

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS TAP THE POWER OF PLAY!



Wellesley, MA (October 27, 2020) - Wellesley middle school students returned to enjoy PowerPlay After School Flag Football this fall. Individual days for each grade were offered for safety and also to encourage and build class connections through active play. For participants, and their parents, the fall program is providing important social connections to help kids combat feelings of isolation during the pandemic. *"There are so many other activities that aren't happening this fall, these sessions give my son something to look forward to every week,"* said Aimee Munro, mother of a PowerPlay participant. Thankful support from The Community Fund for Wellesley and The Wellesley Gentleman's Society funded program expansion. Boston Sports Institute thankfully offered their indoor turf on rainy days and with The Wellesley Health Department provided safety protocols. PowerPlay engages students in enjoyable programs, while educating them on the importance and benefits of physical activity, play and mindfulness. Responding to increases in youth anxiety, depression, and suicides, local parents in youth development, mental health, teaching, coaching, media and management founded Community Investors in 2014 to support the physical, social and emotional wellness of youth through its PowerPlay Project. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Education Committee has asked Community Investors to develop blueprints of their PowerPlay Programs to share with other communities to provide needed quality fun focused inclusive recreation. The State request resulted from an October, 2018 report of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts After & Out of School Council stating "After & Out of School Programs boost physical, social & emotional skills, improve academic achievement, enhance college & career readiness & spark passions that directly influence youth decision making." PowerPlay programs have provided over 11,000 Positive Impactful Experiences to Wellesley Middle School students since 2014 through inclusive play in co-ed Flag Football, 3v3 Hoops, Soccer, Dodgeball, WiffleBall, Yoga & Mindfulness. A PowerPlay Student Club is developing future plans to launch programs at Wellesley High School. A "SuburbanUrban Bridge Initiative" offers pilot programs at an East Boston Middle School, a Roxbury Youth Sports Development organization and an after school program serving Framingham public housing communities. PowerPlay programs are inspired by the success of the Terriers Sports programs. Since 1991, Terriers has created uniquely enjoyable, inclusive experiences in a variety of out of school recreational programs. Student Coaching, Leadership, Music and Media programs energize experiences and provide valuable learning experiences to over 2,000 participants in over 200 programs annually. Beyond the fun, Beth Sullivan Woods, from the Wellesley Board of Selectmen and advisory member of the Community Fund For Wellesley, was impressed by the program's long record of achievement which includes professional educators, athletes, coaches, musicians, media and entrepreneurs. *"These kids get invaluable learning experiences. They learn how to build, manage and lead teams while providing instruction in athletics and real life lessons."* *"Our programs are a managed fusion of music, free play and inclusive team sports led by youth coaches, DJs and announcers"* said Joe Roberts, who leads the Terriers programs and serves as Community Investor's Executive Director. *"We have a proven recipe to provide needed organic remedies, truly transformational experiences. Every town, city and school needs these types of programs, and we are on a mission to expand our reach by empowering teachers, coaches and athletes providing "turnkey" programs to build and serve their communities."* *"To reach our potential, we are focused on building a team to develop needed capacity through partnerships with local Universities, Organizations and Corporate partners to scale. We need individuals and organizations in Youth Development, Research, Curriculum, Coaching, Quality, Web & Social Media, Music, Film/Video, Organizational Management, Operational Management, Capital Development and Administration. We welcome all to connect with us and help provide needed support to current and future generations. Program information can be found at www.CommunityInvestors.net.*