

*November 2014 Newsletter*      *Volume 1 Issue 3*

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## **Pinnacle Baseball - General Information**

On the web: <http://pinnacle-baseball.com>

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PinnacleBaseball](http://www.facebook.com/PinnacleBaseball)

### **Board of Directors:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Chris Stowe</b>	
	cstowe@pinnacle-baseball.com	(540) 841-9284
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Joshua Goldberg</b>	
	jgoldberg@pinnacle-baseball.com	(540) 661-7216
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lindy Ely</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bridget Washington</b>	
<b>Fundraising coordinator</b>	<b>Jennifer Childs</b>	
<b>Travel team coordinator</b>	<b>Brad Sexton</b>	

### **Pinnacle Academy Teams:**

14U	Tony Vincences
12U Black	Eddie Torres
12U Red	Joshua Goldberg
11U	Josh Sumler

### **Prospective Academy Teams:**

10U	Brad Sexton
9U	TBD

### **Academy Coaching Instructors:**

Chris Stowe	Head Instructor
Josh Goldberg	Catching/Hitting Instructor
Heather Jenkins	Softball Pitching Instructor
Eddie Torres	Hitting Instructor
B.J. Hanley	Hitting Instructor
Tony Vincenzes	Infield/Hitting Instructor
Josh Sumler	Infield/Hitting Instructor

# NOVEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Yankee Candle Fund- raiser Dead- line	6	7	8 5pm to 7pm Open House @Pinnacle Acad- emy
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 12pm to 3pm @ Loriella Park Infield Position Skills Clinic  5pm to 7pm Open House @Pinnacle Acad- emy
16  12U Red Krispy Kreme donut sale @ Fredericksburg Expo Center	17	18	19	20	21	22 9am to 12pm @Pinnacle Baseball Academy Softball Pitching Clinic  5pm to 7pm Open House @Pinnacle Acad-
23	24	25	26	27	28	29  5pm to 7pm Open House @Pinnacle Acad- emy
30						

Pinnacle Baseball is currently holding  
\*Free\* Open House sessions at the  
Academy each Saturday from 5-7pm  
for any 8-11 year olds that are inter-  
ested in playing for Pinnacle.

Please take note that there will be some renovations go-  
ing on the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>. There may be limited  
access to some areas during this construction.

***Save the date:***

We will be having a Pinnacle  
Holiday Party on Saturday, De-  
cember 13th, from 3:30pm -  
6:30pm at the Pinnacle Academy  
facility.

**Happy Birthday!**

Jordan Tate

Jakob Glunt

## Fundraising News

-Our October/November Pinnacle-wide fundraiser is through Yankee Candle. You can find information and place orders online at [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) (group number: **990048186**) or through any Pinnacle player. The deadline for orders is November 5th.

**Congratulations to Ryan Higgins, who won the Cal Ripken, Jr autographed jersey raffle!**

Pinnacle gives back – On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Pinnacle will be cooking and serving dinner at the Thurman Brisben Center. We will need your help to make this a success!! Kim Sickel is working on organizing this event for us and more details will be sent out shortly with what each team will need to do to provide.

### ***Atta Boy!***

Scott Webb, from the Pinnacle 11U team, received a Silver Note at school for stepping in and stopping a younger child from being bullied by an older child.



## ***From the President***

### *The Goal of Playing College Baseball*

Over the course of the last several months, we started the development of our first Pinnacle Showcase team. We have had two tryouts, with 12 different schools represented. While over 30 players tried out, we have only selected 11 to date. All the players who attended were above average high school players. Why did only 11 get selected? What are we looking for specifically? These are good questions. More importantly, this is a great opportunity for me to explain to our players what coaches seek in prospective players.

Recruiting at the college level is highly competitive. A true showcase team will be made up of players who have a large upside, as well as skills that are marketable and apparent. Thus far, this team has 6 pitchers, who consist of freshmen and sophomores who throw 77 mph and above. At this level, it is not enough to just fit in; you have to have something that separates you from everyone else. Average travel baseball players *do not* get recruited.

