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DINOMIGHTS UPDATE

JANUARY 2025

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A WAY FOR STUDENTS TO SPEND TIME WITH THEIR TEAMMATES, GET TO KNOW OTHER DINO'S AND CONTINUE THEIR LEARNING

BY HALLE PETERSON

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BY JOSH HUISKEN

**BUILDING
A MORE
VIBRANT
COMMUNITY**

POWER CAMP



Power Camp has been a special part of the DinoMights program since our very first year. It is a week-long summer camp that focuses on one topic, typically chosen by the students themselves. During this week-long camp, students learn about their chosen topic through a variety of activities: speakers, hands-on activities, projects, field trips, etc. It is a way for students to spend time with their teammates, get to know other Dino's, and continue their learning.

This past summer, DinoMights voted for the topic: Toys. Our first week of camp was dedicated to students ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade (Mites & Squirts). The second week was dedicated to students in sixth grade through high school (PeeWees).

Both weeks, Dino's had one goal, which

was to create a toy of their choice out of recycled materials. Once they completed their toy, they were to come up with a proposal to "sell" their toy to the group. This allowed the students to practice public speaking in a small setting, as well as promote a creation of their own.

Power Camp gave DinoMights a constructive space for their final weeks of summer and prepared them for the beginning of their academic year, as well as their upcoming hockey season. We look forward to seeing what they choose for their topic next year!







PUSHING BOUNDARIES

Coaching the PeeWees each year brings its own unique challenges. At the same time, those challenges spark new excitement-especially with the fresh dynamic of a new team. This year, we have incredible depth and balance, which makes both coaching and team play even more enjoyable.

MPLS PEEWEES

TEXT BY **CHUNG YU** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOSH HUISKEN**

2024-2025 SEASON QUESTIONS | COACH/VOLUNTEER | CHUNG YU

What are your goals and expectations for the 2024-2025 PeeWee season?

We are focused on developing fundamental skills and teamwork. Our main goals are to have a positive team environment, improving skills and hockey sense, while also having a lot of fun.

What's different about this year's PeeWee team compared to last season?

This year's team has a mix of returning players who bring experience and new players who add fresh energy. We have great chemistry with some early signs of veteran leadership.

After three games, what areas do you feel the team can improve in, and what would you like to see more of?

We've identified that there's room for improvement in positioning and creating offensive opportunities. We're focusing on enhancing these aspects through more drills and encouraging grit.

What do you enjoy most about coaching or being involved with the PeeWee team?

I have been fortunate to see these kids grow up. Seeing them develop confidence and build lasting friendships is fulfilling. The fun and resilience they bring to each practice and game make it a joy to be involved.

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BILLY LINDSAY RINK

Having a dedicated space to develop hockey skills while fostering social connections is essential to the mission of DinoMights. The Billy Lindsay Rink provides just that—a safe and welcoming environment where we can make a meaningful impact on the kids in our program and the broader community. Open to the public, the refrigerated rink extends the same opportunities to everyone, creating a hub for growth, fun, and community connection.

For DinoMights participants, the rink is much more than a place to play hockey. It offers invaluable opportunities for skill development and teamwork. As the technical demands of hockey continue to grow, the sport increasingly favors players with access to extensive resources—time, money, and specialized coaching. Unfortunately, these advantages are not always available to everyone, especially within the DinoMights community. The Billy Lindsay Rink combats this issue by trying to help level the playing field by providing an accessible space for kids to hone their skills while rediscovering the joy and fun that can sometimes be overshadowed in today’s highly competitive hockey culture.



Creating an environment rich with opportunities for both DinoMights participants and the public at large.

Beyond hockey, the rink creates life-changing opportunities for high school students in the DinoMights program. Many teens secure their first jobs here, learning critical life skills under the mentorship of DinoMights' full-time staff. These roles teach responsibility, teamwork, and professionalism—qualities that will serve them well into adulthood. This mentorship-driven approach fosters a beautiful cycle of community engagement, where young people contribute to the very program that helped shape them, enriching the lives of the next generation.

The Billy Lindsay Rink is more than ice; it's a cornerstone of development, connection, and empowerment for the DinoMights community. It embodies the spirit of what DinoMights stands for—creating opportunities, fostering relationships, and building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Rediscovering joy within the game of hockey.



TEXT BY **JOSH HUISKEN** PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOSH HUISKEN**



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