

November 19, 2007

LaSalle Spirit Newsletter

Our 2007-2008 season is into full swing now, so it is time to update everyone with what is happening. Our athletes are currently training and having fun playing basketball on our Monday nights.

Our thanks to those athletes who helped out at the Staples "Share a Dollar, Share a Dream" fundraiser for Special Olympics. As a result, our club will receive \$250.

During the November 3rd weekend, Sloane Crease, Tracy Cormier, Marie Mailloux, and Matt Cormier, from our Community Council Executive, attended the Special Olympics Ontario Fall Conference in North York. Jim Wright also attended, but as a Law Enforcement Torch Run coordinator. The cost to our group was minimal in comparison to the information that was learned at the various workshops attended. This information was shared at our Community Council meeting on November 14th.

As a result of information obtained at the conference, our council is looking into the possibility of started the following additional sports: bocce, floor hockey (actually ringette), and power lifting. An alternate location and night is being explored since we are max'ed out for space at our current location. We may experiment with bocce for part of Monday evenings at one end of the gym to see what interest there is.

We received great news at the conference. Our Competitive D division team that attended the qualifier in London earlier this year has obtained one of the seeds into the Provincial Spring Games in Durham Region, which runs from **May 29-31, 2008**. Unfortunately we found out the other night that only those athletes who participated in the qualifier will eligible to attend the games. There are criteria for those athletes to attend, and Coach Jim will be discussing those with the athletes and their parents in the coming weeks.

Our Club is exploring competitive and non-competitive basketball tournaments in Guelph, Tillsonburg, Stratford, and St. Thomas in 2008. We will attempt to ensure that **all** athletes get an opportunity to compete in at least one tournament if they so desire. Our first competitive tournament will be **Sunday, January 27th, 2008**, in Guelph.

Janet Morton is our group's chairperson for the LaSalle Santa Claus Parade on **Sunday, December 2nd, 2007, at 5:00pm**. We have been asked by organizers of the parade to have some of our athletes dressed as Santa's elves, and being on and around Santa's float. These athletes may be collecting can goods from

parade onlookers for the LaSalle Food Bank. Janet's committee will be decorating our own float, and of course we will have our team banner. All athletes and parents are encouraged to participate.

We will be having our LaSalle sports Club Christmas part at Boppers on Monday, **December 10th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**. Pizza and pop will be served to the athletes for dinner, followed by tokens to plays the amusement games. Any parents or support personnel wanting to attend will be charged \$10.00 each to cover their cost for the food and pop. **Please advise Jim Wright by December 3rd as to who is attending**, to assist him in making the final arrangements.

On Thursday, December 13th, 2007, we will be having LaSalle Spirit night at the Windsor Spitfire hockey game. We have scored 20 free tickets from the Windsor Family Credit Union for the athletes to attend the game. We have purchased 15 extra tickets, for other athletes. Any parents, coaches, or family members may purchase the remaining tickets at \$16 each (which is the amount we paid) for those that want to sit with the athletes.

NOTE: Our Club Secretary, **Tracy Cormier**, has been tasked with updating our athlete profiles and emergency contact information. She has made calls and left messages to everyone, but many have not returned her calls. Please do so!

On a sad note to our athletes, a couple of our important coaches have finally grown up and are moving on to new adventures. Both Alison Baker and Glen Baker have been with the LaSalle Spirit since 2003. Alison has moved to Toronto to be close to her fiancé', and has found new employment there. We are going to miss her huge smile and her dedication to the athletes. Glen told me at last practice that he is taking a couple specialized courses, and will be off to work in Whistler, British Columbia. He has always been one of the athletes' favourite coaches, with his youthful energy to ensure the athlete's have FUN! We wish the both of them all the best in their future endeavours!

Lastly, our club will need to have a fund-raiser in early 2008 to build up our coffers again, so we can continue to provide the same level of opportunities for our athletes. Without fundraising, we will be forced to charge an annual registration fee, and athletes will have to pay their own expenses to tournaments and meets.

Jim Wright
Community Coordinator