Everything we implement and offer at Pinnacle is in an effort to give our players every advantage to excel. With baseball across the country going to year-round for most, the competition level has gotten tougher and tougher. There has never been, nor will there be, a replacement for dedication and hard work on the behalf of the players; that's what it takes. Hard work and dedication are not over for the players who are chosen...rather, it is just beginning.

Our Showcase program is unique in the fact that we *don't stop developing*. Each one of our players will be placed with a specialized coach. Each player will be given a program to follow, specific to their weaknesses. For example, even though a player that can throw 77-78 mph as a freshman/sophomore is impressive, it is simply not impressive enough for a college recruiter. So we will build year-round arm strength programs so that we can turn 78 into a more marketable 88 when they are junior/seniors.

Additionally, each player will train their entire body to get stronger. Position players will hit at least five days a week on a structured plan. These players will be expected to continue their programs, even while participating in their high school program. Any player on this team that is found to be "slacking" will be removed and replaced with a player that is willing to work.

The Prospect team will have a full staff of coaches with unlimited resources for these players to excel. They will also be held accountable for what they do off the field. Grades will be checked periodically by the staff. It really doesn't matter how good you become at baseball, if you don't have the grades. Grades say a lot more to a college recruiter than just how smart you are. They speak to what type of dedication the player has off the field. If two players are equal in ability, and one has a 2.5 GPA and the other has a 4.0, the 4.0 player will be selected *every time*.

Does this message seem tough? I wonder how many players who were not chosen as seniors wish someone would have delivered this message to them? Pinnacle players... when your coaches are pushing you, I want you to realize they already know the message above, so take the criticism and use it to get better. As freshmen and sophomores, I hope to see all of you be the type of players the "Pinnacle Prospect" team is looking for.

-Coach Stowe

# *14/15U Pinnacle Prospects Showcase Team Tryouts*



## ***From the Vice President***

Hello Pinnacle nation! As we get closer to the end of the fall season I wanted to take this opportunity to address a few points as our players and teams draw nearer to the transition to indoor workouts. Winter workouts are a great time to slow things down and focus on individual player development through repeated repetition and instruction. However, it's equally important for our players to shut things down for a period of time to recharge their physical and mental batteries. Official team workouts will start early in January, so please take advantage of your down time by resting your arms! Remember as members, the facility will remain open and available for each of you to use if you so choose with the exception of the third week in November. During that week, we will be doing maintenance on our existing equipment and adding additional batting cages and pitching lanes. If anyone would like to volunteer to pitch in and help us that week it would be great (please contact Chris to do so).

As our top priority, Chris and I have met with the team managers to ensure that each team was given first choice of the available time slots for their team practices. Those slots are available to your teams starting now, and will be there through Mid-March of 2015.

We are also excited to announce that we will be offering an expanded series of camps and clinics starting soon. All Pinnacle players will receive a discount on all camps and clinics over the public.

Schedule and rates are as follows:

Infield Position Skills Clinic on November 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 3:00 PM at Loriella Park.  
Instructors are Josh Sumler and Tony Vincenzes  
Pinnacle rate is \$125.00

Softball Pitching Clinic on November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 to 12:00 PM at the Academy.  
Instructor is Heather Jenkins  
Clinic rate is \$150.00

Catching Clinic on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 12:00 PM at the Academy.  
Instructor is Josh Goldberg  
Pinnacle rate is \$200.00

Pitching Clinic on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the Academy.  
Instructor is Chris Stowe  
Pinnacle rate is \$200.00

Hitting Camp – Every Saturday starting January 10<sup>th</sup> and running through February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Academy. There will be multiple sessions starting at 9:00 AM.  
Instructors are Chris Stowe, Josh Goldberg, BJ Hanley, Eddie Torres, Josh Sumler, Tony Vincenzes, and others.  
Pinnacle rate is \$300.00

Please be sure to check our website for updates and/or additional information.

