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ECRWSS
To: Postal Patron

Special Needs Skating Competition

By Carla Deak, Ice Arena Program & Marketing Manager

The Ice Arena is proudly celebrating the 21st annual Special Needs Skating Competition on January 5, 2013. On this day, figure skaters, speed skaters, sled hockey and ice hockey players with special needs from all over the Chicagoland area and Wisconsin come together to take part in this very unique event. Thanks to the generous donations of local businesses and significant underwriting by the Park District of Franklin Park, we are able to provide this day of competition, complete with goody bags, trophies and a hot lunch for each athlete, at entirely no cost to them.

The day starts out with the figure skaters' talented routines. Then there's the very exciting and much anticipated matchup between the Hornets Sled Hockey Team and members of the Franklin Park Fire Department, who are also strapped into sleds for this game. We then move on to speed skating races and finally a hockey game between members of the Tomahawks hockey teams. Last year's event brought out a record 145 skaters!

What is most rewarding about the Special Needs Skating Competition is that all the skaters win. They win simply by trying, by showing good sportsmanship, and by having fun despite the challenges they face. It is a day filled with smiles and high fives whether they get 1st place or 5th place. It is truly a rewarding event that we are so happy to host and look forward to providing for many years to come.



Cheer on the participants Saturday, January 5 from 9:00 am-3:30 pm!

Our Website is Now Smart Phone Friendly!

Are you looking for new parks to visit? Check out our Parks page on our website, www.fpparks.org. Our website is completely smart phone friendly. This makes it easier for working parents on the go to look up calendar events, parks and facilities listings...all on their personal handheld devices!



Check us Out on Facebook!

Search for Park District of Franklin Park and stay up-to-date on upcoming events and programs.



Recreations

A quarterly review of the people, programs, and events of the Park District of Franklin Park.

Winter/Spring 2013

After-School Program Gets Healthy

By Dan LoCascio, Facility & Program Manager

The Park District's After-School Program is moving in a healthier direction. Beginning this year, participants were given healthier snack options, such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Thanks to the help of Mary D'Anza, Community Health Dietician at Westlake Hospital, the After-School Program is doing more with educating our students. Mary D'Anza and Program Manager Dan LoCascio met as part of the Let's Move Community initiative.

For four weeks, Mary came to the After-School Program and furthered the healthier choices the participants make. The first week Mary came in, she brought vegetables for the participants to try.



Drelyn: "I really liked learning about healthy foods and trying them."

Jaidee: "I enjoyed all the vegetables she gave us."



Some children were blindfolded and guessed what vegetables they tasted. They also played healthy games that challenged their knowledge of healthy lifestyles. Week two, Mary brought yogurt and frozen fruits to make smoothies to see which flavors kids preferred. During the third week, Mary taught the children about hygiene and showed them strategies to keep their hands clean. She brought in an ultraviolet light and showed the participants where most germs hide, under their nails. At the fourth meeting, Mary brought in frozen yogurt shakes and fresh fruit for the participants. Nina-Marie shared, "I really liked making the smoothies and trying them."

We look forward to working with Mary and learning from her knowledge to provide a healthier After-School Program. If you are interested in signing up for the After-School Program, call 847-455-2852 for more information.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN 2012?



See what we can offer you in 2013!

Visit us at ffparks.org

If you are an active participant in Park District events and programs, we kept you busy! It was a year full of

entertainment, exercise, play and inspiration. If you missed it, please join us in 2013!

January

- Men's Basketball League began with 10 teams. Balkan United won the regular season while the Knights defeated them in the tournament championship.
- Chicago Rebels held a dance workshop at Centre at North Park.
- The annual Kickline Synchronized Skating Competition took place with a record 30 teams participating.
- Full-time staff attended the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Conference in Chicago.
- The monthly Big Band Dance at Centre at North Park attracted 58 dancers.

