

December 2017

Hello Western Family,

We've been remiss in getting a few things out with all that has been going on so please forgive us for our tardiness as we begin to catch up. Once we hit the month of December it signifies the 1/2 way point in our hockey season. It also affords us the opportunity to offer all of you a very happy and healthy Holiday Season. As many of you know with the occasional exception we don't practice or play games over the Christmas break so please check in advance with your team manager to see if your group has anything planned.

A huge congratulations is in order for all our teams but especially our Squirt Majors who brought home a "B" level Silver Sticks Championship this past weekend. The first ever won by a Western Team as far as we are aware. Our PW Selects were ever so close to making it two falling short in the "A" Championship over Thanksgiving. This season all our teams have represented exceptionally well winning 4 Championships, having one more lose in the Championship, and still two more make the semi-final round! Having 7 out of 10 teams cross over and/or win in these events is a notable accomplishment. Not forgetting our Mites who also continue to play hard and represented well in the Shelton Jamboree! Overall the current combined record of our Squirt Level and above teams is an outstanding 71-48-11 for recorded games.

A massive shout out and thank you to all who, assisted, donated, raised funds, played, participated in some fashion, or attended our NYR Alumni event. The final numbers are in as of today and after deducting the Management Company fees etcetera, a check in excess of \$43,000 is headed our way! This will allow us to expand our offerings and keep tuition and additional expenses in check. We will be diligent in determining how best to proceed to deliver on our promise and maximize the efforts of all! There will be more on this topic in the coming weeks.

As a friendly reminder, please do be conscience of yourselves and your children and continue to honor the locker room policies and code of conduct policies as the season moves forward. We haven't had too many issues but we have had the need to address a few teams and/or individuals along the way. It is not something we wish to do and hope you can all respect those concerns. Included in those forms is a 36 hour rule if something occurs and bothers you enough to approach a coach or Board Member. Coaches personnel decisions and playing time are up to the coach subject to the game at hand. Please remember to judge what you see in the larger picture and not in the moment. The season is long and things have a way of equaling out. Please refrain from "coaching" from the stands. Certainly communicate any concerns but not during or immediately following the contest. It is always better when cooler heads prevail and things can be talked about, explained, and differences worked out. Parents should never be in and around the bench area during games or in the locker room (Sq and up) prior to / or after games without coaches knowledge or permission as it is distracting to the coaches and

players alike. We understand our Mites are in need of more assistance and encourage that help of course!

Lastly, let's all remember to keep our home rink clean and honor the posted rules in the rink. The lobby and associated areas are for walking and eating, not running or ball playing. Ice hockey is played on the rink, not around it! There are a number of upcoming clinics over the break and we do encourage and hope that some of our group who stay local will take advantage of such offerings. Many are now listed on our website.

We are pleased with where we are but realize that success doesn't happen overnight and we still have a long way to go to achieve some of our lofty goals. With a commitment to our structure and plan of development we see signs of success that make us proud. We are far from perfect but will continue to try new things and learn from our successes and failures just as we expect our young athletes and coaches to do. We hope you also see good things happening here at Western and will continue to support and assist where and when you can.

Sincerely and with Warm Wishes for All,

Brendan, Isabel and the entire Western BOD