

2008 WSSA STACK UP! All Star Team

Congratulations to the following 22 schools, organizations and individuals who have been named to the 2008 WSSA STACK UP! All Star Team. Their All Star status has been awarded for taking their STACK UP! activities to another level, stepping it up a notch or two with creativity, inclusiveness, sheer numbers of stackers and unique twists. This year's All Star Team hails from all across the United States and as far away as Canada, Malaysia, Columbia, and China. From a stacking sleep-over to stacking in a snowbank to organizing as many as 1,400 stackers in one place, this year's STACK UP! promises to be the biggest and most interesting ever. Here are this year's All Star winners. They will receive the all-new Speed Stacks StackPod and a 2008 STACK UP! All Star certificate.

STACKING BY THE BOOK

Palm Beach County Library System Stackers-- Palm Beach, Florida
Veronica Puckett, Library Associate

Who says it has to be perfectly quiet in a library? On November 13th, the Palm Beach County Library System Stackers led by Veronica Puckett have an hour-long program planned where they will be stacking it up to help set a new Guinness World Record. Geared toward the “tween” stacking crowd (ages 8-11), the library stackers will stack individually, in relays, and to culminate the event will stack all of their cups to see how high they will go. Shhhhhhhhh. . . .Palm Beach represents the only library taking part in the 2008 WSSA STACK UP!

MOST STACKERS IN ONE PLACE

Freedom Elementary School--St. Robert, Missouri
Mike Rawlings, PE Teacher

Students at Freedom Elementary School in St. Robert, Missouri are aiming for the most stackers in one building taking part in the 2008 WSSA STACK UP! According to PE Teacher Mike Rawlings, the school's target number is 1,100. Last year, the entire Freedom staff and student body stacked and they were featured on the school's cable channel. This year, they hope to beat their record last year and include outside district guests from outside the school. Go Freedom!

EVEN MORE STACKERS IN ONE PLACE

Sampson Elementary—Cypress, Texas
Charlotte French, PE Teacher

Any school vying for the most stackers on STACK UP! day will have to compete with the Stallion Stackers at Sampson Elementary in Cypress, Texas. Boasting some of the fastest stackers in the world and one of the best all-around sport stacking programs in the country, this school is shooting for 1,400 on Guinness World Records Day. Here is the plan according to PE Teacher Charlotte French:
We will start our intro to our Sport Stacking unit the week of November 10 - 14th. Students will rotate to PE in 30 minute increments, so we can see all 1350+ students and teachers. Teachers will have a stack off during their planning time...the teacher with the fastest 3-6-3 will get a free set of Speed Stacks for centers/stations in the classroom. We will also have a prize for the homeroom that comes up with the most creative way to STACK anything in their classroom. For the first time we will have a Family Stacking Night on the 13th after school for any and all parents/students/siblings to come and stack as a family. We look forward to lots of STACKING FUN and we look forward to breaking the record again for the MOST STACKERS AT ONE LOCATION ON THE GUINNESS BOOK STACK UP DAY!

YOUNGEST STACKER

Tyler Hollis—Potsdam, New York

The youngest STACK UP! All Star is four-year-old Tyler Hollis hailing from Potsdam, New York. According to his mom, Tyler's Speed Stacks have been attached at the hip since he received his first set last Christmas. “When Tyler does not have his cups in his hand, he is walking around doing the motions all the time!” she says. For his 5th birthday, Tyler wants a Speed Stacks party and the local bakery is making cupcakes that will be stacked in a 1-10-1. With a cycle time approaching 11 seconds flat, Tyler is in demand at other parties, too. His stacking skills have recently been requested for a neighborhood demonstration. He idolizes Emily Fox and his goal is to make a trip to the World Sport Stacking Championships in Denver next April. No doubt Tyler will be stacking 30 minutes and then some on November 13th during Guinness World Records Day.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO STACK HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

Gateway Elementary School—Saskatchewan, Canada

Angela Ellis, Classroom Teacher

There will be some creative sport stacking in Saskatchewan on November 13th. Some 300 sport stackers at Gateway Elementary School will have the opportunity to stack at a variety of stations, share their stacking skills with senior citizens at the local lodge, try their hand at sport stacking in a snowbank, compete with other classes for the most creative sport stacking event and share the stage with community VIPs including the mayor, local law enforcement and even a member of parliament. Classroom Teacher Angela Ellis is leading the stacking charge and promises a video of Gateway's stacking day adventures.

