



ZORRA SKATING CLUB NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Here we are in November; we are already half way through our first session. Everyone looked great on the ice in their costumes at the Halloween party. A special thank you to the Slager family for donating some of the Halloween treats we gave to our skaters. October always seems so busy getting our programs up and running. All of our skaters are improving their skills and showing improvements in their ability. Some have started to earn badges for their practice and hard work on the ice. Most of our CanSkate A's are up and moving, which is pretty amazing since some of our youngest skaters haven't been walking all that long! Our coaches and program assistants are doing a fantastic job on the ice. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please speak to any of our coaches or any board member. Each child will be given a progress report closer to the end of session one letting you know how they are doing.

Our first fundraising campaign was a huge success. It was our largest Elmira chicken order to date. Thanks to all of those who participated. Fundraising is an important component of our success as a club. The club had a table at the Embro Craft Sale again this year. Our table is always filled with delicious pies baked by our club members. Coming up this month we will have Woodstock Sportswear Co. come set up a table in the lobby. If you have a skater on your Christmas list this will be an opportunity to get some spirit wear. There will be items available at all price points.

Our StarSkaters are looking forward to the "Katelynn Innes Memorial Fun Competition" on November 21st starting at 5:30pm. This year's theme is "Rock the Rink". This is a team event where all skaters perform and compete at their own level. It is always a fun evening and everyone does their best to win the coveted "Golden Skate". Please check the bulletin board for more information and the sign-up sheet for the meal, if you would like to purchase supper that evening. We welcome all family and friends to come out and cheer on their skater.

Looking ahead to December, we will be having our 2nd Session registration in the arena lobby December 9th from 5:30 to 6:20pm. If you have

only signed up for the first 11 weeks, be sure to get signed up for Session 2 (January to March). If for any reason you can't make it that night, speak to Amber Matheson or Jaquelynn Hewitt and we'll get your child signed up.

As always please feel free to speak to any board member with questions or suggestions for the club or programming. We strive to make this the best experience we can. We all love the sport and are willing to promote it in any way we can. Please remember everyone on the board is a volunteer, we choose to spend our free time at the rink working with the skating club.

HAPPY SKATING!

Meet the ZSC Program Assistants



Each month we will be selecting a few of our Program Assistants to feature in the newsletter. Last week each of our selected Program Assistants were given a small questionnaire to answer in order to help us get to know them better. Hopefully you will learn something new about each of our PAs by the end of the season.

- 1) **Name: Age: (optional)**
- 2) **Where do you go to school or work (what grade are you in)?**
- 3) **How many years have you been a PA?**
- 4) **At what age did you start skating?**
- 5) **What was your first Carnival number?**
- 6) **What was your favourite Carnival or Carnival number?**
- 7) **What is one or two of your skating and/or PA highlights?**
- 8) **What do you like most about being a PA?**
- 9) **What do you like to do when away from the rink?**
- 10) **Something you'd like us to know about you.**

Katie O'Brien

Katie is 15 years of age. She is in Grade 10 at St. Mary's High School. She has been a PA for 4 years. Katie began her skating career at the age of 4. Her first carnival number was Winnie the Pooh. Her favourite carnival was the 34th Annual Carnival entitled "Road Trip 2010." Some memorable moments for Katie are forgetting her solos in competition and standing on top of the podium. As a PA, she loves watching a young skater achieve a goal. She loves working with children who want to skate. When away from the rink, Katie loves music, music and more music. She sings, plays guitar and flute. Katie would like us to know that she is a senior bronze starskater who is working on her gold skills and her senior silver dances.

Ella McRoberts

Ella is 10 years old. She is in grade 5 at Zorra Highland Park Public School. This is her first year of being a PA. She was 5 years old when she began skating. Her first carnival number was "Playing in the Park" and her favourite number was "Toy Box Treasures." Two highlights of her skating career are receiving the "Canskater of the Year" award and placing 2nd at sectionals. What she likes most about being a PA is helping and being with the little kids. When she is not at the rink, Ella likes to play baseball, swim, watch TV and play with her brother Grayden. Ella would like us to know that she is learning to play guitar and when she grows up she wants to be an orthodontist.

Makayla Richards

Makayla attends Huron Park Secondary School. She has been a PA for 3 years. She began skating at the age of 3. In her first carnival number she was a baby deer. Her favourite number was the Olympic PA routine. Two highlights from Makayla's skating career is attending the Stars on Ice performances and getting treats from Santa Claus. She enjoys working with the little ones and is obtaining volunteer hours for her high school diploma. When she is away from the rink, Makayla enjoys her artwork, watching TV, playing with the family cat and dog, and of course, sleeping.

