

**Richland Northeast Baseball
2008**

Dear Baseball Parents,

I am writing to inform everyone of the upcoming events and activities that the RNE Baseball team will be a part of over the next few months. It is hard to believe but we are less than three months from the start of baseball practice and scrimmage games. I know the Holiday Season is fast approaching and we will all be very busy. Hopefully, the enclosed information will help keep everyone up to date on important team events.

- 1. Weightlifting/Conditioning:** We have had a good turnout for workout sessions. There are typically 20-25 kids involved in each workout. Beginning Monday (11/12), workout sessions will be moved to Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. This change is due to the fact that Cross Country and Football seasons are over or nearing the end. Start and end times will not change. The week of Thanksgiving, we will lift on Monday (11/19) and Tuesday (11/20) at 3:45.
- 2. Individual Schedule:** A new individual workout schedule should have been brought home by your son today. This schedule will run all the way up to the start of practice/tryouts on January 28th. Not everybody is included on the schedule due to the fact that we have to get potential Varsity players ready for the spring season. If you have a question about the schedule, please feel free to contact me.
- 3. Staff:** This years' staff has two new additions along with many familiar faces. Returning for their second seasons with the program are Gerald Stoudemire and Jason Washburn. Both will work with the Varsity. A new addition to the Varsity staff will be Tyrin Pickett. Coach "T" joins us after a successful playing career at Spring Valley and St. Andrews College. On the JV level Bernard Pickett will serve as the Head JV Coach this season. Coach Washburn and Coach "T" will assist Coach Pickett at the JV level as much as possible.
- 4. Varsity and JV Schedules:** A copy of the Varsity and JV game schedules are included in the package your son brought home. Included are schedules for both the Varsity and JV North Central Tournaments. You may also print a schedule from our website www.rnbaseball.com.
- 5. Fees and Fundraising for Returning Varsity Players:**

I am eager to get fees collected and fundraising underway, so that by the time spring is here we will be able to focus on baseball. Please review the following important information:

Player pack- (the player's uniform, including bat, helmet, gloves, shoes, shirts, shorts and bag).

The cost for each player pack is \$150. I have already ordered the player packs, so each Returning Varsity player, needs to reimburse me \$150 for his player pack as soon as possible. This may be paid for in either of two ways:

a). send a check in the amount of \$150 to me at:

Thane Maness, Richland Northeast High School, 7500 Brookfield Road, Columbia, SC 29223. The check should be made payable to RNE Baseball.

Or:

b) obtain one new banner sponsor. For a new banner, the sponsor pays \$300, of which the baseball program gets to keep approximately \$150. Each 4'x8' vinyl banner will be displayed in the outfield of Cavalier Stadium through December 2008. The annual renewal fee for an existing banner is only \$150. If you obtain one new banner sponsor, that will cover the cost of your son's player pack. In order to raise the additional funds the program needs this year, each parent is asked to obtain 2 new banner sponsors. Advertising agreement forms are on the team's website at www.rnbaseball.com. Banner sponsor forms must be turned in to me, with payment, by January 28, 2008. If you have any questions about obtaining sponsors, please contact me.

c) JV players: will have the opportunity to order player packs once tryouts are over. The cost for the JV pack is \$150 and the funds can be raised in the same way Varsity funds are raised.

6. **Athletic Fees:** Returning Varsity players need to bring me \$50 for their tryout/participation fees. Checks need to be made payable to RNE. I will issue you a receipt when you bring the money. If you played another sport at RNE this year, you do not need to pay again.
7. **Workdays:** Player/Parent workdays will be held on the following dates:

Saturday, December 1st (9am-12pm)
Saturday, January 12th (9am-12pm)
Saturday, January 19th (9am-12pm)
Saturday, January 26th (9am-12pm)

Please try to make time to attend. These are so valuable in helping to prepare for the spring.

8. **Chick-Fil-A Classic:** Mr. Schmidt, Coach Fulmer and Coach Starnes were generous enough to let the baseball team work the Chick-Fil-A Classic (December 19th-22nd). In return the baseball program will receive \$2500. We need volunteers to sell tickets and man Hospitality Rooms. Please see Barbara McArthur or Sharon Mercer about dates and times.
9. **Fundraising:** You may not know it, but we raised over \$15,000 last year. At the end of the fiscal year we had over \$1800 in our fundraising account at school. So far this year we have raised over \$10,000. Sounds great, but after ordering Varsity Player Packs, a new batting cage net, new pitcher and plate tarps, backdrop for the roll away cage, portable L-Screen, replacement nets for existing L-Screens, practice balls, game balls, hats, new catchers gear and other items we have spent \$10,352. The easiest way for us to make money is through banner renewal and new banners. If you know anybody who currently buys a banner or know of a business that should advertise with us please drop a form by their office and encourage them to help support RNE Baseball.

If you have any fundraising ideas, please see our fundraising organizers Barbara McArthur or Sharon Mercer.

- 10. Spring Break Tournament:** Once again we are hosting the Cavalier Invitational for both Varsity and JV teams. Dates for the tournament are March 22, 24, 25 and 26. We will need volunteers to work the canteen, take tickets and sell merchandise. Please keep this in mind as you make Spring Break plans.
- 11. Financial Aid Workshop:** There will be a financial aid workshop Monday, November 12th at 6:30 pm in the Chorus Room. Many of our Junior and Senior players might be interested in attending. Baseball scholarships are extremely limited, so it is never too early to start planning ahead.
- 12. THANK YOU:** To all those who have volunteered their time to help RNE Baseball. Many of you have worked weekend tournaments, sold banners, attended the Ten Thousand Village Fundraiser and I am grateful to have such wonderful parents. It makes my job easy. I particularly want to give a great big THANK YOU to Barbara McArthur, Sharon Mercer, Melinda Meir, Mary Jane Fulmer, John Meir, Crosby Albert, and Gary Fulmer for all of your help.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Thane Maness
Head Baseball Coach
Richland Northeast High School**