CREATIVE SPORT STACKING

Slate Creek Elementary—Newton, Kansas

Jim Brown, Teacher

You name it and that kind of stacking will be going on in the gym at Slate Creek Elementary. Blind stacking, upside down stacking, giant cup stacking, partner stacking, around-the-table stacking, relays and minis and more will make this Kansas school a happening place on November 13th. Led by teacher Jim Brown, the Guinness World Records Day event will include a wide variety of “fun and crazy” stacking stations where the students will be joined by professionals from the community. Invited guests include the police and fire chiefs, school superintendent, city council members and representatives from local businesses. All told, some 400 stackers are expected to participate.

FASTEST FAMILY STACKING

The Myers Brothers—Eden Prairie, Minnesota

The four Myers brothers (Jake, Ryan, Joel and Luke) have their sights set on not only breaking a Guinness World record, but breaking their own personal bests in sport stacking. And we are talking fast! Their plan is to stack for three hours straight to shave hundredths of a second of some already amazing times. Here are their goals:

Jake: 3-3-3 Sub 3.50 (Record 3.59)

Ryan: 3-3-33 Sub 2.50 (Record 2.53) 363 Sub 3 (Record 3.08) Cycle Sub 8.50 (Record 8.65)

Joel: 3-3-3 Sub 1.90 (Record 1.91) 3-6-3 Sub 2.30 (Record 2.31) Cycle Sub 6.50 (Record 6.52)

Luke: 3-3-3 Sub 1.70 (Record 1.72) 3-6-3 Sub 2.10 or 2 (Record 2.16) Cycle Sub 5.80 or 5.70 (Record 5.84)

TEAMWORK STACK-A-THON

Christa McAuliffe Elementary School—Tinley Park, Illinois

Sarah Yates, PE Teacher

Stackers at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School are hoping to add the number 550 to the Guinness count with their “Stack Madness Stack-A-Thon”, where teams will be stacking every 30 minutes during the all-day event. According to PE Teacher Sarah Yates, teams are already formed and are planning on being decked out with t-shirts, head bands, and socks to represent their group. “Each grade will have the opportunity to become the fastest, highest, most accurate, stacker in the class. Each group will make signs to wear and hang in the gym for that day. Various activities will take place as they all have fun stacking their cups in stations of relays, individual, doubles, triples, quads. The local radio and TV stations are invited to cover this event.”

WORD OF MOUTH STACKING

Connor Weirich—Hot Springs, Arkansas

Talk about a stacking snowball effect. Between YouTube, Facebook and the enthusiasm of Connor Weirich, sport stacking is catching on in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Here is the story of this self-proclaimed “future world champion:”

Sport Stacking is a relatively new thing to my school. I started about 2 months ago, and I was the first one to start at my school. I started videotaping myself and putting my videos on my Facebook and Youtube. Many people from my school have seen my videos, and have told me how amazing it is that I can do that. In fact, a lot of them, including my friends Bo and Matt, who I plan to be stacking with that day, (as well as many other people from my school who I have not invited yet.) have bought their own Sport Stacking cups. (Speed Stacks, of course.) A couple of others have sets of Speed Stacks coming in the mail, and a lot of others have told me they plan to order some very soon. (There are no stores that sell them anywhere near where I live, so we all have to order them.)

I love Sport Stacking, and it makes me happy to know that I am the reason so many people I know are beginning to love it too. There is no Sport Stacking program at my school, and I hope to change that soon. I promise to get as many people that I know to register individually

SPORT STACKING SLUMBER PARTY

21st Century Afterschool Club—Draper, Utah
Erin Thomas, School Administrator

When the 21st Century Afterschool Club does something after school, they mean it. Students and their families are going to make this year's STACK UP! an all-night affair with plans to stack until the clock strikes midnight on November 13th. According to School Administrator Erin Thomas, the after school club will have three to five students or family members stacking every hour on the hour from the time school lets out until 12 am as part of a sport stacking sleep-over. Nearly 30 participants are expected.

AN INTERNATIONAL STACKING AFFAIR

Shenzhen Zhixing Cultural Communication Co.—Shenzhen, China
Huang Ting, Leader

Look for some 50 stackers filling the square of Nanshan Book City in Shenzhen, China. on November 13th. The Chinese stackers will be adding their count to the Guinness World Record of "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations in One Day." Since it's a little far for WSSA officials to see firsthand, the Chinese stackers promise to upload a YouTube video of their stacking prowess and are shooting for media coverage from their local newspaper.

Schools in Bogota, Columbia
Gretel Bayer, WSSA Representative

Stackers in Bogota, Columbia will be the first in that country to participate in the WSSA STACK UP!, and they could number in the hundreds. According to WSSA representative Gretel Bayer, there is a lot of excitement for the event and several schools are expected to take part. She also has three different television networks in line to cover the event. Go Columbia!

