

January 1, 2009

LaSalle Spirit Newsletter

Welcome LaSalle Spirit family to 2009! This will be a very busy year for our athletes, coaches, and volunteers, but it should also be extremely rewarding. We will be preparing for the Summer Provincial Games in Windsor, taking coaching and first aid/CPR courses, hosting our first basketball tournament, as well as travelling to basketball and softball tournaments, and track and field meets.

As most of you have learned by now, I have tried to cut back on the amount of emails I was sending out, encouraging athletes, parents, coaches, and volunteers to explore our website at www.lasallespecialolympics.com to find the information. Judging by the number of hits on the website, and the low number of emails I get from people requesting information regarding upcoming events, it seems to be working. The website is only as good as the info on it, so if you have some club pictures to add, or a story to write, let me know.

The events calendar on the website normally has the most up-to-date information on upcoming events. If you click on a particular event, it will often provide you with further details on that event.

We are extremely proud of all of our athletes' accomplishments, but special attention is now being given to those of you who have been selected to participate in the 2009 Summer Provincial Games from **July 23-26th**. For the first time ever, LaSalle's "D" Division softball team will compete for Region 1 at the provincial level, under Head Coach Marie Mailloux. Athletes named to the team are as follows (in alphabetical order): Myles Buress, Kyle Girardin, Jeremy Hart, Dan Morton, Charles Johnston, John Kukucka, Donald Malette, Jordon Miner, Paul Miner, Matthew Tolmie-Brown, and Jenny Vollans. In addition, several individual athletes were selected to represent Region 1 by competing in track and field events. Athletes named to the team are as follows (in alphabetical order): Matthew Cormier, Cody Crease, Jasmyn Kersey, Matthew Leung, Daniel Martynse, Stephanie Meloche, Jenny Pringle, Allan Stevenson, and Ruthann Stevenson. **This means about 40% of our athletes will be competing at the Games. Yahoo!!!!**

Note: Those of you, who are interested in volunteering at the Games, need to submit their applications as soon as possible, as duties and responsibilities are being assigned starting in January. We need about 800 volunteers to provide help before and during the games, as well as to help with upcoming Games fundraisers. Since LaSalle is one of the host Region 1 clubs, I am hoping to see a huge amount of participation from our volunteer base.

Upcoming fundraising events include:

Tuesday, January 13 Pasta dinner at Caboto Club with Windsor Spitfires signed memorabilia
Adults: \$15 Children: \$10 (12 yrs and under) - Cash Bar

Thursday, February 19th Gala Night at Caesars Windsor with comedian Dale Jones

Check out the Games website at www.specialolympicswindsor2009.com for ticket information and details.

Are you a volunteer that wants to take a coaching course, or first aid/CPR training?

We have a **Competition Coach Course** scheduled for the weekend of **January 10-11th**. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, January 7th. Call Jim Wright for further information.

We are hosting a **first aid/CPR training course** on the weekend of **January 24-25th**, at the University of Windsor. For those who have not taken the course previously, the course is 1 ½ days at a cost of \$50 per person. For those simply needing recertification, the cost is \$35 per person, and this will take place on the Sunday from 1pm to 5pm. This is open to **everyone**, not just coaches, but the deadline for registration is **Monday, January 12th**. We hope to have a good turnout! Call Jim Wright for further information.

Basketball season is even more exciting this year with two, and possibly three competitive teams that will be able to go to tournaments. We previously had one “D” division team, but this year we may have two. We also have a “C” team for the more advanced athletes. Not to be forgotten are the recreational athletes, who will have a chance to compete at our first LaSalle Spirit Basketball Tournament, tentatively scheduled **for Saturday, March 28th** at **Sandwich Secondary School**. **Note:** Volunteers are being sought to help out with this tournament. Watch our website for further information on upcoming tournaments.

We will be capping off our basketball season on **Monday, March 30th**, with a fun-filled night of competition between the athletes and the parents/coaches/volunteers. Events will include mini basketball games, free throw competitions, and obstacle courses. I know the athletes will be ready, but will you be??!!

Last, but certainly not least, is our community council meeting on **Wednesday, January 14th**, 7-9pm, in the Windsor Family Credit Union Community Room, Zehrs Plaza, Malden Road, in LaSalle. All are encouraged to attend, as we plan for some of the above upcoming events.

So mark your calendars, and I hope to see all of you soon.

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