*-Josh Goldberg*

# Team News

## 10U

The last month has had a lot of ups and downs for 10U. We played in 2 tournaments, with contrasting results. We had a donut sale that made the boys some DOUGH!! It was definitely a month of character-building for the boys.

Our first tournament of the month was a fall state tournament. Will Earnesty and Carter Childs made an appearance for the 10u. Both boys contributed during the weekend. Will pitched the first game, leading the way from the mound to a big win. All of the boys contributed offensively. Carter thwarted a big inning by diving to his left, grabbing a line drive, rolling to his butt, and getting the double-play. Pinnacle 10u never looked back.

In the second game, we had our opportunities, but just plain got outplayed and came up short. Ravi Dass and Jaden Greene combined to pitch the game, and both did a fine job. Bats were held in check for the fellas in this game.

Going 1-1 landed us a 5 seed in the top bracket for championship Sunday.

Carter Childs took the bump for our matchup against the Top Hand Reds, who were the 2 seed. We jumped on them early, getting out to a 2 run lead, with big hits from Josh Bartels and Jaden Greene. Childs pitched a great game, keeping things right there for the next 4 innings. The Top Hand team was scrappy, pushing across 2 runs in their last half-inning to send the game to extras. Extra time was not a friend of 10U on that day, allowing a run in bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>, to finish their tourney.

The next weekend, the boys faced more adversity than most teams ever will. With a few teammates out of town, the team was shaken to its core when Keith Pritchett award nominee Devin Washington was admitted to the hospital for an emergency appendectomy. The boys had to

take the field with heavy hearts, and only 8 players. Devin would have been proud of his teammates for not giving up, not quitting, and not once did they complain. Kids had to play positions they hadn't had much experience with, but they gave their maximum effort. The boys fell short on Sunday, but the life lessons they learned will make them stronger.

A few tournaments remain for my guys, and it has been such an honor to be a small part in their progression. This is a great group that is loyal to one another, and I know will continue to work their tails off. We are taking our lumps now, but I promise you this; they are learning to play this game correctly, and I can't wait to witness what other teams just won't see coming...

Huh now!!!!!!

*-Brad Sexton*

*From our 10U reporter in the field, **Drew DiFilippo**, who interviewed the parents on his team with these questions:*

***What is your favorite MLB team to watch? Is there an MLB player you think is a positive role model, and why?***



Bevin and Chris Matarese: The Yankees - Favorite MLB player is Derek Jeter because he is a good sportsman and role model.

Amanda Dugan: The Orioles - Favorite MLB player is Adam Jones because he stays positive, he always hustles, and plays hard.

Rick Higgins: The Orioles - Favorite MLB player is JJ Hardy because of his professionalism and positive attitude.

Lee Rice: The Nationals - Favorite MLB player is Ryan Zimmerman because he has lots of perseverance and never gives up.

Mark DiFilippo: The Phillies - Favorite MLB player is Chase Utley because he plays smart, and is an all around good player. He does a lot for charity, as well.



*The 10U team shows their support for their teammate, Devin Washington.*





## Team News

### 11U

Pinnacle 11U won our first piece of hardware in the last weekend of September. The boys overcame a rough day of games Saturday to win both games on Sunday, capturing the trophy. Ethan Drew had a standout weekend, providing solid defense behind the plate, and delivering a couple big hits, including his **FIRST HOME RUN!** Will Earnesty and Scott

Webb gave the team solid starts, and both helped pick up the win.

The rest of the October was very up-and-down. Despite not performing to the level we all know we can, the boys have continued to work hard to improve and become a better team. I am very excited for the rest of our tournaments this fall. I

am looking forward to winning some games and bringing back some more hardware to the Academy.

