October 4, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

During the school year, your child will participate in a fun and rewarding new program called Young Athletes. The Young Athletes program is a series of flexible play activities that assist a child in developing necessary building blocks for sports such as walking, running, balancing and jumping, trapping and catching, throwing and kicking, just to name a few. Because of the inclusive nature of the program and it’s focus on individual growth, these building blocks result in notable improvements in the development of each child’s motor, cognitive, social, emotional and communication skills.

Young Athletes games, songs and activities are designed so that children with or without disabilities of all can experience movement, fun and success. Parents and teachers of Young Athletes are continuously reporting big improvements in their child’s self-esteem and willingness to participate in other activities after participation in the program.

Your child’s teacher has been given a specially designed set of equipment to use for Young Athletes free of cost on behalf of Special Olympics Washington. The kit contains balls, cones, blocks, scarves, racquets, a balance beam and other items all child-sized and brightly colored. In the classroom or on the playground, students will be navigating obstacle courses, exercising and developing gross motor skills. The equipment will also be used to help teach your child to count, learn colors and words, and social skills like peer interaction and taking turns. The benefits are endless!

Please complete the attached registration form and return by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . This registers your son or daughter in the Special Olympics Young Athletes program and entitles them to a free t-shirt and participation ribbon.

We’re excited to join with Special Olympics Washington to bring this fun and engaging program to our students this year. Please let us know if you have any questions!