Siew Hann Wen—Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Family

Add Malaysia to the list of far-off stacking locales. The Siew Hann Wen family will be adding to the sport stacking excitement on November 13th. Here is what they have to say: *We are "12 Stack" from Malaysia, I think this is the first team in Malaysia, we are also involved in "Asian Sport Stacking Festival 2008" in Singapore. On 13th November we are in Singapore to stack for the festival, we hope we can stack up together, cheers !!!*

DECADE AWARD

Newsome Park Elementary School—Newport News, Virginia
Trey Harris, PE Teacher

Sport stacking is old hat at Virginia's Newsome Park Elementary School. PE Teacher Trey Harris has been doing it for about 10 years. Five years ago, he started a citywide sport stacking tournament. "What started with 3 schools has now grown to 10 and we are hoping to grow again this year.," says Harris. This is how he describes his preparation: *"The tournament is usually at the end of April or beginning of May. I have my team practice against the clock, head to head, relays and in tandem. We have a Friday head to head tournament where I put all the team members' names on slips of paper and draw them out for parings. We establish a class head to head champion that remains team Champ until beaten in a future tournament. I even have a ranking system (like the football polls) that I put out based on times and head to head performances. STACK UP will be coinciding with my normal Speed Stack unit that I will be teaching. I will be teaching the different stacks and cycles with the lower grades in a non-competitive format with the emphasis on correct sequence and form. The upper grades and my Speed Stack team will still be focused on form and sequence but with the added skill of competing against the clock or in head to head races. I will take a video and submit to You Tube."*

HOLIDAY STACKING WITH A BEAT

North Park Community Church—Ontario, Canada
Jim Wells, Pastor of Children & Family Ministries

Sport stacking will take on some holiday rhythms at North Park Community Church in Ontario, Canada. North Park's Children STOMP Choir will transform Speed Stacks into rhythm instruments to accompany their Christmas musical. The 120-member choir plans to video one of their Christmas songs on Guinness World Records Day and upload it on YouTube. The Church first incorporated sport stacking in its ministries about three years ago and has introduced it to about 2,000 kids and family members in the area it serves. From Pastor Jim Wells: "Stack on and up." Amen.

THROUGH THE YEARS AND STILL STACKING STRONG

St. Joseph School—Baltic, Connecticut

Glenn Costello, PE Teacher

Even the small state of Connecticut can do sport stacking in a big way thanks to PE Teacher Glenn Costello. This teaching veteran has been at St. Joseph School in Baltic, Connecticut for the past 23 years. He's been a sport stacking proponent since 2001 and after organizing local school tournaments, he is spearheading the first ever Connecticut State Sport Stacking Championships. Even in his tiny town, Glenn expects 110 stackers to take part in Guinness World Records Day. He is being awarded a sport on the All-Star Team for his dedication and enthusiasm for sport stacking as evidenced by this:

"I have stackers as young as 3 in my classes trying it for the first time, while students who are seasoned veterans have been doing it for the past 8 years. I have been promoting it at my other two school I teach at, along with putting on demos at our local state alperd conference every year....i even showed it to my middle school track and field team at our end of the season track party. I have also incorporated a new sport stacking club after school every Tuesday, and have begun an in-school practice times during recess time for students who want to come down and get their hands moving if they done feel like going outside. I really, really hope our school is one of the chosen to be spotlighted this year.....the students in this school will be ecstatic, as will I. Thank-you for your time."

VIRTUAL STACKING

École Leo Nickerson Elementary School—Alberta, Canada

Glenn Wilson, PE Teacher

When it comes to sport stacking, veteran PE teacher Glenn Wilson always has a new high-tech twist. This year is no different when he plans to include nearly 500 stackers integrating a video conferencing component. Here is his All-Star story:

"This year we will be spreading the excitement of the World Sport Stacking record attempt via video conferencing with a rural school in an isolated corner of Alberta. Leo Nickerson school in St. Albert will stack at the same time as stackers from Rainbow Lake Middle School in Rainbow Lake Alberta. Michael Rosentreter will be the organizer in Rainbow Lake.

Both schools will meet via video conferencing during the lunch hour on November 13 with several relay teams being highlighted. An attempt will be made to record and split screen the upload to YouTube.com so that both schools will be seen at the same time immediately after the relays meet.

Although both schools will be competing with small relay groups via video conferencing, it should be noted that both schools will be participating in their entirety during the day. The video conferencing will be highlighted by Alberta Education Linda Burgess piloting inter school sports utilizing technology.

