they'll thank you for not letting them quit.

Start your journey today by contacting Sensei Gordon at: [keikukandojo@gmail.com](mailto:keikukandojo@gmail.com)

