

Howdy Parents!

Most of the groups are starting to settle in at this point of the season. This is not to say that the groups are permanent, but they are getting pretty close. Weather and snow conditions have not been as kind as the last couple of years, but we are seeing progress from most of the students. Some parents feel we are not using aggressive enough terrain for their children. It is early in the season and many kids are starting to parallel. It is self-defeating to put them on steep terrain or moguls, just to see them go back to a power wedge. Muscle memory comes from repetition. Skills must be done hundreds of times for them to become reactionary movements. With that said, changing terrain helps to keep things fun. Skiing different terrain should be an exploration of play on the mountain. Our choice of terrain narrows greatly when you factor in poor snow conditions---this leaves even less terrain to use. Good and deep snow allows us to explore more advanced terrain in a safe manner. To push children into more aggressive terrain when conditions are firm and/or icy will more often than not create fear and anxiety. The group of instructors that are teaching your children have more than 100 years of combined experience in Snowsports instruction. Each week we talk about the students, how they are progressing, what special needs there are, their fears, and parents' concerns. We assess how the skills are progressing and choose the terrain to best create success for those students. Confidence comes from the ability to control our motor skills. This control comes only from practice.

It has always been a personal goal of mine to help families ski together. Most children have the ability to learn at an amazing rate (when they want to), and they never cease to impress me with their skills. We will always keep progressing with the focus of Safety, Fun, and Learning. There will always be days when safety is going to restrict where and what we do, and in the end, Mother Nature will always dictate our day.

The skills focus this week was dynamic balance. This is the knowledge that the skills of steering, edging, and pressure are constantly managed to control our movement down the hill. The better we stand, the easier it is to control all the other movements.

Most of our groups now have names. The following is a list of group names and their instructors.

SATURDAY A.M.

RLM SKI PROS	INSTRUCTOR – MORGAN
SNOW SHREDDERS	INSTRUCTOR – SCOTT
POLAR BEARS	INSTRUCTOR – RICHARD / BEN
BLIZZARDS	INSTRUCTOR – PATTY
BLAZING CHEETAHS	INSTRUCTOR – KAREN

SATURDAY P.M.

SKITTLE SKIERS	INSTRUCTOR – GRACE
THE MISSILES	INSTRUCTOR – BETSY

FOODIE – CHICKEN NUGGETS INSTRUCTOR – KAREN

COCONUT-PINEAPPLES INSTRUCTOR - SCOTT

SUNDAY A.M.

SHREDDERS INSTRUCTOR – MITCH

SPEED SKIERS INSTRUCTOR – RICHARD / BEN

RISKTAKERS INSTRUCTOR – SCOTT

RASCALS INSTRUCTOR – GRACE

SNOW RASCALS INSTRUCTOR – MORGAN

YETI'S INSTRUCTOR - ELISE

SUNDAY P.M.

THE WORLD CHAMPIONS INSTRUCTOR – BEN

SHRED SQUAD INSTRUCTOR – SCOTT

POWDER DESTROYERS INSTRUCTOR – ELISE

SUNDAY P.M. SNOWBOARD

NEITHER OF OUR SNOWBOARD TEAMS HAVE DECIDED ON A GROUP NAME YET, NEXT WEEK?????

INSTRUCTOR – AUDRA

INSTRUCTOR - COOPER