

June 2, 2008

To the KPB Family:

Although the early part of the season had its share of weather-related scheduling challenges (including the cancellation of our Opening Ceremony) the regular season has come to a close on time. The league tournament games that are about to start are a great opportunity for every team to show how far they've come since the start of the season. There are always some surprises during the tournament games, so please continue to come out and watch.

The tournament schedule that has been laid out leads to a Championship Saturday on June 14th that will also be the date of our Closing Ceremony. We will start the day with the ceremony at 10:00 AM with the introduction of teams and the recognition of long-time friends of the league. This Closing Ceremony, which marks the end of our 50th and final spring season at the Kemps Landing fields, will be followed by the league tournament championship games at 12:00 PM and 2:30 PM.

On Sunday, June 15th, (Fathers Day), KPB#1 and KPB#2 will be open all day and into the night for anyone who would like to come out onto the fields to have a catch. Anyone who has ever played, coached, umpired, or watched at Kempsville PONY Baseball over its first 50 years is welcome -- and there are thousands of you out there. Grandchildren, children, parents, and grandparents can all come out, find a piece of grass on these very special fields, and just enjoy being there. If you know people who have talked about when they played at "Kempsville Pony Colt" or the "Pony Colt Fields," pass this invitation to them. For safety's sake, no bats -- just gloves and balls. It would be great to see all generations of the KPB Family out there. At 10:00 PM that night, we will briefly and simply mark the end of spring baseball on these fields by turning out the field lights for the last time.

For the amateur and professional photographers out there who have been capturing the action at our fields, I'd like to announce a "50 Seasons" Photo Contest. Using photos you've already taken or photos you take over the next two weeks of games, submit the best you have under the following three categories:

"Generations" - The winning photo will be the one that best represents how KPB baseball has been enjoyed among Kempsville families over the years.

"The Fields" - The winning photo will be the one that best represents what people in Kempsville will remember about the Kemps Landing fields when baseball is no longer played at this location.

"The Game" - The winning photo will be the one that best captures the action of a typical KPB game.

Digital photos may be submitted in jpg format to president@kpb.org. Printed photos may be delivered in an envelope to the concession stand or mailed to Kempsville PONY Baseball, P.O. Box 65243, Virginia Beach, VA 23467. Be sure to include your contact information. Winners will be announced on the Fourth of July.

Congratulations to all of our student-athletes as you wrap up the school year. Just as you do at our fields, stay in the game until the very end.

Frank Alberio
President, Kempsville PONY Baseball