

Tips for Team Managers #1

Welcome back to another fun year of DI.....

I see that 11 teams have already registered with DI! It's nice to see such early enthusiasm.

I know that many of you are waiting to secure funding. Your building reps are working on that issue. If you are in CKSD, we should have an answer for you next week. In the mean time....

New team members. The best way to find new members is ask your friends. Many know all about DI they've just never been asked to join. Many schools are asking interested families to sign up. Talk to your building rep or give me a call. If you have moved up to middle or high school, and lost part of your team, let me know. Several teams are in that same situation, you may like to get together.

If you've got an existing full or partial team, now is a good time to start playing and getting reacquainted. My favorite team building activity this time of year was the corn maze. Think of it as an Instant Challenge. You enter as-a-team and you exit as-a-team and you never let go of each others hands while in the maze. It's Creative Problem Solving and Team work all rolled into one. Creative pumpkin decorating can also be a fun time. Or try bowling, with a required improvisational routine after each roll of the ball. Use your imagination!

This is also a great time to teach new skills that may or may not come in handy latter in the year. Take a look at different art or technical medial. Investigate paper maché plaster molds or macramé. Try making sculptures from bubble/saran wrap and packing tape. Let them take things apart and put them back together in creative ways. My kids loved dismantling the VCR when we upgraded to a DVD. Empty your recycle bin and let them make "ART"

Just cause you don't yet have this year's Challenges, doesn't mean that your team can't get started working on their skills. **PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS**, that is.....