

WAUKEGAN **P**ARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District Programs During Teacher Strike Monday through Friday

Waukegan, IL (October 3, 2014) –The Waukegan Park District is offering several programs for school children during the teachers strike. These programs will be in effect on Monday, October 6th.

The Waukegan Park District will provide free admission at the Field House Sports and Fitness Center from 10am-4pm, Monday through Friday. The **Free For All Program** will continue as long as the strike is in effect. There will be organized activities in the Field House gymnasium from 11am-1pm during the week. To take advantage of the **Free For All Program**, students must present their Waukegan School District student ID when entering the facility. Children under the age of 11 can participate, but must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. To receive the free admission, children must have checked in by 4pm; students checking in after 4pm will pay the regular daily fee of \$4 per resident for students 17 years old and under. Students 18 and older will pay a \$5 resident fee. Youth, ages 16 and older, are able to access the Fitness Center at no charge during this time as well. A waiver must be signed by a parent/guardian each day for students to use the Fitness Center. For more information, please call 847-782-3300.

The Waukegan Park District is also offering two structured child care options during the ongoing teacher strike. For more information, please call 847-360-4700.

Camp Impact for ages six through 12 will be held at the Belvidere Recreation Center.

The camp will run Monday through Friday, from 7:30am-6pm and will include arts and crafts, sports, indoor and outdoor games and guest speakers. Special programs include Kohl Children's Museum (with volunteers from United Way of Lake County) providing math and science activities, the District's "Arts Park Van" providing arts and crafts projects, the Waukegan Fire Department offering a fire safety presentation and The First Tee of Greater Chicago providing fun, engaging activities that introduce campers to the game of golf. The cost will be \$5/day. Children should bring a sack lunch, water bottle and an afternoon snack each day.

The **We Have Off (W.H.O.)** Program features the same activities as **Camp Impact** but also includes daily field trips. W.H.O. will run Monday through Friday, from 7:30am-6pm. Scheduled trips for the week of October 6 include People's Choice Family Fun Center, Marcus Theater, Rink Side Sports, Bertrand Bowling and Field House Sports and Fitness Center for wall climbing, batting cages and gym play. The cost for each single-day session is \$30 per child for Waukegan Park District residents. Lunch and afternoon snack are included. Sibling discounts are available.

The Cultural Arts Department has drop-in activities for elementary school students. The activities require a signed waiver completed by a responsible adult. Please contact the Jack Benny Center at 847-360-4740 with questions.

Arts Park at the Visual Arts Center at 533 Grand will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am until noon for drop-ins. Fun art activities will be available.

The **Waukegan History Museum** at 1917 N. Sheridan Road will be open during the times below for students to drop in; free tours are planned:

Monday	2-4pm (includes optional scavenger hunt)*
Tuesday	10am-4pm
Wednesday	2-4pm (includes optional scavenger hunt)*
Thursday	10am-4pm
Friday	2-4pm (includes optional scavenger hunt)*

*Children participating in the scavenger hunt must be accompanied by an adult

The **History Mystery Trunk** program will be held at Lilac Cottage 1911 N. Sheridan Road on Monday from 1-2pm and on Friday there will be a **Bowen History Walk** from 1-2pm. In the event of inclement weather on Friday, a program will be held in Lilac Cottage.

Piano studios are available for high school students needing to practice. To arrange a time, please call the Jack Benny Center at 847-360-4740.

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts,

the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

9.5.14/Comm. Relations

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