



Club Connection

VOLUME 10, EDITION 4

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Adventures at TechFest



On Friday October 21st the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties took 32 club members,

5 staff, and 6 parent volunteers from MAC, the Main Branch, and McGee to TechFest at the Microsoft Campus in Redmond, WA. After an exciting trip over the pass with a very long delay due to road construction, members arrived at the Gold Creek Lodge, a Boys & Girls Club property in rural Woodinville, WA.

Saturday morning started at 5:30 AM when members awoke and showered. MAC Keystone Club members left the lodge early at 7:00 AM to help set up the Lego Robotics and Digital Arts activities at Tech Fest. Christopher Cree, our director at MAC, served on the planning committees for these two activities and was a facilitator for Digital Arts. MAC also loaned ten Lego Robotics sets to TechFest to help increase the number of members each session could serve.

TechFest was held in the Microsoft Conference Center and building 25 nearby. Throughout the day members attended session on Social Media and Internet Safety, Career Development, Environment, Team Building, Robotics, and Digital Arts.

High school members from MAC really enjoyed the Facebook session where they were able to create a fictitious account in "Bookface." After creating their account members picked friends and made up stories to post on their wall. The session leader then halted the exercise when one member accused the other of stealing his girlfriend and posting slanderous statements. A mock trial was held and it was determined that the slanderous statements were punishable by law. The participants came out of the session energized and excited about Facebook and the

variety of privacy and digital rights issues that come along with the rapidly developing technology.

During the Digital Arts session members had just over two hours to produce a claymation video from scratch. In teams of four, members designed and modeled characters and props out of clay, made backdrops, and then took 300-500 still frame pictures to depict a short story. After this process was finished, the photos were uploaded to computers to begin the editing process. Using a variety of stop motion animation tools in Windows Movie Maker, members were able to create a 20-60 second video complete with transitions, credits and sound effects.

During the Robotics sessions, teams built and programmed robots using Lego NXT robotics sets. This activity introduces computer programming to youth in a fun and exciting environment. Once teams constructed their robot they then had to program a series of commands to enable their robot to make it through an obstacle course. The team with the most efficient route and fastest time was the winner.

Throughout the day members were able to visit the "Discover Microsoft" sessions where they were able to test new video games, meet Microsoft employees, and participate in the development and testing of new products.

A well deserved thank you to the volunteers and staff who went the extra mile to make this possible. And another thank you to Microsoft and all of the other sponsors for hosting the event and the Boys & Girls Clubs Washington State Association for all of the behind the scenes planning and developing for the event. All of the members are looking forward to returning in the future. Check out the Boys & Girls Clubs Washington State Association Facebook page for more including quotes from our very own members.



A Look Inside The Club



Torch Club elections at the Music & Arts Center

Our Mission- Enabling all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

Dates to Remember!

**Great Day For Kids!
January 12th, 2012**



January 27th and 28th, 2012

The start of the 2011-2012 school year has been wonderful for the Boys & Girls Clubs.

We have over 700 youth attending our sites daily. We can't wait to see what the future holds.

Our Prosser branch was vital in helping the Prosser community earn a place in the 100 Best Communities for Young People sponsored by America's Promise Alliance.

The Club provided leadership opportunities for teens who

showed an interest in becoming trained career development volunteers. Congratulations to the Prosser community!

On Oct. 27th the Maya Angelou site patterned with the ATP for Monster Math Night. The event was designed to make math fun for students and their families. It was a huge success. We hope to continue strengthening our partnerships with schools.

The Teen Center hosted Rawking the Fear to celebrate Halloween. There was a breakdancing competition, DJs

and dancing. The kids has an amazing time.

The Benton and Franklin Clubs continue to offer outstanding programs. Ruth Livingston is beginning the Youth for Unity program this year, while both Torch Club and Keystone Club continue to thrive at the participating branches. The MAC just had elections for their Torch Club!

All of our wonderful branches continue to strive to uphold the mission of the Boys & Girls Club.



Club kids participate in an obstacle course during Worldwide Day of Play.

A Club participant at Rawking the Fear hosted by the Teen Center.



Family Fun Nights

Family Fun Nights kicked off at the Main Branch with the start of the new school year.

These nights allow families to spend time together in the Club. They are provided with a great dinner and get to play a host of fun games.

Each night has set attendance records. 372 individuals enjoyed the most recent Family Fun Carnival, which celebrated

Halloween with games and a costume contest.

Andrea and her staff have done an outstanding job planning and running this event.

Stay tuned for future Family Fun Nights.



Fantastic Fundraising: Event Updates



The 10th Annual Eerkes Memorial Golf Classic was an outstanding success.

Over the early August weekend, sponsors and guests were treated to a mouth-watering dinner provided by Bonefish Grill followed by a live auction, which

included signed sports memorabilia, event packages and other great items.

The following day found the participants out on

Guest speaker AC Green and Kellee's Kid Ally Gadd at the 7th Annual Dinner with Friends event.

we were able to raise more than \$140,000 for the Boys & Girls Club and Young Life.

On October 6th the Boys & Girls Club hosted the 7th Annual Dinner with Friends event at the Three Rivers Con-

vention Center. Guest speaker and former L.A. Laker, AC Green shared an impactful and inspirational speech. He spoke of his deep gratitude to those that continue to support the Boys & Girls Club.