The objective is to allow isolated communities to be linked in physical activities where as normally this would be cost prohibitive. What better way to do this than an intermediary sport that promotes the inclusion of all students no matter the ability or station in life?"

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER AWARD

Sierra Community College—Granite Bay, California

Alena Hansen, President, Sierra Super Speed Stackers Club

Alena Hansen has been on a sport stacking quest since she was a freshman in high school. After struggling to get a sport stacking club up and running at Granite Bay High School, she finally succeeded her senior year. Now 18 and a college freshman, Alena decided to pick up where she left off. She immediately started a sport stacking club in her first semester at Sierra Community College and currently has about 75 people involved with the word "spreading quickly," she says. Recently, Alena did a sport stacking youth demonstration at the 2008 California State Fair Cal Expo in Sacramento and said it was a "really strong hit." Alena serves as president of the Sierra Super Speed Stackers Club, continues her mission to get as many people involved as possible and will be stacking it up with as many people as she can gather on her college campus for Guinness World Records Day.

LICENSE TO STACK FAST

Tecumseh North Elementary—Tecumseh, Kansas

Sharon Covert, PE Teacher

The students at Tecumseh Elementary will be revving up their engines in this year's Chase to the Championship. The students will get a "license to speed" where they will have 51 minutes to "virtually travel" to the different NASCAR tracks across the United States and compete in different sport stacking formations. According to PE Teacher Sharon Covert, the day will culminate in an all-school assembly where local race car drivers will try and stack up against some of the students. "We know they can drive fast,, but can they stack fast?"

NEW STACKERS ON THE BLOCK

Kimberly Elementary School—Kimberly, Idaho

Tom Meyers, PE Teacher

Kimberly, Idaho receives the vote for the best new stackers on the block. Here is the story for Kimberly Elementary School where students and staff caught the sport stacking fever immediately after being introduced to Speed Stacks:

We are all here in Idaho, only on our second day of sport stacking. My name is Tom Myers and I am the Physical Education teacher at Kimberly Elementary school and only after one day of using the Speed Stacks you can literally feel the buzz around the school. Not only have the students been talking, but teachers and administrators have stopped in to see what this craze is all about. For the moment, it has taken over the school. We are registering for the WSSA Stack UP with around 500 students, and can't wait for November 13th. Being a school new to sport stacking (2 days old) with only a minimum number of Speed Stacks, we are planning on a day full of different types relays, with grades ranging from 1st-5th. It will definitely be an exiting day. Thanks again and the students can't wait.

STACKING ACROSS SUBJECT LINES

Jacobsville Elementary School-Pasadena, Maryland

Judy Schmid, Physical Educator

This year's WSSA STACK UP! is truly a collaborative effort at Jacobsville Elementary School. The Art, Music, Media and Physical Education teachers are teaming up to involve all of the school's 530 students. In store are activities in the gym that include relays and a game called "Stacking Islands" where the students' heart rates will really get pumping. In the Music room students will incorporate up and down stacking to learn and discuss various tempos and rhythms. At the Media Center they will be "Stacking 'round the table" followed by a book discussion involving competition, races and team work. According to PE Teacher Judy Schmid, other staff members will also be getting into the STACK UP! act. "We have even asked our school support staff (secretaries, custodians and instructional aides) to adopt a class and participate along with their adopted class. We know we will be having a stacking good time!"

STACKING UP CUPS AND CHARACTER

Chelsea Intermediate School-Frankfort, Illinois

Dan Prorok, PE Teacher

The students at Chelsea Intermediate School are taking their district's theme of TEAM and running with it for this year's Guinness World Records Day! They've added an "S" to form TEAMS: Together Everyone Achieves More Stacking! Combine that with their initiative of Character Counts and the creativity of PE Teacher Dan Prorok and you have six stacking stations for November 13th.: **Responsibility (Station 1):** Students will make a Tower responsibly by not stepping on any cups and down stack their entire tower without knocking any cups over.

Respect (Station 2): Students will spell out the word R-E-S-P-E-C-T inside of a wall of cups. By doing this they will find out what respect means to them.

Caring (Station 3): Students will use red and pink colored cups to make a caring creation. Their creations should be of something they care for deeply (like stacking!!).

Citizenship (Station 4): Students will use purple colored cups to create a citizenship Character counts Pillar. They will be good citizens by making sure they leave their station clean for the next group.

Fairness (Station 5): Students will race doing a 3-6-3 relay and cycle relay. They are going to be fair by not getting a head start and staying behind the line.

Trustworthiness (Station 6): We will trust our students to stack big objects such as five gallon buckets, recycling bins, and paper boxes. Students will race against other teams using various objects.