*-Josh Sumler*



*Carter, Will, and Andrew celebrate Halloween together as the presidents from the Washington Nationals.*

*From our 11U reporter in the field, **Liam Adamczyk**, who interviewed the parents on his team with these questions:*

***What would you tell your son to keep him going when he might be discouraged on the field or with his progress?***

"I would tell my son to think about the best game he's ever played and focus on doing the same things. Be positive; be confident; be happy; and have fun."

"Stay positive and do better on the next one."

"Keep your head up and go get it the next time."

"Winners never quit and quitters never win."

"All you can do is do your best and shake it off."

"Get his head up, stick his chest out, forget the last play, and focus on the next play. Have a short memory."

"I tell my son to keep practicing and keep his head up and focus on the things he has done well."

"Try to do your best doing what your coaches have taught you; if you tried your hardest and gave 100% effort you have everything to be proud of. You will make mistakes, just learn from them and go get it the next time."

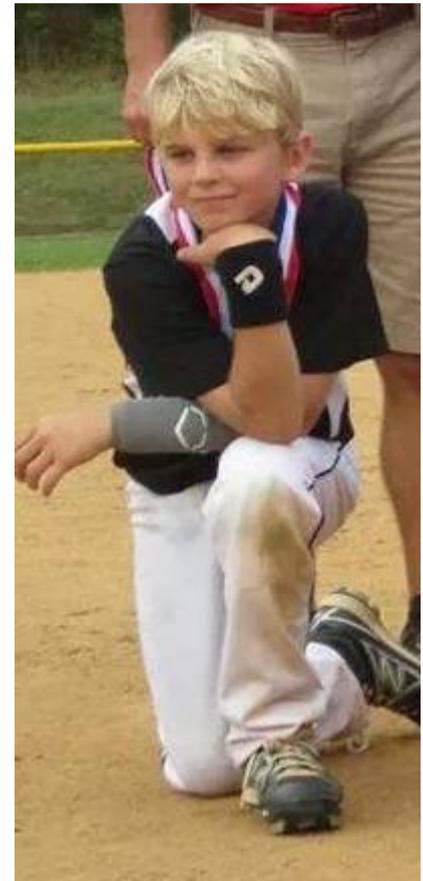
***Do you have a positive personal baseball or softball story to share?***

"My favorite stories are the ones where the boys all come together as a team, encourage each other, congratulate each other, lift each other up, and then succeed because of it."

"In the last season my son spent a lot of time on the bench. He worked hard in the off season and now he is hitting them over the fences."

"I became good friends with a kid on my baseball team when I was 11. I played ball with him all through high school. We have been best friends ever since, and we were even best man at each other's weddings."

"I never hit a home run, but got to All-stars because I had the most RBI's, and was a good hitter."



## Team News



### 12U Black

Pinnacle Black finished the month of October by winning the Bats Gone Wild tournament in Richmond. Despite a loss and a tie on Saturday, the team came back ready to play on Sunday. Gabe pitched five strong innings to help get us past the Tuckahoe Tornadoes in the first game. Bode took the bump for all six innings in game two against the 14-0 RBS South Nationals. He had a solid defense working behind him, which included diving catches in the outfield by Landon and Keats. Gavin was our anchor in the championship, throwing a complete game against Flu-

vanna. The offense started strong with a leadoff double by Matt that lead to batting the entire lineup in the first inning. Everyone hit and defense was rolling...literally. In the three games on Sunday, we had three double plays, to include a difficult 5-4-3 turn. Most importantly, the team represented Pinnacle by playing clean, hard baseball in the face of stiff competition and some challenging calls.

We held our season's final outdoor practices this week to get ready for our last tournament of the 2014 season. We are heading to the Halloween Bash event in

Patriot Park this coming weekend with 10 players. The team is very excited and looking forward to a great weekend of competitive baseball. Best wishes to all Pinnacle teams involved in this weekend's tournament.

