



Sports . Ministry . Fun!

Spring 2014

Volume 29

Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks!

It's hard to believe it is already time for the Spring Newsletter and just a few short months until summer. In some ways it seemed like the winter would never die. But another school year has flown by. This school year we celebrated our 10th year of ministry! Thanks be to God! And thank you to everyone who has made the past 10 years possible through your prayer and support.

We have had a challenge all school year based on the scripture from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. At the start of each Pray & Play we would shout out the things that brought us joy throughout the day or week. (Cookies, sunshine, tacos, days with no school etc.) In the middle of Pray & Play we always stop for prayer for our friends, family and school. Finally we would close things out with shouting out the things we were thankful for.

**“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thes. 5:16-18 NIV**

It has been awesome to see the different things that the students have come up with all school year. In the beginning much of our prayer, joy, and thanks revolved around our sports teams and classes. Lately it has been more about big decisions, and “just help me to get through and make it to the next grade.” The amazing thing is that we never had a week where we couldn't complete one the following. There was always something we could think of that brought us joy. We always had a need for something to be prayed for, and we could with a little thought come up with something to be thankful for, even in the midst of a long bitter winter. So as summer approaches, what brings you joy, what or who can you pray for, and what are you thankful for? Rejoice! Pray! Give Thanks!

Fun While Raising Funds!

A few years ago Jennette Plummer approached us about coming up with some ideas to help us increase our fundraising efforts. Out of this we came up with the Rubber Duck Derby, the Someone Special Dance, and later the Dinner Auction. All 3 events have continued to be a blessing while continuing to grow. This year was no exception. The awesome thing is that these funds will ensure that more kids are given a picture of who God created them to be (“Their Skybacher”)!

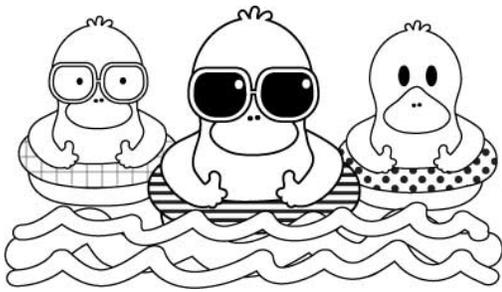
The Someone Special Dance - Our resident M.C. and D.J Chuck Speicher brought the tunes as students limbed, danced, and held out hopes of winning one of the prized gift baskets.

The 10 Reasons Dinner Auction - The Auction was our best one ever. This year we had a magician that entertained folks throughout dinner. The bidding was furious and the night was a complete blast for all who attended.

The Rubber Duck Derby - This July 26th at Green Valley Park. Tickets for the event can be purchased online or at any Skybacher Event! The ultimate winner will receive \$300



Get in the Race! \$5 bucks a Duck!



July 26th the **4TH ANNUAL RUBBER DUCK DERBY!**

Ducks can be purchased at a Skybacher Event or Online!

A School Year In Review!

- **October** - Dodgeball Pumpkin Blast won by Two Trains, and our fall Pray & Play trip to Yeck Farms
- **November** - was a busy month. We celebrated our 10th Birthday, held our annual Flag Football Cereal Bowl in which we collected cereal for the food pantry. We closed out the month with the 10th ever Turkey & Good Stuff Volleyball tournament.
- **December** - We moved up our Hangtime Basketball program and had great results as students learned "Awesome Actions" each week and the basketball skills continued to improve. The cold brought forth the Broomball Blizzard as many teams took to the ice, and fell on the ice. No major injuries, just bruised egos! We collected 20 pairs of gloves and hats for needy children in the area.
- **January** - Winter rolled on and so did the dodgeball at the Arctic Blast. The tourney was won by the Dodgers
- **February** - we took a break from the tournaments but not from the events. We held the Someone Special Dance and had a great turnout for the Great Big Group Date! This year we returned to Wildwood Highlands for Snow Tubing.
- **March** - we brought the Madness with the 3-on-3 Slam basketball tourney. We were able to have 3 different age groups this year at the tournament.
- **April** - we just closed out the school year with the fan favorite Dodgeball Smackdown. Our elementary event was one of the biggest we've ever had.
- **Lives changed, prayers to recieve Christ, growth in individuals - Good Sports, Good Times, Good News! Now onto the Skybacher Sports Camps! Thank you Lord for another great school year!**

SKYBACHER SPORTS CAMPS



- June 9 - 13 - Basketball - Freedom Middle School
- June 16 - 20 - Soccer - Green Valley Park
- June 23 - 27 - Flag Football - Green Valley Park
- July 7 - 11 - Basketball - Unionville UMC
- July 14 - 18 - Soccer - Green Valley Park



All Camps Cost only \$35 per session!

