



PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION

Roosevelt Playground Updates

By Joe Fricker, Recreation Leader

Roosevelt Playground as 2016 Astronomy Nite Partner

Roosevelt Playground, part of the District Two Vogt Cluster, was selected as a host site for the 2016 Astronomy Nite scheduled for April 22, 2016 (rain date April 23). This resulted via a collaboration with the Franklin Institute and their City Skies Program. Other selected sites include prestigious institutions such as Haverford College, Swathmore College, and Children's Hospital.

We are hoping to work with our Cluster partners and Councilman Henon's office to make this a memorable event.

Thanks goes out to all of our stakeholders who helped make our star gazing parties, telescope building, and sun spotter viewing a success, enabling us to be selected as an Astronomy Nite host site.

Baseball at Roosevelt

Who would believe it? Playing hardball at Roosevelt Playground in mid-December, two weeks before Christmas.

That is what the Blue Sox were doing on a 65-degree December day. With players from Father Judge, the Prep Abington and Neuman Goretti, the players, led by Coach Ed Omelia, enjoyed this



spring-like weather by taking their originally scheduled indoor practice and moving it outside. It was a perfect day, albeit three months early, to bring the bats and gloves outside.

While skiers and snowboarders are wondering if they will see snow this year, this group of dedicated coaches and players took advantage



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of the unbelievable weather.

After School Trip to Shady Brook Farm Light Show



On December 8, the Roosevelt Playground After School program took its eighth annual trip to the Shady Brook Farm Holiday Light Show. The unusually warm December weather made for a perfect evening of seeing the lights, roasting marshmallows around the fire pit, and working off some pent up energy in the large play area.

The displays were beautiful and ranged from that mischievous Grinch to scenes depicting more somber holiday traditions. By the time the bus returned to Roosevelt at 9 pm, the children had a full day. The next day, a few parents took the time to mention their children went right to bed without any arguments. They seemed very pleased with that. As the song says, "peace on Earth," at least for a short time, was achieved in our After School households.

Many thanks to the after school staff and crew at Shady Brook for helping us continue this fun holiday tradition.



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Paws Farm Brings Traveling Mini Zoo to Roosevelt Playground



On the day before Thanksgiving, Paws Farm Nature Center from Mt. Laurel, NJ brought their Mini Zoo to Philadelphia to educate the children in the Roosevelt and Dorsey Playground After School programs. The visiting animals included: two bearded dragons, Sunny and Junior; Sinbad, a constrictor snake who likes to wrap around body parts but is not strong enough to crush anything; Pumpkin, a corn snake who had skin as smooth as a basketball; and Pip, a guinea pig.

We also learned about the animals' habitat, protective coloring, and what they liked to eat. Bugs and insects seemed to be a delicacy for many of the animals.

Many thanks to Ms. Lynn from Paws for making the presentation and the Afternoon School students for asking excellent questions.