*-Eddie Torres*

On the DL:

Nico (foot, 1-2 months)  
Trevor (fractured thumb, 1 month)

Notable offense:

Bode (HR)  
Gabe (HR x2) - including a grand slam

Notable defense:

Outstanding field play by Matt, Landon, Keats, Austin, Bode



## Team News

### 12U Red

Since our last update, 12U Red has competed in several tournaments, including the Longhorn Classic in Leesburg, a fall series one-day event in Richmond, and the Diamond Elite event in Fredericksburg. At the Longhorn Classic, Red bounced back from a tough first day by winning both games Sunday in route to securing the Bronze Bracket victory. Next on the list was the one-day fall series event in Richmond that saw the team split for the

day, thus rounding out a 3-3 record or playing .500 ball over the 6 game two-weekend stretch. Last weekend, team Red again started slow going 0-2 on Saturday; however, rebounded on Sunday going 1-1 on the day. So far this season, team Red has fared well against teams within our AAA division with a record of 6-5, and has gone 1-0 against AA teams. The "little things" that we preach in practice have

plagued us somewhat against majors level teams this year, resulting in an 0-5 start; however, the coaches and players know and are working hard on the factors within their control to start tipping the outcome in our favor. We have two planned tournaments left on the season, and are looking forward to finishing strong before the transition to winter workouts.

*-Josh Goldberg*

*Tyler Durbin, Seneca Gregory, and Ethan Goldberg (and siblings) celebrate Halloween together.*





## *Team News*

### **14U**

Pinnacle 14U went 2-1 this past weekend entering Sunday as the 3rd seed. They finish up the year this weekend at Patriot and plan on ending the season with a championship win.

*-Tony Vincenzes*





*From our 14U reporter in the field, **Cole Ely**, who interviewed the parents on his team with these questions:*

***Do you know the five tools that scouts use to evaluate player talent?***

“Arm strength, hitting power, hitting accuracy, speed, fielding.”

“Running speed, throwing strength, teamwork, physical ability, hitting.”

“Dip, dodge, duck, dive, dodge.”

“Speed, arm strength, glove work, batting, eye-hand coordination.”

“Speed, fielding accuracy, arm strength, ability to hit to all fields, coachable.”

“Honesty, integrity, self respect, self motivation, go-getter.”

“No.”

“Speed, agility, power.”

“Yes...”

“No.”

“Attitude, grades, determination, background checks.”

***What are your thoughts for players wanting to move into higher levels of baseball?***

“Need to be more focused. Understand that competition is at a maximum. Full time dedication in the off season.”

“Need to have complete understanding of the game. Work dedication. Skills & dedication to the game.”

“Need to play to a higher level. Accept always being challenged, Have dedication to make yourself better. Commitment to work.”

“Put the work in to get the results. 12 month sport at a higher level. Physical conditioning all the time. Always push yourself beyond your limits.”

“No bat, glove, or the newest, flashiest equipment makes you better. Only dedication and desire makes you better. Practice is the individual’s responsibility.”

“It takes a certain person to handle moving up. I’m all for it.”

“I think it’s great!”

“Go for it!”

“Hard work, determination, focus.”

“Be disciplined.”

“Definitely move up to a higher level.”

“Great to see kids wanting to move to a higher level and excel.”

## Player Spotlight

Logan Crouch, from the Pinnacle 11U team, is 11 years old and goes to Hartwood Elementary School. His favorite subject in school is math, and his favorite food is fried chicken. Many people may not know that Logan likes to split wood, and go fishing.

If Logan had a walk-up song, it would be *Here Comes the Thunder*. His favorite baseball team is the Nationals, and his favorite player is Jayson Werth, because “he’s awesome!”



His favorite positions to play are shortstop and catcher. If one of his teammates needed help or motivation, “I would tell my pitchers to act like my glove stole your girlfriend.”

Seneca Gregory, 12, plays for Pinnacle 12U Red, and is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Rodney Thompson Middle School. His favorite subject is history, and he loves Philly cheese steaks. Seneca is a military kid, so he’s either lived in or traveled to Oklahoma, North Carolina, New Mexico, Hawaii, California, Nevada, Virginia, Japan, Korea, China, and Germany.

