East Chess Club
Join others in playing chess all summer long! Every third Friday of the month in June and July, the East Chess Club will be meeting from 3:30 - 5 p.m. at East Library. Hope to see you there! For more information, contact akrupicka@ppld.org.

Baseball Team Word Find

Sports Books for Teens
Fiction
Beanball by Gene Fehler
Game by Walter Dean Myers
My 13th Season by Kristi Roberts
Maverick Mania by Sigmund Brouwer
Love, Football, and Other Contact Sports by Alden R. Carter

Nonfiction
The Comprehensive Guide to Careers in Sports by Glenn M. Wong
Why a Curveball Curves: The Incredible Science of Sports by Frank Vizard
Career Ideas for Kids Who Like Sports by Diane Lindsey Reeves
Skater Girl: A Girl’s Guide to Skateboarding by Patty Segovia

Homeschool Hub
Want to get connected with local homeschool groups and learn about resources available here at PPLD? Log on to the Homeschool Hub resource website. View a database of local homeschool groups, sign up for monthly newsletters and booklists, and connect with other homeschool families all in one place. Just visit ppld.org and click on Homeschool Hub.

The Sports of Summer
Summer is here! As the days grow longer, the kids are out in full force: running, kicking, passing, catching; all enjoying the fresh air and vigorous workouts of being part of the game… under the banner of youth sports.

Youth sports can be an invaluable aspect in learning life lessons. Foundational character building principles can be learned through teamwork, perseverance, ability to deal with adversity, sportsmanship, and the value of hard work. What could be a better environment for such important training, while engaging in active physically demanding skills?

There are many summer sports to choose from: baseball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, and many more are offered through a variety of organized team clubs, the YMCA, and the city/county parks and recreational entities. While indoor sports are more reserved for winter months, there are still leagues for basketball, volleyball, and swimming/diving year-round.

How does one decide on a sport, or work at improving in a sport? Use this as a guide to try and determine which sport is a good fit:

• What appeals to your child?
• Does he or she display a natural talent in certain areas, such as running, throwing, kicking, or catching?
• Because of the varying abilities of skills different sports offer, be sure the child feels comfortable in what they’ve chosen. There is always the option to try something different that would better suit them.
• Many times children need to try two or three sports to find the one they like and excel at the best.

Also keep in mind that skill levels in both recreational and competitive structuring are put in place so there is room for growth, improvement, and challenge, as well as for those at the top of their game. This gives a wide range in helping to find the best placement for your young athletes.

An actively involved coach had this to say: “Here on the playing field, it’s not so much where character is learned, but where true character is displayed.” Youth sports can be a time in your child’s life that helps instill their core values and self-directed principles that they’ll carry with them through life. For this reason alone, you can make them the most positive and productive, for the season now and for life.

Who knows? You could be training up the next generation of Olympians…

To contact PPLD’s Homeschool Committee, please email akrupicka@ppld.org
**Database Focus:**

**Here Comes Summer!**

It's time to get out there! We want some tips on sports, your fav athletes, and how to get fit. At the ppld.org homepage, click Kids Web. Explore the Web, Kids Space, then Sports and Recreation.

Here you'll find everything from A to Z: Automobile Racing to Zebra Chasing – just kidding about the zebras. The sports list does start out with Automobile Racing and includes baseball, basketball, boating, soccer, and swimming. Click on the Baseball link and you'll find web sites like Kids' Dugout. If you want to play ball or just find your favorite team's schedule, you'll find the info here. Would you like to send a fan letter to your favorite player? You'll find all the major league addresses here too.

Maybe gymnastics is more your game. Aspiring to be the next Shawn Johnson? Starting at Kids Space again, the Gymnastics link offers lots of good information to get started. You'll find short biographies of famous gymnasts, tips about training and technique, and how to find a gymnastic center in your neighborhood.

Back at the Kids Web page, let's try Yahoo for Kids this time. Click on Sports. Wow, look at Kids Who Rip. There are some great video clips of kids snowboarding, skiing, surfing, and skateboarding. Awesome, dude. There are even sports video games to test your skills. Also at Yahoo for Kids/Sports you'll find links to many of your favorite sports to help you improve your game and find the right snowboard or skateboard.

Is it A-Rod or A-fraud? Get the real story at www.jockbio.com. There's a new athlete's biography published each week.

But let's get real: to improve your skills and your fitness, put down that mouse and walk out the door. Play ball! Or ride your bike, run, hike, ski, snowboard, skate, play football, soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball, whee! Well you get the idea. Let's get out there!

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**Sports Books for Kids**

**Where to find books about...**

- Baseball 796.357
- BMX 796.62
- Camping 796.54
- Cycling 796.4
- Golf 786.352
- Gymnastics 796.44
- Horseback Riding 798.2
- Karting 796.72
- Motocross 796.75
- Mountain Biking 796.63
- Outdoor Games 790 & 796
- Paintball 796.2
- Skateboarding 796.22
- Skiing 796.21
- Soccer 796.334
- Swimming 797.21
- Tennis 796.342
- Track & Field 796.42

**Chapter book series and authors**

- **Series**
  - Sports Stories (various authors)
  - Thoroughbred (various authors)

- **Authors**
  - Clare Bee
  - Lauren Brooke
  - Matt Christopher
  - T.J. Edwards
  - Marsha Hubler
  - Dean Hughes
  - Stephen Krensky

**Picture Books (J-Easy)**

- Dunk Skunk by Michael Rex
- Get Up and Go! by Nancy L. Carlson
- Hit the Ball Duck by Jez Alborough
- Ricky Rafts the Royal Gorge by Jeffrey Keller
- Tumble Bunnies by Kathryn Lasky

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**Unscramble these words to find some summertime activities:**

1. sbbaaell __________________
2. gimwnmis __________________
3. baslrem __________________
4. lyngpai gat __________________
5. tcaeurp hte algf __________________
6. bkaclikl __________________
7. aigpnmc __________________
8. kiinhg __________________
9. ktbadnsaeorig __________________
10. ccreos __________________

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**NextReads for Homeschoolers**

Sign up for a (mostly) monthly emailed newsletter that contains book recommendations. Go to ppld.org, find Homeschool Hub on the central rotating slide box, choose Booklists then Kids Book Ideas. Look to the left for NextReads. Click on Homeschool for the most recent edition. Sign up for the newsletter at the bottom of the page.

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**If You’re Happy and You Know It: The Jungle Version**

by James Warhola

Preschoolers will be romping with the hyenas, elephants, and lions. Count on getting up and moving around before, during, and after reading this fun book.

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**Let’s Play in the Forest While the Wolf is Not Around**

by Claudia Rueda

Kids under the age of 9 or 10 will enjoy this simply illustrated, slightly silly book that is actually based on a game played by children in Mexico and South America. This will be an active story time, so make room for running!

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**Punished!**

by David Lubar

Children nine and older will be rolling on the floor, as the puns roll in by David Lubar. Children nine and older will be rolling on the floor, as the puns roll in...

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**Heat**

by Mike Lupica

Ages 10 and older may enjoy this baseball story with a heart. Michael is a really good baseball player. But he is unable to prove he is young enough to play in the Little League Championship.