

RECREATION COMMISSION-2012

We finished the 2011-2012 basketball season in February. The 1st and 2nd grade group of 20 students worked on learning basic skills on Saturday mornings at the KUA gym. This was more than twice the participation from the previous year. Our 3rd and 4th grade girls group of 7 and 3rd and 4th grade boys group of 7 practiced and played several games with local towns during the season. Focus was put on skills, playing as a team, and sportsmanship. Practices and home games were held at PES. Again this year was a challenge to get practice time in with the available gym time.

In the spring we started our 3rd and 4th grade boy's baseball with a large group of 18. Our 3rd and 4th grade Softball team had a small group of 10. These two teams practiced through the spring at Hewes Field and played teams from other area towns. Home games were played on Prescott Field. Skills and sportsmanship were worked on through the season.

We ran our T-ball during late spring and early summer. Participation was up a little from last year with 22 1st and 2nd graders making up 2 teams and an additional 13 participants to make up our farm team. 1st and 2nd graders practiced skills and played games. The Farm Team worked on basic skills of throwing, catching, batting, and rules of the game. These teams practiced and played on Hewes Field, Prescott Field, and Cory Taber Field.

Our annual fishing Derby was held on a rainy June 2nd in Blood Brook behind the Meriden Deli. Trophies for first, second, and third place in each of the four age groups were handed out. Hot dogs were cooked on the grill for the kids to enjoy with drinks. Ice cream cones were handed out from the Meriden Deli to all participants. Despite the poor weather, we had 48 kids participate in the event and the big catch of the day was made by Finn Kopp with his 16-1/2" trout. A total of 72 fish were caught during the derby. I would like to give a huge thank you to our many volunteers, some who have been with us for many years. Thank you for the many donations from The Meriden Deli, Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm, N.H. Fish and Game, Coca Cola Company and Vern's Worms.

Unfortunately, because of construction going on at KUA, we were unable to offer our tennis program this past year. Our plans are to restart this in 2013. It is a great sport that helps the hand eye coordination and quick movements and thinking that can be beneficial in other sports. It can be enjoyed for many years into your adult life and is a lot of fun.

The Soccer program in the fall included the third and fourth grade boy's team made up of 17 boys and the third and fourth grade girl's team was made up of 15 girls. These two teams played other area recreation teams and practiced and played home games on Hewes Field. This group worked on skills, working as a team, and sportsmanship. The 1st and 2nd grade had three teams made up of 25 players. These teams practiced basic skill and played games with each other at the Cory Taber Field. We had an additional 20 kids that participated in the kindergarten group.

The 2012-2013 basketball season got started for our ¾ grade boys with a group of 9 and the ¾ grade girls with a group of 9 as well. Again this year we are faced with a lack of gym time available to get practice time in. We continue to get any time available to work with this group and to look for possible solutions for this. The 1st and 2nd grade group working on basic skills at the KUA gym on Saturday mornings has 20 participants and started in December.

In the coming year of 2013, I look forward to continued participation in our youth programs. I am happy to hear any input as to what we as a community are looking for to improve on what we have. Please feel free to contact me at any time with suggestions and comments.

Also starting this year we will continue the newly created Spirit Day held on the last Sunday of August. This event was an extension of our 250th celebration which was held in 2011. It is a great way to get together as a community as the summer comes to an end. I hope to see you all there.

I would like to thank all our coach's for the time they put into this program. They are the individuals that make it work. Without you, we have no program. Thank you to the officials who helped throughout the year. Your help is very much appreciated. Thank you to anyone who has helped in any way. As we move forward I encourage everyone to take an active role where possible. Participating in your child's youth activities are both fun and rewarding.

I would like to thank the Plainfield School and Kimball Union Academy for the use of their facilities. Thank you to Meriden Deli, Hy-On-A-Hill Trout Farm, and Keene Medical for your donations. A huge thank you to all our coaches, officials, and individuals who have donated their time for the youth in our community and made this program successful. I look forward to the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel P. Cantlin ,
Recreation Director