His walk-up song would be *Brain Stew* by Green Day. His favorite baseball team is the L.A. Dodgers, and his favorite player is Clayton Kershaw, because he’s a good pitcher that also does a lot for his community.

Seneca says, “I love to pitch because I like the sound of the pop when a good fastball hits the catcher’s mitt. I also like playing third because you have a lot of opportunities to field the ball.” If one of his teammates was in need of help or motivation, Seneca would tell them, “Always try to do your best and have fun. Try not to think about making mistakes, and remember that hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.”

## Spotsylvania County Little League Baseball Clinic



Pinnacle Baseball Academy, led by President and founder Mr. Chris Stowe, recently partnered with the Head Baseball Coach of University of Mary Washington, Mr. Wayne Riser, to provide a free baseball skills clinic to current Spotsylvania County Little League (SCLL) players ages 9-16.

The clinic was organized and run under the collective direction of Mr. Stowe and PBA Vice President Mr. Joshua Goldberg, and supported by Coach Riser, along with assistance from his coaching staff and current players. Over 85 LL players took turns receiving instruction and practicing skills as infielders, outfielders, hitters, catchers, pitchers and base runners.

Both PBA and UMW instructors worked alongside each other to ensure that every player in attendance benefited from the instruction. The UMW players, adorned in full uniform, provided our area Little Leaguers with a great example of how a real ballplayers respect the game, as well as how to prepare and perform on the field and in the classroom.

The clinic culminated with all the kids receiving two final addresses led by Mr. Stowe and Coach Riser, respectively. Mr. Stowe, pitcher, and former first round draft pick of the Montreal Expos, demonstrated and instructed on the importance of developing repeatable pitching mechanics, proper grip, throwing motion, delivery and timing. Coach Riser, drawing from his over 30 years of college coaching experience, delivered the final instruction (and comedy!) of the night by sending the players off with an encouraging message that hard work, dedication, respect, class, and integrity are not only the common ingredients, but also the cornerstone, of all successful baseball players.





**THANK YOU... to our current Pinnacle sponsors:**



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## **Food Bank Donation Barrel**

*“Change begins with you. Your gift will make a positive change in the life of someone who is struggling with hunger. On behalf of the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank and all who are fighting hunger, we thank you for compassion and generous donation.”*

[www.fredfood.org](http://www.fredfood.org)

-Please bring your donations to the barrel located at the Pinnacle Baseball Academy facility.

*Our last drop off was 156 lbs!!! The holidays are coming...please consider giving for families in need who could use help, especially in the coming months. .*

### *Top 10 Needed Items:*

- Canned Tuna, Salmon, Chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Dry Beans: Pinto, Red, Black, Navy, Great Northern, Kidney
- Canned Fruit in Natural Juice
- Pasta & Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Vegetables
- Instant Potatoes
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Rice

*Baseball is about talent, hard work, and strategy. But at the deepest level, it's about love, integrity, and respect.*

**-Pat Gillick**

### **Fun Fact:**

-The strike zone is defined by the rule book “as that space over home plate which is between the batter’s armpits and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance.”

-The strike zone is where the pitch crosses through the batter’s normal strike zone, or is caught by the catcher in relationship to where the home plate area is located.

[http://www.littleleague.org/learn/newsletters/Fairball\\_Newsletters/2009/fbmay09/THESTRIKEZONE.htm](http://www.littleleague.org/learn/newsletters/Fairball_Newsletters/2009/fbmay09/THESTRIKEZONE.htm)

Joe Sewell only struck out **three times** during the entire 1930 season (353 at bats). Two of them were in the same game.

*Questions? Comments?*

*Any submissions for the newsletter may be sent to*

[mgoldberg@pinnacle-baseball.com](mailto:mgoldberg@pinnacle-baseball.com) *by the 15th of each month.*

**Manager inputs are due by the 15th of the month.**