David Pullen

David is 12 years old. He is in grade 7 at Hickson Central Public School. He has been a PA for 2 years. David has been skating since he was 4 years old. He was a purple people eater in his first carnival number. His favourite carnival was Magical Moments. David's skating highlights are participating in Spring Fling in Woodstock and winning a gold medal. His PA highlight is helping his little sister on the ice. David enjoys being a PA as he likes helping the kids learn to skate and have fun. When he is away from the rink he helps with chores on his family's dairy farm, plays on his DSI, plays the Wii and plays man hunt. David would like us to know that his favourite food is chile, has red hair and is learning to ice dance with his sister.

Darcie O'Neil

Darcie is 37 years old. She is an educational assistant in a primary developmental class at Harrisfield Public School. She started to PA at the age of 13 but took a break to attend college and has returned to PA (it's been a really long time). She began to skate at the age of 6 and she was a ladybug in her first carnival. Darcie's favourite carnival was CATS! She was very impressed by the hair and makeup though didn't enjoy having to take it off. Darcie always loves the first day of skating in CanSkate and when they become skaters. She enjoys when they can get around on their own feet and they are so proud of themselves. It is the best reason to PA. Darcie likes being able to help a child learn and have fun on the ice like she always did and still does. When she isn't at the rink, Darcie likes to read, watch TV and hang out with her dogs Moxie and Billy Bob.

Amberley Chalkley

Amberley is 17 years old. She is in grade 12 at Woodstock Collegiate Institute. She has been a PA for 7 years. She began skating at the age of 2. Her first carnival number was Barney and Baby Bops. Her favourite number was last year's senior Geeks number. One of her skating highlights was attending the Port Huron competition last year, and placing first with a suspected broken arm. Another highlight was last year when Amberley received the "Skater of the Year" award. She likes helping a child develop a new skill that they didn't think they could do. Because nothing beats the smile and excitement you see after they have accomplished something no matter how big or small. Amberley likes to spend her time hanging out with her friends, shopping, or doing homework when she is not at the rink. Something she would like us to know about her is how grateful she is to have had the opportunity to become Program Assistant. Through this experience she has gotten to know so many people and strengthen her leadership abilities. Some day in the future, she hopes to see some of the skaters who she has worked with become the skating clubs new Program Assistants.

2nd Annual Skate Exchange

Once again we will hold a skate swap. This year it will occur Monday, November 21st from 6-8pm in the arena lobby during the Fun Competition. Clean out your closets and skating bags! Bring your old skates, tights, dresses, costumes, etc. Contact Becky Wilhelm or any board member if you have any questions.



Spirit Wear

Back by popular demand, our ZSC Spirit Wear. The rep from WSC will be at the arena on Wednesday November 16th from 5:30-6:30 pm and on Monday November 21st from 6-7. She will take orders then and answer any questions you may have. The order will be ready by Christmas.

Coaches Corner

CanSkate A. The A team!

Hello everyone! We've now a month into the season and wanted to provide some information on the A program.

First of all, we are delighted at the progress of the skaters! The first few weeks are always chaotic, as we are assessing skaters to see where they will fit best. By now we should have assigned skaters to either the Purple grouping (Purple Penguins) or the Blue Team (Blue Belugas). The division in the two groups is simple. Purple Penguins can stay standing up and move, even slowly. They can stand up on their own, or in a few cases, using the assistance of a finger, for security but once they're up, they're ready to go again and follow direction. These skaters are working on PreCanskate movements, and the main focus is to have them moving constantly using a circuit based system.

The Blue Team are some of our most charming skaters and we are attempting to keep them in our "Magic Carpet" area so that they can be better supervised by our older PAs. The Magic Carpet provides a secure place to learn to stand up, and we are then encouraging them to step off the mat with assistance and show us balancing positions. We really want them to stay standing up, because then they could begin to move forward under their own speed. It is a difficult stage and one of the most frustrating for skaters to balance and then fall and have to do it again. From balancing, they'll next be expected to move a foot and then both and make marching steps on the spot. An encouragement at home to try would be to have them put on their skates and march on the spot, trying to make really loud marching steps and lift their knees. Please don't try this on your nice hardwood floors however!!

We do understand that it is difficult to get all of the skaters out on the ice quickly. As we have now coloured stickered each group, it will be easier for the PA's to identify the the two teams and bring them to the appropriate areas on the ice.

