

DINOMIGHTS UPDATE

DECEMBER 2023

BILLY LINDSAY RINK

“Expanding the game of hockey within a community where there aren’t many opportunities.”

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

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POWER CAMP

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BILLY LINDSAY RINK

“Here goes dad talking about his childhood again.”

My kids have heard many times the story of the day my pal Vince’s older brother got his friend to leave the lights on at Hampshire Park’s Hockey Rink an extra half hour. So me, Vince and Nate skated until 9:30. In my memory this adventure ended when I crashed face first into the goal post leaving a distinct vertical mark down my cheek. My dad was furious when I got home. “Where have you been?!?!?” “Um, at the Park?” “What happened to your face?” That is all I remember from that conversation. I knew I was going to get in trouble, but we had to stay at the park. We could stay an extra 30 minutes at the park! We had control of the warming house and lights. For a 10 year old this was once in a lifetime.

I was fortunate to live close to the park. We just loved being down there. And it wasn’t all about hockey. It was about the Tahitian Treat soda that you could only get from the pop machine at that warming house. The quarters that I’d stash in my shoe for calling home on the pay phone to say, “we’re going to stay longer mom.” Or maybe we used those quarters to call for pizza. It was the best. Thanks to my mom and dad for living by that park, because it was The Best for me. And I have Best Friends to this day that grew up at that park.

All that time growing up at the rink, and I know so many of you who support DinoMights, know exactly what I’m talking about, that like me, personally believe every kid that grows up in Minnesota should have that. So at DinoMights we have The Billy Lindsay Rink, and it has been a project of passion for a really long time, and for many people.

The Billy Lindsay Rink, after all these years, has finally installed refrigeration. For a kid that couldn’t resist an extra 30 minutes at the rink, the prospect of having an extra 6 weeks is just AMAZING! Starting this year the Rink will be open sooner, and stay open later in the season. DinoMights students will have a safe and positive place to play and grow, which will stay open on those 36 degree days. Plus, we can do so much more at the rink including more time for high schoolers to learn job readiness skills working as Rink Supervisors. And we are making plans to provide drop-in tutoring services at the rink as well.

So thanks to all of you who helped us get to this amazing moment, and we hope you will all be utterly amazed in anticipation of how this achievement will benefit the lives of our amazing DinoMights youth!

- Scott Harman, Executive Director



“The Billy Lindsay Rink will help expand the game of hockey within a community where there aren’t many opportunities.”

- Josh Huisken,
Program Coordinator

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- Emily Rees,
Academic Manager



POWER CAMP

Every summer our Dinos engage in a week long, academic “Power Camp”. With a new theme every summer, this year’s student-chosen theme was FOOD! This was my sixth Power Camp and arguably the best one I’ve been a part of yet.

The first week was for our mite-aged Dinos while the second week was Squirts/Peewees and even some of our “Bantam” aged Dinos! Food is a broad topic, but we delved into a lot in just a week. We studied food justice on a local and global level and they came up with practical solutions or steps to make a difference. They designed their own community gardens and thought about what the future of food will look like, keeping in mind agricultural sustainability lessons. They were brave food critics, made their own ice cream, and participated in the “food olympics” which was ultimately won by the 5th graders! One event included eating a donut from a hanging string, without using their hands (which ended up being one of my favorite DinoMights moments ever).

We had many guest/career speakers and even a trip to a local food co-op, Lakewinds in Richfield! Additionally, they came up with their own food truck business which each of them presented to the whole group.

At the end of the week, each student that was present every day was rewarded with a trip to Bunker Beach water park - a tradition that has been ongoing at DinoMights for many years.

I am particularly fond of Power Camp because it gives me an opportunity to take a creative approach to the “classroom”. Meaning I can make it super educational while inserting a ton of competition; skill, team and relationship-building activities. Additionally it is used for career exploration, focusing on careers that relate to the given theme. Lasting memories are made during Power Camp and I am so proud of the work our students accomplished in just one week.

- Emily Rees, Academic Manager

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The student leadership team at DinoMights is a way for students to be able to give their opinion and be able to share thoughts on what is going on in the program. The student leadership team is important for organizations like DinoMights because it allows those who get impacted by the choices that go on an opportunity to have an opinion on it. DinoMights is not only a hockey team, it focuses on many things such as academic, social, and spiritual excellence. DinoMights give students the opportunity to practice public speaking skills and more. That is one of many useful resources that Dinomights take their time to teach. The student leadership team at Dinomights is a safe space where I am able to share my opinions about the program.

I consider myself a leader because I want to make an impact in an organization like DinoMights. Being part of the STL team at DinoMights is an honor and something I want to continue doing until I graduate high school. DinoMights is a program that serves the youth of South Minneapolis and West Side St. Paul. I truly couldn't express how thankful I am for this program and how much work the staff does for it to be successful. My peers and I continue to be part of this program because it impacts our lives in positive ways and gives us many resources for us to be successful. I am happy to be part of the student leadership team but I am more grateful to be part of a program such as DinoMights.

- Jason Bunay, Academic Intern

MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

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