

The “Swing into Spring” Fundraising Banquet –Things You Need to Know!

The Carpenter High School fundraising banquet and auction “Swing into Spring” will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at the high school. The banquet, now in its 7th year, has raised approximately \$67,000 over the years in support of extracurricular activities at the high school. “The town and the businesses outside of the community have been tremendous in their support for us,” said Rene Cannon, one of the staff engaged in planning for the event. “The fundraising banquet includes the banquet itself, a silent auction, a live auction, a computer raffle, a mystery prize. Tickets for the event are \$15.00 and the doors will open at 6:00P.M. with the banquet beginning at 7:00P.M. The money all goes to the extracurricular activities and teams,” said Rene, “with a committee meeting after the banquet to divide up the proceeds among the clubs and teams based on size and need.”

Over the years Carpenter High School has established a provincial-wide reputation for excellence in all of its extracurricular endeavours both in sports and in the arts. Given the challenges imposed by geography it was a natural thing to wonder how they were able to manage and cope, and to ask why the fundraising banquet was so important. To get the answer two students, Josh Edelman and Cheyenne Simoens, teacher John MacCormack, and principal Larry Waterman were interviewed, and here, in their words, is the bottom line:

“We support all school activities with this fundraiser and it’s not just about sports... our band program, drama and outdoor-ed programmes all benefit greatly from this banquet, and we are very grateful for the support we receive from people that recognize that all student activities are important.”

“If you’re from a small town that’s geographically remote from the larger centers then you have a problem. You will **always** have to travel to them if you’re going to run the programmes. You **are** going to run the programmes because you have dedicated coaches and committed leaders who will do it, regardless of the obstacles and difficulties, because they know that it’s great for the students, and it’s great for the school, and it’s good for the community.”

“A lot of teams faced with the travel and the costs would have just chucked it. We didn’t. We didn’t because we have great coaches and both they and we are very determined.”

“It’s a two-tiered system: city kids have years of experience, they have the facilities, they have the club teams and they don’t have to travel because they have regular competitions and local tournaments and their costs are minimal. Country kids must travel.”

“Any kind of extracurricular changes the lives of kids. It’s a good thing any time that you have support from an adult who can be a positive role model and who encourages you to do something with your life -whether it’s wrestling or playing music or drama. It’s another avenue to find success in – and that’s what any quality programme is about.”

“Any sport, any performance activity teaches a young person to hold their head high and to give it all they’ve got. It builds integrity and it builds character.”

“Sport gives me a purpose.”

“Community support for all of our programmes has been very positive... there’s always support from parents and community members. They are there when you need them.”

“It’s evident that the community is proud of our athletes especially when we have our awards banquet and you see all sorts of people, not just the parents, coming out to take part and present awards.”

“With or without medals we always come back with a lot of success stories.”

"One of the reasons Carpenter is able to run first-rate programs is the fundraising banquet - the support we have received from the community both in donations and attendance has been remarkable. This event takes fundraising pressure off our participants and advisors and allows them to focus on their activities. Its continued support is appreciated."

21 Statistics for You to Ponder

Number of teachers involved in extracurricular activities: 27

Number of extracurricular Programs: 29

Percentage of students involved in extracurricular activities: 48%

Average cost to a student for 1 weekend away: \$50+

Average yearly cost of extracurricular programmes not counting the above: \$40,000+

Number of hours spent coaching or directing extracurricular activities in one year: 5000+

Number of times we held our heads up high: every time

Length of Highway #16: 699.08 km

Length of Highway #1: 651.2 km

Km of road eaten up in a year by extracurricular travel: 50,000+

Current average price for a litre of fuel (SK): 87.9 cents

Average diesel bus fuel efficiency: 1.5 km/l

Number of times teams from Meadow Lake travelled to the cities: 30+

Number of times teams from Saskatoon and Regina came to Meadow Lake: 0

The number of times the boys basketball team won the St. Joseph Basketball tournament (Saskatoon) in the past three weeks: 1

Number of gold medals won by the wrestling team in their first tournament: 9

Percentage of all medals awarded at that tournament won: 25%

Number of musical instruments taken to Edmonton by the band: unable to do an accurate count because they didn’t all fit on the bus

Number of musical instruments left in Edmonton by the band: 0

Number of km skied by students in the course of a single day’s outdoor-ed trip: 20

Number of students totally dumbfounded that someone would make them ski 20 km to see a tiny island in the middle of a big frozen lake: 6