Because of the congestion at the door, both getting on and getting off, we ask parents to try to keep their other children out of that area at that time. Once they are on thie ice, it is best to then take a seat in the stands to watch their child. We are concerned that several children are intent on getting back off the ice during the session and our CanSkate coordinators Amber Matheson and Jacquelynn Hewitt will be in attendance at the door area to make sure that the door stays closed during the session for our skaters' safety. To help us further, please make sure your child has a bathroom visit before they step on the ice.

Every week we try different activities and teaching aids. Not all children respond to every activity but we rotate them around to provide variety and keep their interest. We are ably helped by Program Assistants and Shadow Program Assistants, and we would like to thank them for all of their dedication shown so far this season!

Happy Skating
Denise & Catherine

CanSkate Parent Rep. Message

Parents please be ready to take your skater(s) off the ice at the appropriate time (6:10 or 6:20) as we will not be allowing them through the double glass doors without their parent/guardian. We know it is busy down there in that area but this will ensure the safety of the skaters. Please be prompt as waiting 5 min or beyond for a parent to show up is not "timely" and frustrating for everyone.

Thank you.
Amber and Jacquelynn

Fundraising

Don't forget our next Elmira Poultry Order is due on November 30th. Expected arrival date is December 16th. We still have many New Orleans Pizza cards to sell. They will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Each card costs \$10 and is reusable until February 29, 2012 at any location. The card entitles you to receive one of the following with each order of 2 pizzas: a 3rd pizza of equal or less value, order of cheesy strips, order of garlic bread with cheese, 4 cans of pop, or a regular Caesar salad. See a board member to get yours today.

Another opportunity would be the Fundscrip which was distributed at registration. Fundscrip is a very simple way for everyone to work off their bond by doing their everyday shopping. Simply, you purchase gift cards online for which the club receives a percentage (usually 2-10%). The gift cards are then shipped to our club and they are handed out to the purchasers - then you go shopping. Once your bond is worked off, you will get 50% of your Fundscrip earnings off your registration next year! If you have any questions concerning this fundraising opportunity, please speak to any of our board members and they can explain it in more detail. Here is the link for Fundscrip with the invitation code already attached.

<http://www.fundscrip.com/LoginOrSignUp.aspx?IID=B8CG7T> Sign up today!

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone about our "I Love My Skater" Dinner, Dance and Auction. This is an annual event and this year it is being held on Saturday February 11, 2012. We will need everyone to help us gather donations for this very fun and exciting evening. This is a licensed event with a full meal and it is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please mark your calendars now and plan on attending. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Thanks,
Kathy Dodd
Fundraising Chairperson



Badges and Other Accolades

Missed in last month's newsletter were the following off season skaters: At the WSC Spring School, Karissa Richards—Preliminary Skills and at the WSC Summer School, Sarah Swanson--.Stage 5, Stop, Go Forward, Jump, Spin badges.

Congratulations to all our skaters on your achievements. May you continue to achieve success throughout the season.

Bond

There are many ways to work off your bond requirements. They include selling fundraising, working in the music room on Monday and Thursday nights, making pies for the craft show, or helping out with the auction. If you have any questions about your bond hours, please call Becky Wilhelm at 519-475-4308 (for Mon/Thurs) or Jacquelynn Hewitt (for Wed/Fri.) at 519-425-1856.

Music Players Needed

As an alternative to fundraising, bond hours can be completed by working in our music room. We require music players for our starskate sessions on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:00 and from 7:10-8:50. One and a half hours in the music room is equal to one bond hour. Operating our music system is not difficult – see a board member for instructions or even better, drop by the music room on a Monday or Thursday and learn from the music player. There is a music sign-up sheet on our bulletin board and a log sheet in the music room to be completed after playing music.



Upcoming Dates

Nov. 21, 2011 Fun Competition
Nov. 21, 2011 Spirit Wear Rep at the Arena
Nov. 21, 2011 2nd Annual Skate Exchange
Nov. 28, 2011 Promotional Tickets Due
Nov. 30, 2011 2nd Chicken Order Due
Dec. 9, 2011 2nd Session Registration—CanSkate A
Dec. 16, 2011 Chicken Pick Up
Dec. 23, 2011 Santa Skate
Dec. 23, 2011 PA Christmas Party
Dec. 26, 2011 **NO SKATING**
Dec. 28, 2011 **NO SKATING**
Dec. 29, 2011 Holiday Ice Show
Dec. 30, 2011 **NO SKATING**

**** Dates subject to change. ****

*****Please watch the bulletin board for more information. *****

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.zorraskatingclub.ca