February

- Dan LoCascio spoke to three classes at East Leyden High School's "Ask the Expert Day" about the life of a Recreation Manager.
- A full-time safety meeting was completed for Code Adam, statement of admissions, behavior management, and drug testing.
- Fusion Club skaters participated in the ISI Winter Classic Competition at Northbrook Sports Center and placed seventh out of 54 rinks represented.
- Ellis and Associates awarded the Park District Pool on Pacific staff a Platinum International Aquatic Safety Award for the 2011 season. This is the highest the staff can receive, and this was the fourth year in a row they received it.



- A total of 291 dads and daughters danced all evening at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance at North Park. Due to the popularity of this annual event, an additional night was offered.

March

- The Ice Arena hosted the first annual Shamrock Showdown 3-on-3 hockey tournament. The tournament was for girls, women, mites and squirts. A total of 16 teams participated.
- The Mother Son Bowling Event at Brunswick Zone attracted 73 participants.



April

- The second full-time safety meeting was held to discuss blood-borne pathogens and communicable disease, hazard communication, lifting/material handling, employment practices and policy review, and weather-related emergencies.
- The Ice Arena hosted the Spring Fever ISI Skating Competition with 174 skaters from the Chicagoland area.
- The Stars of Tomorrow youth acting class performed the *Wizard of Oz* at North Park. Over 200 friends and families attended.
- The tenth annual Flashlight Candy Hunt attracted over 100 participants who searched for Easter candy outside at North Park.
- The annual Easter Candy Hunt at North Park attracted over 200 children and families. Neighborhood Easter Candy Hunts were also offered at James, Chestnut and Willow parks.
- The Earth Day Celebration/Kite Fly attracted 200 children and families who learned how to make choices and take action to live a more sustainable life. District 84 schools participated and featured educational interactive booths.



May

- A full-time safety meeting was held at the Community Center to discuss social media, lifting, facility safety, and emergency response.
- The Pool on Pacific opened for another season.
- The annual Spring Ice Show, *Skate Upon a Star*, took place May 18-20 with over 1,300 guests attending over the three-day period at the Ice Arena.
- The Park District hired two interns for the summer from Western Illinois and Illinois State University.
- Over 200 participants celebrated Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican national observance, at James Park.
- The annual Dance Recital, held at the East Leyden Auditorium, attracted 500 participants.



June

- There were 63 skaters in the Ice Arena's newly expanded eight-week Summer Skating Camp, which includes on and off ice training, games, crafts, a camper sleepover, in-house competition and a skating exhibition and a picnic on the last day.
- On June 16, the Ice Arena hosted their "Sliwinski Hope" benefit game as a fundraiser for Panther Hockey Coach Mike Sliwinski, who was injured in an accident. The night included a silent auction and raffle prizes.
- A record 206 campers attended Session II of Discovery Day Camp. Campers went to Rainbow Falls and were visited by all sorts of animals in the Traveling Zoo.
- The first Family Camp Out, held at North Park, attracted 54 families. Children and families enjoyed a BBQ, night time sports, campfire storytelling and sleeping in tents in beautiful North Park.
- The seventh annual Kids Garage Sale was relocated and held in the parking lot at the Community Center.
- Concert Series audiences continued to grow at the eighth annual Summer Concert Series. Seven bands featuring old time swing, British Rock, Rock a Billy, Motown, Pop, Latin American and Polish music, and Polish Folkloric Dancers performed on Thursday evenings at the North Park Gazebo. Local restaurants sold a variety of food at each concert.
- Sunshine Camp for ages 3-5 was held at the Sunflower Nature Center from June through August. Campers helped plant vegetables and herbs in the six raised garden beds and 10 container gardens at North Park.
- The Tot Camp for ages 18-35 months was held at the Community Center from June through August.



