

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Shudokan Aboriginal Karate Club visits Westbank First Nation

Submitted by Chris Derickson

The Shudokan Aboriginal Karate Club (SAKC), based in Vancouver's lower eastside, offers free weekly Karate lessons to inner city youth. The dojo offers youth of all ages a safe place to learn and practice the discipline of Karate. Weekly lessons are taught at Grandview Elementary School and every year the club takes the kids on a weekend adventure. For many of the youth it is their first foray out of the inner city.

This year the SAKC was hosted by WFN. The weekend of April 24th-26th the Sensisyusten Multi Purpose room was home to over 30 kids and their chaperones. On Saturday night Norma and Joanie prepared a wonderful dinner of salmon and Indian ice cream and Stan Jack preformed a dance for the group. After dinner Aaron Derickson along with some of the WFN youth spent some time hanging out with the kids. Gifts were exchanged and the SAKC put on a karate demonstration for out youth. While in the Okanagan the SAKC explored our beaches and took a trip down to Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos.

The Shudokan Aboriginal Karate Club would like to thank Westbank First Nation for their gracious hospitality. A special thanks to Councilor Mike DeGuevara and Jennifer Bellingham for organizing the weekend, to Norma and Joanie for giving the kids an amazing meal and an introduction to Indian ice cream, to Stan Jack for an unforgettable performance and to Aaron Derickson and the WFN youth who took time to hang out with the kids.



Above: Sensei Nomada presents Stan Jack with a gift



Above: Shudokan Aboriginal Karate Club



Left: Sensei Nomada thanks Chris Derickson for assisting in organizing the trip



Above: Aaron Derickson and WFN youth are presented with Thank You cards from the SAKC.