



CHILLY CHRONICLES

Fall 2010/Winter 2011

Welcome to Volume 2 of the WSSRA newsletter. Happy reading!

September 19th-1st Annual Sports Banquet:

The sports banquet went off without a hitch! Everyone enjoyed celebrating the achievements of our WSSRA athletes while eating, drinking and being merry. Georgia Hunter and Frank Patterson received special recognition for participating in the Special Olympic National Games for swimming. David Farrar and Kara Misso received awards for "Athletes of the Year." Rah! Rah! Sis-Boom-Bah!

October 2nd-Makin' Tracks 5K:

Runners running everywhere! This year WSSRA added another element to the runners and walkers of the Makin' Tracks 5K hosted by Community Bank of Oak Park and River Forest with...wheels! We had wheelchair athletes start the race this year with James Lilly (an avid wheelchair racer and spokesperson for wheelchair athletes) leading the pack. It was a great race even though the weather was extra chilly for our 3rd year at this event. We hope to get more wheelchair racers next year!

November 21st-WSSRF Bowl-a-thon:

The annual WSSRF (West Suburban Special Recreation Foundation) bowl-a-thon was hosted at Circle Lanes bowling alley. Families enjoyed an afternoon of bowling, prizes and hot dogs! Nancy Knudson (long time participant of WSSRA) raised the most money bringing in \$655.00... go Nance! The WSSRF bowl-a-thon raised a total of \$1,943.00. Thank you to all of the families who came out to fundraise.

December 4th-Polar Express:

Choo! Choo! WSSRA participants and their families rode the Metra train from Berwyn to Aurora to meet Jolly Ol' St. Nicholas. Santa got on the train and let out a big "ho, ho, ho!" and gave out presents to each participant on the train. The participants were ecstatic! Every year on the train, the elves (AKA: Recreation Specialists) read the book "Polar Express" in honor of the train ride.

follow WSSRA on:





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December 19th-Staff Bowl-a-Thon:

WSSRA staff are amazing! Staff brought out their family and friends to support WSSRA at the *Eddie Schultz Memorial Fundraiser*, we raised \$2,300 dollars from this first ever staff fundraising event. There were 24 teams of 4 participating in a bowling tournament at Circle Lanes. WSSRA supplied the food and prizes and the teams provided the spirit and talent. Shout out to “June’s Bugs” for spirit versus talent! Who will be wearing team shirts next year???

December–Holiday Hullabaloo: We started the Holiday Hullabaloo off with a “Pump It Up” party to see “Mrs. Claus” then went on a “Magical Mystery Tour” to see the animals at the zoo for “Animalpalooza” and ended with a splash at Water Works while leaving the 2010 Holiday Hullabaloo’s in the dust at Equestrian Connection for horseback riding. Thanks to all of the staff who worked these special events!

January 14-16th-Winter Escape: Yee Haw! The Winter Escape trip went to Oregon, IL and “roughed” it at White Pines Ranch- a dude ranch. White Pines Ranch had a lot of activities for WSSRA and NISRA (this is a cooperative trip with another SRA): horseback riding, cross country skiing, orienteering, hayrides, BINGO, country line dancing and so much more. It was a great trip at a great camp, dude ranch style!

January 18th & 19th & 24th-All Staff

Orientation: Calling all staff! WSSRA did orientation a little different for the winter season of programs. We offered a group orientation on land at the Park District of Oak Park’s Teen Center with a focus on our new “Shiftboard” program to assist staff with their program schedules online, as well as, adaptations and behavior management. Then we offered an all staff swim orientation in the water to help staff learn new techniques and polish their skills for WSSRA swim programs. Staff can look forward to another all staff orientation for spring programs starting in April!

February 5th- Golf PAR TEE: FORRRRE! Driving range, swing evaluation, longest drive competition, virtual golf, drinks and tips from a pro are just a few of the things that West Suburban’s Golf PAR TEE had to offer at our annual event to raise money for our programs. WSSRA gave away some great prizes and raised approximately \$1800 dollars at this par-tee.

February 6th-Winter Fest: Crafts, games, and winter fun are all a part of this winter family fest! Families bring their own supplies for the Snowman Building Contest to win 1st, 2nd or 3rd place judged by WSSRA staff. This year there was a scavenger hunt added to the Family Winter Fest where families had to navigate the Park District of Forest Park to find the snowmen hidden around the park. All of the snow from the “snowpocalypse” made it a lot of work to get around the park, but the families trekked on and found the snowmen by solving the scavenger hunt clues!

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STAFF

Meet Nick Barnes! Nick started working at WSSRA in the spring of 2009 as a Recreation Leader and an Inclusion Aide (Inclusion has his heart). In the spring of 2010 Nick moved on to become a Part Time Supervisor and finally an intern alongside Matt Barber, Human Resource Manager in the fall of 2010 at WSSRA. Nick is currently a graduate student at Northeastern Illinois working on his masters degree in Human Resources Development (hence the internship). He received his B.A. in Psychology from DePaul University. Here are some other interesting facts about Nick:

- Nick received the “Proud Penguin” award in the fall of 2010 for being an excellent supervisor and always striving to make our programs better!
- Favorite Activity: Bowling (he has his own shoes and bowling ball)
- Favorite Music: Rock
- Sox or Cubs?: Sox
- Nick works for WSSRA AND works for Trio’s Pizza in Chicago.
- 2 Truths/1 Lie:
 1. Nick was an extra in the Dark Knight.
 2. Nick is an avid Ginger Ale fan- Schweppes is his favorite.
 3. Nick is allergic to peanuts.



PROGRAM

Jr Bulls- This year WSSRA introduced a brand new program to our repertoire... the Jr. Bulls! Jr. Bulls is a cooperative wheelchair basketball team with WSSRA and NEDSRA. Jr. Bulls offers home and traveling tournaments and they practice every Saturday morning at NEDSRA (Addison, IL) from 12-2pm starting in September and ending in March. The Jr. Bulls worked really hard this season and competed in several tournaments throughout the Midwest. Coach April Ryan (WSSRA) dedicated a lot of time and energy into this team and hopes to gain more players in the future! Many thanks to April for all of her efforts. Jr. Bulls offers two teams, Jr. Bulls Preparatory for beginners and Jr. Bulls JV team for the seasoned player. Call April Ryan at our office for more information!

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**“GO BULLS GO, HUH!
CONGRATULATIONS TO TYANA BAERENTZEN
MELISSA SCHAEFER, AND JESUS SEPULVEDA FOR A
GREAT 2010-2011 SEASON!
GO BULLS GO, HUH!”**