

# Stevens Pass Snowsports School

# THE WORD

Winter 21-22' | Issue 18 | Feb. 4, 2022

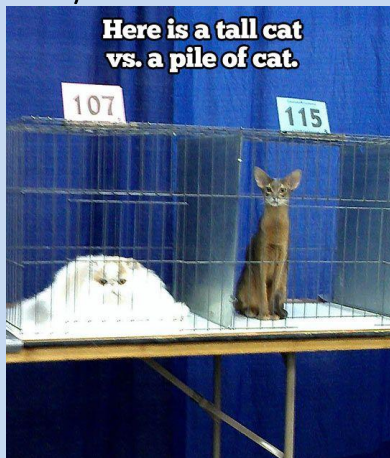
## Winter Continues!



Don't forget to [check the road conditions](#) before driving up and plan ahead so you can move at a safer speed as the weather continues to change daily!

### Safety Metrics:

We are now at **34/35** days without an employee injury for the year and **187 days** for the 21.22 season!!



Alright no google... how many of you know how tall someone is in feet if they measure at 187cm? Answer at the bottom of Page.2!

## The Groundhog has spoken...

The results you were much awaiting, will winter continue or will it not....



"The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's Inner Circle" has reported that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, meaning we will see at least 6 more weeks of winter!

How accurate is this little creature?? On average, Phil has gotten it right only 40% of the time over the past 10 years and this is the 136<sup>th</sup> year that Phil has made his prediction...

## TRAINING CORNER

Upcoming Clinics – sign up at [instructor.snow.com](http://instructor.snow.com)

- Alpine & Snowboard Steeps Camp - 2/5
- Certification Prep Series – Sunday Evenings!
- Alpine Movement Analysis Series w/ David O'Donnell - 2/7 & 3/10
- Disability Awareness w/ Nestor Voronka – 2/24

## Teaching Freestyle

Prior to attending the Park SMART clinic, ensure you know the expectations and watch the Safety Videos here:

<https://spss.snowportal.com/parksmart/>

- Safety Videos
- Park SMART Clinic Information and Worksheets
- Ski and Snowboard Trick Tutorial Videos



## KEY DATES:

- February 4<sup>th</sup>- [Last day to submit your Survey!](#)
- February 13<sup>th</sup>- Super bowl
- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Day



## PSIA/AASI Member School Clinic

I am excited to announce we will be hosting a PSIA/AASI Member School Clinic on Friday 3/18/22 lead by Katie Feucht.

To sign up email, [Tpeterson1@vailresorts.com](mailto:Tpeterson1@vailresorts.com). This clinic is open to Skiers and Snowboarders, you must be a member of PSIA or AASI. Cost is \$40 cash or check the day of the event made out to PSIA-NW.



## Private Corner:

Did you know when you instruct a private lesson, the Private Lesson Office provides you stickers, Rescue Dog cards, as well as a warming and hydration area in the Trailside Room. Come check it out and use these resources for your private lesson students.

*\*\*\*Also, check out two of our PL Instructors in this weeks "tip tricks" section of the LineUpVideo!\*\*\**

## RAISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS - Increase Student Skill Exponentially.

Alpine instructor Jerry Leitch was assigned our most high-level class on Friday nights that year. Following a grouping philosophy that favored sorting group by ability rather than age, Jerry's class included a handful of 13, 14, and 15-year-olds...and a 6-year-old. When he saw his class card he was certain the group couldn't work. Jerry came to talk to me about his assignment right away, very concerned. "A 6-year-old can't function in lessons with these older kids. Even if they can skill well enough (which I doubt,) even if they can keep up and not make everyone else stand around waiting, they will never be able to comprehend the content of my lessons at the level I can speak with the other students."

Jerry was correct according to the C.A.P. model, but I asked him to just give the class a try for one night and report back. After class Jerry came in and explained he was right. Jerry shared the "little" was as skilled if not more skilled than the other students, and was able to keep up without making the group wait. "But, the 6-year-old could not keep pace with the technical information and conversation."

I asked Jerry how he knew that. In his class that night Jerry had taught a lesson on flexion and extension movements, and as was his style (engineer) he used adult, technical language with the class. That was his "proof" the young student couldn't keep up. I grabbed a copy of Ski Magazine and Jerry and we headed-out to meet the kiddo. I showed Jerry's young student a photo of a skier. I asked "Which leg is extended?" The young student pointed to the correct leg. "Which leg is flexed?" Again the student pointed to the correct leg. I next asked the youngster "What is flexion and extension?" The student bounced up and down to show me. While Jerry stood with his mouth open I went in for the final question. "Why do we worry about flexion and extension when we ski?" Hi answer..."Jerry said it helps pressure."

Jerry laughed, grabbed the kiddo in a shoulder hug, and said "Welcome to the class Carson."

As you read this story I imagine thoughts are going through your head. "The kid wasn't the average kid." "That kid must have had some magic DNA," "Jerry must have been a great instructor."

Here's the thought I would like you to include in your reflections. The C.A.P model, our class levels, the PSIA-AASI ability levels are based ON AN AVERAGE. The thing about averages is, they don't ALWAYS APPLY...some will fall below, some will come-in above, and some will sit in the middle or average position. If we TEACH to the expected average, we are missing lots of folks. We are doing a disservice to everyone just higher than the point of mathematical average. All those folks...kids and adults, could be expected to achieve more than the average expectation.

Please don't decide what your students are capable of. Don't blindly follow the C.A.P Model or any other resource (include this article.) Believe that each student may be the above average student, the one who can develop skill above the average. Teach to excellence and give everyone a chance to achieve it. Then adjust as necessary to individualize the lesson. If we don't teach to excellence, we may leave "skill" on the table. We can always adjust "down." It's nearly impossible to move the other direction once we have set the bar too low students think that is all that is possible.

Truth is, humans can always do a bit more than they think is possible. Don't let your limited beliefs be the hurdle to your student's excellence. Raise your expectations and increase your student's skill exponentially.

With Respect. Tami



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