

Dear members of the Montvale Athletic League,

As 2009 comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone who has given of themselves to support the MAL. As a volunteer organization, our success relies solely on the time and effort of those that help out. Some of you coach or coordinate leagues, others keep score or work at the snack stand and many of you support our fundraisers. All of you contribute to our ultimate goal of providing our children with the athletic programs they deserve.

In spite of difficult economic times, we have had some very successful fundraising events over the last two years. Thanks to the generosity of our community along with the hard-work of our fund-raising chairperson Beth Aquaviva and her “crew”, we have raised over \$25,000. With this money we purchased two defibrillators and have just spent over \$20,000 to make significant improvements to our baseball and softball fields. While we fell just short of the dome that Joe Lapinski hoped for, these upgrades, along with some cooperation from Mother Nature, should help us avoid missing so many games due to poor field conditions.

I would also like to personally thank the MAL board members for their tireless effort. It is a pleasure working with such a hard working group of people who truly care about ALL of the children in the MAL. While everyone may not always agree with our decisions, you can be confident they are made with the interest of the children foremost in our minds.

One of the MAL’s primary goals is to promote good sportsmanship. Unfortunately there have been a few situations where this has not been upheld. In an effort to limit these instances, we have implemented a zero tolerance policy with regards to verbal and physical altercations. In addition, we will be asking our coaches to emphasize that part of an athlete’s responsibility is to be respectful to teammates and opponents. We respectfully ask for your help in promoting this philosophy as well.

On your next visit to our website, please take a few minutes to watch the video posted in the upper right corner of the home page. Don Lucia, the head hockey coach at the University of Minnesota, has a great perspective on youth sports that is appropriate for both adults and children. While you are there, please check out the MAL Store for Sportswear where you can find some great MAL wear.

I am excited about what lies ahead in 2010. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve our programs, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Happy holidays to all!

Alan Weinstein