

Tredyffrin Township & Tredyffrin Easttown School District  
Winter Recreation Overview 2007- 2008

Winter Recreation began on December 1, 2007 to the joyful cries of parents and children alike. Winter Recreation took place at Valley Forge Elementary School for children grades kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> and at Valley Forge Middle and TE Middle Schools for grades 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, Valley Forge Middle School also provides a Gym for adult pick up games of Basketball as well as students. Kevin McCarthy returned as the director for the middle school programs as did Chris Paynter for the elementary school. I would like to take a moment to thank both directors for their supervision and enthusiasm, through out the winter; they are both an immeasurable asset to the program. I would also like to thank Dr. Delvin Dinkins, Mark Cataldi and Matt Gibson for the use of their buildings.

The Winter Rec program ran for 14 consecutive weeks with no reports of damages to the facilities or the children. First Aide kits were provided by Tredyffrin Township at all three sights and except for minor bumps and bruises they remained unused.

Valley Forge Elementary School was home for the younger children who enjoyed activities such as a weekly craft, board games, large group games, basketball, the rock wall, scooters and floor hockey. An average of 171 children attended winter rec every Saturday with a total of 2357 enjoying the program. They were greeted cheerfully by Joanne Hilly who supervised the sign-in and check out table and made sure all emergency information was current. Along with Mrs. Hilly the rec staff was comprised of one director, 7 activity supervisors and 3 youth mentors. Perhaps the highlight of winter rec was the rules meeting where Mr. Paynter explained the rules and expressed that attendance at Winter Rec was a privileged and anyone not following those rules could be asked to leave, followed by a slam dunk contest between the rec counselors. The quality of those dunks were rated by the volume of cheering from the children, it was a sight to see.

T/E Middle School and Valley Forge Middle School were home for the older children. Both sights were staffed by two teachers. The children enjoyed the opportunity to play in pick up basketball games or just practice their jump shots. Valley Forge Middle School saw the majority of traffic due to the open gym they provide for adults as well as youths. The TE Middle School gyms saw less traffic and I cut back the staff at TE Middle School during the first and last hours of Rec to one teacher.

Tredyffrin Easttown School District Security opened and turned off the alarm at Valley Forge Elementary School, the middle schools were opened by the staff, who are all district teachers and were given the alarm code by the building principals. Security failed to turn off the alarm one Saturday at the Elementary School and the alarm was activated when Mr. Paynter entered the building. It took security roughly 40 minutes to respond to the alarm. This was the single hitch the program saw all winter.

The school district has for the first time since the program began charged the township a clean-up fee for the elementary school. I am currently working with Jim Pettia and Art McDonnell, business manger, to have those fees waved. The staff at the elementary school is responsible for cleaning up after the program and is paid for the necessary time. They are also instructed to check with the custodian on duty before leaving to make sure the clean-up is acceptable. If the school district will not wave the fee which is currently \$1084.00, I would like to see the fee split between the township and the school district on the grounds that this is a joint program.

I would like to recommend that next year the Township provide Staff shirt for all those working winter rec. With the large number of children attending the program it can be difficult at times to locate those people in charge. If all the staff were dressed in a brightly colored shirt they would be easy to recognize for both the children and parents.

I have spoken with both program directors and feel confident they will return for another fun filled season of Winter Recreation.

Respectfully submitted  
Hilliary Mallory