Happy New Year to all the amazing Hardy families! We wish you the best for 2019 and hope it’s an amazing year for all. That was actually my first time typing 2019, it felt weird.

A very special thank you is in order for all of those that participated and donated to the annual PJ Party, it was a huge success. The kids had a blast, and it seemed like the parents enjoyed having a Friday night with some freedom. Most importantly, we raised the highest gift card amount to date, over $2,000! We are so grateful to be able to put on event with our amazing community to support a community in need. Shawn, and the teachers who put it on, hand delivered the gift cards to the Dana Farber Institute, and it was graciously received.

Hopefully everyone is coming back relaxed, refreshed, and ready to get back to business. We have many fun activities planned for the upcoming month, with the cold and darkness limiting our time outside. We started doing more whole group activities and challenges towards the end of 2018, and we are looking to continue that in the new year. Of course, we know not all kids are going to enjoy the same activity, so we would never make a child participate in something they were not comfortable doing. We will, however, encourage them to at least try it. The challenges are meant to be fun, silly, team building activities to have the group work together as a whole. A few we have tried that were successful were Bobsled Racing (putting mats on scooters to build a bobsled, and pushing your team across), Dragon Friends (using only a sheet, you must get your team from one side of the gym to the other without touching the floor), and City Planners (the kids work together to design and build a city using various materials). These activities ideally challenge the kids to work together and utilize each others strengths. As each challenge requires different skill sets, different kids can become leaders and build their confidence.

Matt, Eric, Stephanie, and Rachel