

## SONOMA COUNTY RED BARONS UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Before we move forward into the fall season, we want to take a minute to welcome the new families joining us, provide an update on the status of the organization, and recap the spring season.

This spring, our organization grew from 1 to 3 teams! Each new family added more fun & more support, and it was awesome watching the boys cheer on their fellow Barons from the stands in between their own games. We challenged the boys to play different positions and they learned new aspects of the game that they hadn't been exposed to before. Each one of these kids developed as baseball players, and as a teammate.

### **FEES AND FUNDRAISING**

We realize the cost of traveling to various tournaments can add up quickly during a season, which is why we try to keep the registration fees down. Our coaching staff and Board of Directors volunteer countless hours year round to make this organization the best it can be. Our fee of \$250 per player is *significantly* lower than other local programs, which range from \$500-\$1000 per player. In an effort to keep our fees as low as possible, fundraising is a crucial component of our program which include: corporate donations, raffles, candy sales, and our first Crab Feed.

Our inaugural Crab Feed was a phenomenal event for all involved, and brought in approximately \$9,000 to our organization! These funds were used to cover the initial uniform investment (\$6,000), team equipment, field costs, as well as other expenses. The success of this fundraiser would not have been possible without the tireless effort and selfless dedication of Jessica Lamanto and her crew of volunteers. We would also like to thank the Head Family and Eagle Distributing for donating the beer for the event, along with all of the other vendors who supported the event with donations for the silent and live auctions. Thanks to everyone who attended the event, participated in the raffle, and bid on our silent or live auctions. You won't want to miss the Crab Feed in 2014!

### **ARIZONA TRIP**

Our original 12U Red team, who have been playing together for the past 3-4 years, had an incredible opportunity to travel to Arizona last March. In order to supplement some of the cost involved with traveling to AZ, the team raised an additional \$8,000 through corporate sponsors and having the boys sell See's Candies in front of Safeway locations.

Their hard work paid off! The boys played 5 games against teams from 4 different states, tying for 5<sup>th</sup> place (out of 16 teams). Some highlights from the week included: a Spring Training Giants' game, a private tour of the Oakland A's minor league facility, a private tour of the Cincinnati Reds major league facility where they were able to interact with several major leaguers, and a special meeting with Justin Fitzgerald (Cardinal Newman Grad and now pitcher for the San Francisco Giants AAA) at the Giants' major league facility.

This trip is something we hope each team can experience through more fundraising in the future.

## **FALL FUNDRAISERS**

**SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2013. More details will follow soon on the theme of this.** Each team is also responsible for raising corporate donations. The donation form can be found on the website under the sponsor tab and downloaded. So please, start raising corporate donations as well. Any amount is appreciated.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

As the Organization continues to grow, we realize that it'll take additional resources and volunteers to make things run smoothly. Please let us know if you are willing and able to volunteer for specific roles. Let us know what your good at, and how you can help. As we continue to grow, we will need help so the coaches can spend their time and energy on the field with the kids.

## **CHANGES ARE COMING**

The organization is in the process of getting its official Non-Profit status by becoming an arm of the Police Athletic League (PAL). With this affiliation, the organization will gain financial oversight by the PAL Board of Directors and be able to provide a Federal Tax I.D. for charitable deductions!

We have also recently launched a website. Please keep visiting [www.redbaronbaseball.com](http://www.redbaronbaseball.com) to see the calendar of events, team rosters, sponsors page, etc. as it develops over the coming months.

This fall we are adding a 4<sup>th</sup> team coached by Steve Walsh. This 11U team will join our two 13U teams, and our 12U team. Welcome!

In an effort to continue to keep the fees down as we move forward, the uniforms will be property of the Sonoma County Red Barons. As long as the uniforms are in good shape, it makes sense to reuse them whenever possible. As mentioned earlier, the initial investment for uniforms this year exceeded \$6,000 (\$2,000 per team). We are projecting our annual uniform cost at approximately \$1,500-\$2,500, to pay for new pants, new uniforms for additional teams, replacement jerseys, etc. We realize we didn't communicate this to everyone upfront, so this year we are offering a credit to offset your fees in your son's next season with the Red Barons. This is a voluntary request, but would appreciate your cooperation.

We are currently in the process of moving to a new vendor for our team swag. We hope to have gear ready for families and friends to purchase soon. More to follow on this topic.

We hope that your summer is coming to a successful close and we wish the Fall Teams good luck as they embark on the beginning of new baseball season. Good luck to all of those kids who have moved on to pursue other sports or to play baseball somewhere else. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

**GO BARONS!**

Jamie Woods, President   Brian McGee, Director   Ryan Vice, Director