

OKLAHOMA CITY



Hello Kids Marathon Friends,

December is upon us and I know from experience that this is a busy time for teachers and families! It is also a wonderful time to get your kids excited about Kids Marathon. The holidays are perfect for family walks and runs to keep kids healthy and active while spending time with family and friends.

The holidays are also a great time to reach out in the community and begin a partnership. Contact a local business and see if they would be interested in sponsoring students to run the Kids Marathon. Positive adult role models from that business can run with kids during recess or lunch and they can train together.

If you are starting to introduce Kids Marathon to your school before the holidays, here is some information you need to know. **Please note: some of this is repeated from November's update and some of it is NEW. Read carefully!**

Just like in November, December is all about getting information out to your students, parents, faculty, staff and administration. Use the website and emails/updates from me to make sure everyone is well informed. If you have not done so, send a letter out to your school explaining the race. Some schools do not do a "Kids Marathon Kickoff" until after the holidays when kids are back to school in January. That is just fine and sometimes better as December is busy.

For general information, please go to [www.okcmarathon.com](http://www.okcmarathon.com). Click on the orange Kids Marathon tab. We will continue to make changes to our site so that you have the most accurate and up to date information regarding this event.

#### **REMINDERS:**

- The event is Sunday, **April 29, 2012 at 8:15am**. Please arrive early to park and line up alphabetically by school group. Remember, you will run/walk as a school and meet up after the race in the Kids Corral.
- When selecting your race, make sure both kids and adults select Kids Marathon (either as a kid or adult).
- Parents **MUST** pay/register in order to walk with their child this year. That includes faculty/staff.
- **PLEASE** make sure everyone from your school who signs up designates your school in the drop down menu during registration. **If your school is still not listed, or listed wrong, please email Shanda ([kids@okcmarathon.com](mailto:kids@okcmarathon.com)).** We are still working with staff and Marathon Guide to get this corrected. We apologize.

#### **Registration Update:**

**BIG NEWS – we have changed our system so you no longer have to register each child for your school individually!**

- **If you have already started getting kids registered, as long as you have designated your school in the drop down menu, they will still show up on your school's roster.**
- **Please avoid choosing "other." If your school is not listed, tell me. Check the list carefully as it may be listed differently than you may think.**
- **If parents register their own kids at home, as long as they designate your school, they will show up on your roster. Also caution them not to choose "other" and create a school because then they will not show up on your roster.**
- **\*\*\*As the school coordinator, think about how YOU want to handle registration – do you want all the information turned into you and you register everyone (maybe print the registration form from the website, have students fill it out, and then you enter the whole group**

at once?) Do you want every student to register at home and let you know that they have registered so you can keep track on your roster? Think about the options and how it would work best for your organization! Just make sure you stay organized, on top of it, and make instructions very clear to your parents, students, and faculty.

**However, if you haven't had kids register yet and you want to do them all at one time – here's how: (this is also how you will view and manage your rosters)**

- Once our new system is a go, I'll email you asking for you to verify that you are coordinating for your school this year. If I don't hear from you, you don't get a link for group registration and roster management. One coordinator per school please. In order to receive this link, you must be on my email list.
- You will have to register in the system as the school coordinator/team captain and create your school team. Again, choose your school from the drop down menu (same as regular registration). Once you register as the school coordinator, you will use the link and the log in that you create to register participants as well as view/manage any registration information that pertains to your school. It is your responsibility to keep up with your roster and correct any mistakes or ask us to help if there is an issue you cannot clear up. We will **not** be responsible for checking rosters this year, it's up to you!
- We will set a deadline to finalize information on your school's roster (sometime in the beginning of April).
- After the finalization deadline, we will use that final roster that you have checked to group all of your kids' and adults' packets, shirts, and bibs together for your school. You can pick them up as a group at the Expo or during Thursday night pickup (more info later).

\*\*\*Please make sure that you tell your participants that all of your stuff will be grouped together as a school with your coordinator picking it up so that no parent makes an extra trip to the Expo. You will be in charge of distributing stuff to your school participants.

*What does your school do to promote training for the Kids Marathon? We want to hear your stories! Send us a write up, photos, or video with your school name showing/telling what you do to get your kiddos on the road to 26.2. We will feature some on our website or in the monthly newsletter, so please make sure you have approved this with your administration and that kids who cannot be photographed are not in view. We want to share your ideas with other educators!*

IF YOU NO LONGER COORDINATE FOR YOUR SCHOOL AND ARE GETTING MY EMAILS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW TO TAKE YOU OFF MY LIST AND PLEASE GIVE ME THE NEW COORDINATOR'S EMAIL AND NAME.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me and I'd be happy to help. Our entire Kids Marathon team would like to wish your school a happy and healthy holiday season.

Keep Running,  
Shanda B. Bandi, M.Ed, NSCA-CPT  
Oklahoma City Memorial Kids Marathon School Coordinator