Open to K- 6th grade 9am - noon each day!

Register today!

- **Send a kid to camp with a \$35 donation**
- **or bless the summer staff with a \$75 donation**

All checks made payable to Skybacher Ministries Inc.

Also can donate online via PayPal at our website



772 Route 989 . Freedom, PA 15042



724-775-8505 or 724-622-7511



www.facebook.com/skybacherministries



[@SkybachrMin](http://www.twitter.com/SkybachrMin)



www.skybacherministries.org

Celebrating 10 years of Ministry!

This school year we celebrated our 10th year of ministry! It is truly hard to believe that it was over 10 years ago that we were gathering baked goods from friends and family so we could start up a little sports ministry organization. A bake sale provided funds for volleyballs, and a vision became reality. Being a sports guy, I love stats, so I decided to look up some of the stats from the past 10 years. I will call them God's stats because he is the one who makes all things possible. It is crazy to step back and have perspective of all the God has done through Skybacher Ministries Inc. over the past 10 years.

- **In 10 years Skybacher Ministries has hosted over 80 sports tournaments!**
Each tournament has promoted "Good Sports", provided "Good Times", and proclaimed the "Good News"!
- **Of those 80+ tournaments 38 of them have been dodgeball!**
God has used an outlawed game at most schools to open up people to "The Gospel". It will someday lead to a book I write titled "Where Dodgeball and the Gospel Collide"
- **Skybacher Ministries Directors have raised support for all of those 10 years!**
It has been a scary, faith building, journey of trusting in God's providence! He has never failed us!
- **Skybacher Ministries has hosted 32 Summer Sports Camps over the past 6 years.**
Each camp providing daily virtues, fundamentals, faith, and fun!
- **Skybacher Ministries has provided 30 weeks a year of Pray & Play sports & prayer outreach!**
Each week throughout the school year students have a place to blow off steam and receive prayer for their, friends, family, and school.
- **Thousands of young people given a picture of who God has created them to be.**
All programs have maintained the mission of fighting against a world that is trying to ruin the image of our young people! The battle continues!

These are just a few of the things that we can measure and record. What truly blows us away and gets us choked up, is thinking about the things we can't measure or record! The hours and hours of volunteers, the amount of prayers lifted, the kids we've watched grow up, the support that has been provided. The times where there seemed like no way and God prompted someone to make a way. The blocks laid in God's Kingdom, the lives restored, the hearts changed!

It has been a challenging, character building 10 years, but oh so rewarding. We feel so privileged to be a part of God's work. And God willing we will continue for another 10 years! But the truth is that we need others to help join the battle for young people hearts and minds! The world wants nothing more than to ruin the picture that God has for them. We can't let that happen! I love little catch phrase so here are the 3 ways you can help! (they may sound familiar).

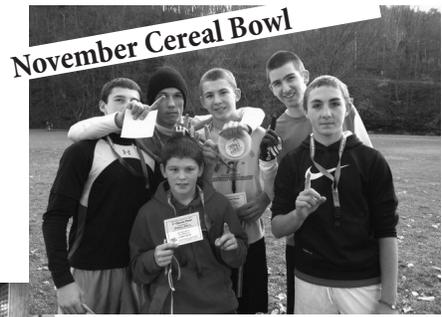
- * **Pray** – We need people praying up the programs, praying for the youth, praying for our volunteers! Pray without ceasing!
- * **Play** – We need people to come and teach young people how to PLAY! Volunteer at Pray & Play, help ref a tournament, get involved in our Fund Raiser events! It may make you feel young again!
- * **Pay** – (aka make a donation) pay for a kid to go to camp, pay for further programming, pay for us to hire new staff, pay for equipment.

Please considering joining us and doing one of these today! If you would like to enquire about volunteering for an event please email us at skybacher_7@yahoo.com or call/txt to 724-312-7247

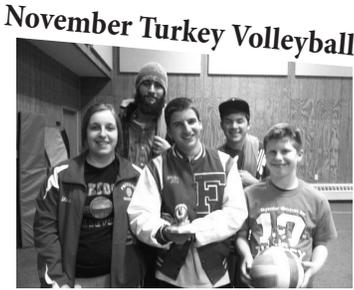
If you would like to make a yearend donation or considering supporting monthly, all checks are tax-deductable and can mailed to 772 Route 989 Freedom, PA 15042.



October Pumpkin Blast Dodgeball



November Cereal Bowl



November Turkey Volleyball



10 Year Birthday!!!!



Dec. Broomball Blizzard



HangTime Basketball



Jan. Arctic Blast Dodgeball



Feb. Someone Special Dance



Great Big Group Date



Mar. 3-On-3 Slam



Hopewell Pray & Play



Freedom Pray & Play



Apr. Dodgeball Smackdown

