



# NAYRS NEWS

March 2, 2015  
Issue 10

**Welcome...** to NAYRS News, our newsletter written to keep you in the know about the happenings at the Youth Center! In this edition, you can find everything you need to know about upcoming events, programs and field trips, dances and more! We also have recaps from our most recent events, including Curling and the hilarious Palate Challenge. Don't miss our Save the Date announcement for the Taste of North Andover and some exciting news about Summer 2015!

## Spring and Summer Announcements

Whether you feel it or not, spring is just around the corner! The Youth Center's spring season starts on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. A new season means brand new fun and exciting programs and trips for our members! You can look forward to many programs and events that will get us outside after a long winter! Registration begins Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the front desk and online.

Once spring hits, summer won't be far behind. Summer registration will begin on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Our summer programs cater to a wide variety of ages, as we offer our Summer Fun and Sports & Rec playground programs for elementary school and middle school students, trips like Girls Week and Boys Week for our middle schoolers, and programs for high school students as well. Many of our summer programs sell out quickly!

We have a few changes to look forward to in Summer 2015: Atkinson Summer Fun, which has always been open to students entering 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, will now expand to include students entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We are also excited to announce that Sports & Rec will be expanding... we will be splitting Sports & Rec into two programs, one for middle school boys and one for middle school girls. We hope you're as excited as we are about Summer 2015!

## “What's your favorite thing about the Youth Center?”

Written by: Jason Kenneally

“Skating on the outdoor rink.”  
Taralyn T., 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“Hanging out and talking to people.”  
Sarah C., 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“Dancing in the Multipurpose Room!”  
Leila J., 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“Doing homework.”  
Jill V., 8<sup>th</sup> grade

“Fun games, like curling.”  
Chris L., 7<sup>th</sup> grade

“The gym.”  
Aaron K., 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“The dances!”  
Zane P., 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“Everything. The whole Youth Center.”  
Conor C., 7<sup>th</sup> grade



## NAYRS NEWS TEAM

Jason Kenneally, Dominic Naggar, John Guarini, Segev Moritz

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## Tournament of Champions: Palate Challenge

**Written by: Dominic Naggar**

The Tournament of Champions has had many exciting challenges so far. From basketball to chucking a frozen turkey in the Turkey Toss, all the way to tasting sweets that a certain sixth grader (cough, *me*) helped tricked you into thinking were all sorts of gross stuff.

I'm talking about the Palate Challenge, and that has been my favorite event so far. Not to be a jerk, but it was really fun to click a pen next to my blindfolded classmates to make them think there was a lobster crawling around.

Anyways, where was I? The Palate Challenge. This was a funny challenge where blindfolded contestants took turns testing their taste buds. The mystery foods were actually delicious treats, like cookies and red velvet cake, but the staff had fun trying to convince the kids that the food was a little more *alive* than it was.

Before I announce the winners, I'm going to mention a few funny guesses people made. I won't name names, but the red velvet cake was NOT chocolate pudding, frosting filling, a donut, or chicken liver. The competitors in the Palate Challenge were, by first name only, Gabe, Harrison, Ryan, Damian, Katie, Grant, Jazlyn, Graham, Cam, Jose, Ben, Teddy and Steven. For first place, Jazlyn received a 6 out of 8. Tied for second were Jose and Damian, both earning a 5 out of 8. Congrats!

Overall, I think the Palate Challenge was very enjoyable – for me, anyways. I hope that those still in the running will continue to play in the Tournament of Champions, and endure the challenging tasks thrust upon you, such as chicken liver. For the Champions! Check out the current standings below!

### Tournament of Champions Top 10

| Name               | Pts. |
|--------------------|------|
| Chris Pensavalli   | 31   |
| Ben Jackson        | 28   |
| Jake Landry        | 26   |
| Damian Stokes      | 24   |
| Steven Ferullo     | 20   |
| Jack Breen         | 17   |
| Jakob Hamel-Porter | 15   |
| Ryan McKenna       | 14   |
| Alex Bodnar        | 13   |
| Jazlyn Moreno      | 13   |

### Taste of North Andover

Attention parents! Tickets for the annual North Andover Youth Center Event, the "Taste of North Andover," are now on sale. This is our most popular event of the year and is also our largest fundraiser. After the winter we have had this will be a great night out to get together with friends as we celebrate the amazing facility that is available to the youth in our community. This annual event is a fun night of socializing with friends, sampling food from some of the best restaurants in town, and bidding on exciting live and silent auction items. All proceeds from this fun event go back to the Youth Center! Please save Saturday, March 28th on your calendar and purchase your tickets now on our website.

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## Curling Competition

A group of our members gathered around Josh last Wednesday as he placed teams into the bracket for our first ever Curling Competition at the Youth Center. Though our members didn't know much about the classic Olympic game, once they saw targets spray-painted on our outdoor ice rink, they were immediately interested... And they were not disappointed!

There were 10 teams of 2 in the tournament, each representing a country of their choice. Between the two team members, each got a chance to throw and sweep multiple times per round. In our version of curling, a round consisted of two games, leaving the potential for a tiebreaker at the end of each round.

In the preliminary matches, Teams Yemen (Jake & Thomas), North Korea (Tyler & Sean), Swaziland (Jack & Steven) and Denmark (Ethan & Graham), saw wins against Somalia, Narnia, USA, and Armenia respectively. After the teams advanced, Yemen played against Togo who was a first round bye, and Togo came up short at the end of our first tiebreaker. The other first round bye, Djibouti (Blake & Rachael), had better luck in their first game, beating North Korea in another tiebreaker. The semifinals had Yemen taking down Swaziland, and in a huge shocker, Denmark beat Djibouti, with a last minute substitution when Ethan had to go home early! In a nail-biting final match between Yemen and Denmark (with Jazlyn, subbing in for Ethan!), Jake Landry and Thomas Cacace from Team Yemen won it all. They will be fighting as reigning champions in our next Curling Competition on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>!



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## February Shoutouts! Congratulations to:



Member of the Month, Eric Doherty

Halo Champion, Cam Chartier



Black Knights Winter Champs  
Pure Parker: Chris Lord, Robbie Cupka,  
Jack Weir and CJ Good

## More Pictures...



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**WANT TO BE PART OF THE NAYRS NEWS CREW? OF COURSE YOU DO!**

Contact Demi at [dtetrault@nayouth.com](mailto:dtetrault@nayouth.com) or at the Youth Center!

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