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Through the amazing support of sponsors, such as Lampson, Sun Mart and many others, Guests were treated to outstanding youth performances from the Music and Arts Center. This year's Kellee's Kid and emcee, Ally Gadd also entertained the crowds with a wonderful speech.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support! If you would like to participate in any of these events next year contact us at (509) 543-9980 ext. 15

A Message From: Board Chairman Matt Backlund



Of all the non-profits in the greater Tri Cities area, I continue to devote my time and financial resources to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties. I can clearly see the benefits the organization provides to the youth of our community. The club and it's wonderful staff are committed to implementing the Five Key Elements for Positive Youth Development by providing a safe, positive environment; fun; supportive relationships; opportunities and expectation; and recognition. It's clear, with each interaction our board has with the members of the club, we are witnessing the growth of

great young citizens of our community, and that's very exciting.

I would encourage you to join the club in their efforts to provide high yielding activities and targeted programs for our youth. You can get involved with any one of our annual fundraising events, Raise a Racquet held in January, Eerkes Memorial held in August or Dinner with Friends held in October. There are also ways to volunteer through our program Club Mentor, that pairs the youth of the club with mentors from throughout the community.

If you haven't already been witness to the amazing impact the club has, I encourage you to visit and see for yourself.

Sincerely,

Matt Backlund
Board Chairman

Thank You!

Dinner with Friends

Premier Sponsor
Swift Rehabilitation
Thank you Scott and Caroline Lynch!

Keystone Sponsors
KEPR, Goodwill Industries, Tyson Foods,
Pacific Steel

Torch Club Sponsors
Columbia Bank, Simmons Agency, Sterlings Savings Bank,
Northwest Agriculture Inc.,
Tri-City Herald

Corporate Table Sponsors
Sun Pacific Energy, Key Bank, Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Spot Check, Frontier Communications, Cascade Natural Gas, Battelle, Lourdes Health Network, Banner Bank, American West Bank, ATI Metals, Meier Engineering, Apollo Sheet Metal, Connor Construction, Basin Disposal, Tony and Julie Czebotar, Jerome Delvin, Tri-Cities Laboratories, Windermere Real Estate

Donors
Fidelitas, Community First Bank, RBC Wealth Management, Tri-City Tax, UniWest, McCurley Integrity Dealerships, Western States Ins., Zero Down Time

Additional Thanks
Dinner with Friends Committee Members, Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors, Owen Mansfield, Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center, McCurley Integrity Dealerships, the Music & Arts Centers Staff and kids, Boys & Girls Club Staff and volunteers and of course our youth performers!



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PASCO, WA 99301
PERMIT# 310

Visit www.kidexpert.org/newsletter to sign up for future newsletters

Visits us at
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Club Locations

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Pasco, WA 99301
P: 543-9980 F: 543-9981

Columbia Center Rotary Branch Music & Arts Ctr.
20 N. Benton * Kenneiwick
Phone: 582-4090

Bobbie Littrell Teen Ctr.
333 W. Court St. * Pasco
Phone: 543-2905

Brighter Horizons
3100 W. Argent * Pasco
Phone: 543-6796

Ruth Livingston Club Care
2515 Road 84 * Pasco
Phone 551-9711

Maya Angelou Club Care
6001 Road 84 * Pasco
Phone: 539-8810

James McGee Club Care
4601 N. Horizon Dr. * Pasco
Phone: 430-5838

Mark Twain
1801 Road 40 * Pasco
Phone: 430-5838

Captain Gray
1102 N 10th Ave. * Pasco
Phone: 551-9926

Tri-Tech
5929 W. Metaline Kennewick
Phone: 22-7312

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A Message From: President Greg Falk to You



What if every week were an incredible week? A week when you felt meaning and purpose. A week when you knew you were literally changing the world for the better. The

Boys & Girls Club mission is greater than a recreation center, more comprehensive than a prevention program, more powerful than any educational curriculum – it is to develop young people. You can become part of that mission, you can change the world for the better when you get involved in the life of a child through a monetary contribution or a gift of your time and talents.

At this time of the year, we begin the process of selecting our Youth of the Year. This is a young person who reflects what is great about them, great about their accomplishments and great about the Club. Through the generous contributions of Craig and Marilee Eerkes nine youth will

receive college scholarships. Think about it, nine youth will have an incredible week; nine youth will begin their next steps toward changing their world for the better. One of those nine will be chosen Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton & Franklin Counties Youth of the Year. The next step for them will be the competition for the State Youth of the Year.

As exciting as that is, it is simply one story of many stories that happen in the Boys & Girls Club. At our recent Dinner with Friends we had a seven year-old perform in front of 300 invited guests; that was followed by another group from our Music & Art Center who performed an intricate song on marimbas and drums; and finally a 10 year-old who emceed the entire event.

What is the best thing about Boys & Girls Clubs? Every week is an incredible week. Every week is filled with meaning and purpose. And every week we know we are changing the world for the better because we are impacting the lives of youth. The best thing? The best thing is putting caring adults in the lives of kids and knowing they will change the world for the better.