



Zigaboo Shin-Peterson
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Asa Simpson
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Nathaniel Smith
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Ronan Spelman
Lula Stewart
Alexander Steyaert
Tyra Stokes
Thomas Strandwitz
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Chop to the Top

One Student's Path to Becoming a Black Belt



Showing off some of his martial arts skills, Ben Woytek has been participating in the ancient art since he was four years old. Above, he poses wearing the traditional Mu Sool Won attire.

Photos by Lisa Moomaw

"I'm currently a black belt, and I'm testing for second degree," explained martial arts master, Ben Woytek. Just barely twelve, Ben has been chopping boards since he was four.

It's taken a lot of work and focus to get him to this point—and black belt isn't even the highest level in the martial arts world. There's a first degree black belt, a second degree black belt, and so on. Ben has a first degree black belt and he will be testing for his second soon. The belt tests assess the your knowledge of the curriculum you've been learning in class and your endurance.

Many students like Ben, participate in physical activities outside of school, like martial arts, dance, and a number of other extracurruculars. These activities compliment their studies, while also keeping them fit and active. But activities like martial arts have the added benefit of teaching both physical and mental discipline, challenging participants to push their boundaries.

There are many types of martial arts, but Ben practices Mu Sool Won, a traditional Korean fighting art. "It's very quick and fun to do." Ben proved that busting boards isn't a myth, saying, "Yes, you do actually break boards."

Story by Matilda Krell

48 • SIXTH GRADE

Noel Elias (6) was 3 when someone called him Christmas.

3 4

Javier Kreeger (6) has 2 siblings.

2

Profesora Flores-Wolsky has had 7 sports cars.

Sarah Jackson's (8) mom is a 5th grade teacher.

5 7

Ms. Huerta moved to Austin when she was 7.

7

Emily Thompson (6) has 8 circles on the side of her glasses.

8

Maddie Carum (7) learned how to ride a bike when she was 9.

9 6

Tess Ancipink (6) has 0 sisters.

0

Annabel Dwyer (7) shot her first duck when she was 9.

9

Adham Jameel (6) has 1 sister.

1



Holden Swansiger
Sofia Syed
Luke Sylliaasen
Emily Taleff
Andre Taylor Montero
Charles Taylor
William Taylor-Burton

Jackson Terronez
Anna Thomas
Emily Thompson
Samuel Tian
Erin Toliver
Hayden Tomazin
Eddie Torres

Laila Tousson
Lily Trentham
Gilberto Trevino
Ebony Trevino-Cardona
Joshua Urrutia
Nikhil Vadlamudi
Jose Valdez-Gomez

Guadalupe Vargas-Villafana
Hulices Velasquez-Diaz
Jordan Vences
Javier Villa-Rangel
Alonzo Villanueva
Tayah Villanueva
Zayd Vlach

Zoe Walgren
Emily Wang
Benjamin Ward
Maximilian Weinreb
Catherine Weisbrodt
Sarah Weisbrodt
Samuel Whitlow

Jack Wier
Jhalyne Williams
Marion Williams
Satchel Williams
Josephine Wilson
Matthew Winkler
Karen Wolf

Ashton Wong
Emily Wootton
Alena Worhatch
Benjamin Woytek
Alexander Yang
Victor Yao
Lillian Yeazell

Jack Yenawine
Luke Yium
Adrian Young
Alexander Zalles
Allen Zhao
Crystal Zhou
Natasha Zint



Mr. Jackson is 2 years older than 6 times 7. **3**

Aly Hirani (8) has more than 3 toes. **7**
Daryne Jester (6) lost her first tooth when she was 6. **6**

Kevin Seon (7) started playing violin at age 3. **3**

Ms. McDonald has 7 fingers (she lost 3 in a science lab). **7**

Lucas Perkins (6) has 1 rabbit. **1**
Ian McIntosh (8) started playing competitive soccer at age 7. **7**

Ruben Valdovinos (7) had 8 fruit roll ups in one day. **8**

Zoe Walgren (6) owns 2 pairs of tap shoes. **2**

Ano Barron (8) has 1 true friend. **1**
Marion Williams (6) got her first pair of glasses when she was 4. **4**

Samuel Drasche (8) was 6 when he fell off a horse. **6**

Andrew Maddox (6) has 3 electronic devices. **3**