July

- Discovery Day Campers visited the Kohl Children's Museum and Xtreme Trampolines.
- Movie in the Park showed *Casablanca* at North Park.
- The Pool on Pacific held its first home swim meet against Norridge. Over 250 spectators attended.
- The Movie Night at James Park featured *The Adventures of Tin-Tin* and attracted 150 families.
- Fun on Wheels made it possible for over 300 children to play outdoors with friends, families and Park District recreation staff at James, Chestnut, North and Championship parks. Park District staff brought outdoor play items and orchestrated soccer games and relay races with the children.
- Street Dance and Car Show was held and attracted over 800 participants.



August

- The Ice Arena began their month long shut down to do annual maintenance.
- Shotguns captured the Monday/Wednesday 16-inch softball tournament, and Stiffs won the Tuesday/Thursday tournament.
- A new treadmill and recumbent bike were installed in the Fitness Center.
- Pool on Pacific junior lifeguards participated in the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Lifeguard Games in Chicago at Portage Park.
- Full-time safety training was conducted at North Park. Staff reviewed diver safety, hazard communication, and blood-borne pathogens and communicable disease.

September

- After-School Program began the school year with 19 participants.
- Active Kids, a drop in after-school athletic program for grades 3-5 at Pietrini, Passow and North Schools, started again for the new school year.
- After a dry and hot summer, the Pool on Pacific closed after another successful season.
- The Ice Arena welcomed back Skating School participants, Panther Paws, Panther Hockey, Starr Blades and Speed Skating for another exciting season.
- Panther Hockey Program filled 14 teams, including two all-girls teams.
- The fifth annual 5K Foundation Fun Run was held. With a new route separate from parade day, it was the highest attendance to date, with over 125 participants in both the 5K and the Kids Mini Mile.
- Preschool/Playschool started up with its largest enrollment yet.
- Tot School started its second year at the Community Center.
- Over 100 students enrolled in Hip Hop, Ballet, Creative Movement, Tap, Poms and Cheerleading classes.
- Kindergarten Enrichment began for its second year at the Sunflower Nature Center with 14 students.



October

- The eighth annual Scary Skate took place with 105 in attendance.
- Teen Night Halloween Party welcomed 77 teens at the Community Center.
- A new HVAC system for the basement and gym was installed at the Community Center.
- The Park District of Franklin Park & Village of Franklin Park presented the 35th annual Eddie Biondo Fall Fest Parade, which featured 60 units.
- Over 500 children and families took home pumpkins, enjoyed games, pedi-cab rides, food and music at the annual Pumpkin Fest at North Park.
- Fusion Figure Skating Club kicked off another season by taking part in the Fall Fest Parade.
- Over 200 families attended the annual Halloween Hoot at North Park.



November

- The Ice Arena hosted the first Pink With Purpose Girls Hockey Tournament that took place over Thanksgiving weekend with eight teams. Several fundraising efforts were tied in to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.
- Regular season play for the NFHL Sr. Division began with four teams; enrollment reached its highest number in four years.
- Shooters captured both the regular and tournament championships in the M/W 16-inch softball Fall League.
- The annual Holiday Big Band Dinner took place at North Park; 40 participants enjoyed live big band music.
- The Ice Arena hosted its first Cosmic Skate with over 200 in attendance.
- The final safety meeting of the year was held for full-time staff at the Community Center. Staff reviewed winter safety, fire extinguisher use, distracted driving, harassment, health and wellness, and stretching.
- The Park District provided ornament crafts to over 300 children at the annual Christmas in Hammill Square event.



December

- The Ice Arena held their annual Holiday Recital, *A Whoville Holiday*. Attendees to the Saturday show got to skate with Santa and Franklin the Penguin, for free, after the performance.
- Members of the Chicago Steel Professional Hockey Team faced off against the NFHL Sr. Division All-Stars in a friendly exhibition.
- Discovery Day Camp received the Outstanding Program award through the Illinois Park and Recreation Association.
- Due to popularity, three Polar Express events were offered. Over 400 children and their families enjoyed a train ride to the "North Pole" to meet Santa.
- Stars of Tomorrow Acting Class held their final show, an adapted performance of *Christmas Carol* at District 84's North School for over 200 spectators.

