



Fort Dupont Ice Arena



Photo courtesy of Tony Hack

Rink Roundup

January 2018

KOI® Alum Headed to the 2018 Olympics!

Maame Biney, Kids On Ice® alum, has been trailblazing the speedskating world for a while now. Her hard work finally paid off when she secured her spot on the **2018 US Speedskating Olympic team**.

[Full Story Inside](#)

A Holiday Show to Remember

This season's holiday show was certainly one to remember. **Nearly 200 skaters** turned out to perform before a packed house of family and friends. The one hour show included routines by the Fort Dupont Freedom synchronized skating teams, basic skills students and **a new edition of routines** by our speed and hockey students. **Cornerstone School** also made their debut as our first **Schools Skate For Fitness** group to perform in the show. From the costumes, to the set design and overall hard work from all our skaters, this season's show was certainly one for the books. And of course, we can't forget **Gabby Francis**, a Kids On Ice® student, who graced us with her beautiful voice for the National Anthem. Thanks to our skaters for a spectacular performance!



January is National Skating Month!

Come celebrate with us! We will be hosting a special public skating session on **Monday, January 15th, 2018** from 12:00pm - 2:00pm. Admission for all ages is \$5.00 which includes **FREE skate rental!** There will also be an exhibition by all three of our synchronized skating teams during the intermission.



#NationalSkatingMonth

Let's be social! Find us on social media



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Maame Biney Sets Eye on 2018 Olympics

A huge congratulations to KOI® speed skating alum Maame Biney, who has secured her spot on the 2018 U.S. Olympic Speedskating Team!

The Early Stages

Maame began her speedskating journey at Fort Dupont Ice Arena through our Kids On Ice® speedskating program. At the time, our longtime friend **Nathaniel Mills** and a former Olympic speedskating competitor himself, was her coach. Every Saturday morning, at the early hour of 6:30am Maame would take to the ice. Over the years she worked tirelessly; She competed in numerous races including the 500m race at the **2017 Short Track World Cup Qualifiers** where she won Gold and the **Shanghai World Cup** where she placed fifth overall.

Olympic Trials

The road to the Olympics is no easy feat. It takes a great many things including hard work and Perseverance. Even once you reach the Olympic trials, a spot is not confirmed. The first day of time trials unfortunately did not go as planned for Maame but that did not discourage her. She came back the next day and completely blew the competition out the water. Upon winning both A Finals, Maame Biney became the **first African American female** to qualify for the US Olympic speedskating team at the tender age of 17. It was a wonderful accomplishment and she had a lot of support at the trials, including coach Nathaniel Mills and her father Kweku Biney who held the sign, "Kick some hiney, Biney."

PyeongChang, South Korea

The 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics will be a first for Maame. She will be competing in the **500m and 1500m** races which begin on **February 10th, 2018**.

We are so proud of you Maame and we know this is only the beginning.

Good luck in South Korea!



Photo courtesy of Tony Hack



Photos courtesy of Tony Hack & (Bottom Right)DC-Inner City Excellence

That's Maame!



A Fond Farewell and A Warm Welcome

After serving 7 seasons, **Janet Rossi** has made the difficult decision to step down as Director of Operations at Fort Dupont Ice Arena. Janet will be transitioning to a new position with one of our many hockey families, St. Albans School. We are very grateful for all the hard work and support you've provided to our skaters and families over the years and are looking forward to when you come to visit us. Best of luck Janet!

As Janet begins her transition, we are pleased to announce that **Amanda Michael** has accepted an invitation to join the Friends of Fort Dupont team as our **Business Office Manager**. Amanda is no stranger to the ice and brings with her a lot of useful experience. Welcome to the team, Amanda!

We would also like to welcome **Jaronte Jones**, who recently joined our team. He is a longtime skater here at Fort Dupont Ice Arena and is on the **Fort Dupont Cannons** team. We are excited to have him on the ice with us. Welcome Jaronte!

Welcome Back Special Olympics!

We are more than excited to once again have **Special Olympics DC** join us on the ice for another season for training. Each year Fort Dupont Ice Arena looks forward to working with **DCPS Special Olympics** skaters who come together from over a dozen schools to learn how to fly across the ice on skates. Skating helps kids to strengthen muscles, improve coordination and most importantly, build self-esteem. The program, which runs for 12 weeks, culminates with an **Olympic speed skating competition** complete with a parade of athletes and Olympic flame. Thank you Special Olympics for continuing this great tradition at FDIA!

Have You Started Earning Your Dupont Dollars?

Our Dupont Dollars incentive program is a new addition to Kids On Ice®. Through the program, our skaters can now **earn Dupont Dollars** for participating in activities and attending special events. Most recently, events included a special performance by the Washington Revels, an Origami session with **Lei Lei Middlebrook** and a **Get-to-know our Kids On Ice® Alumni** talk. As the students earn Dupont Dollars, they can use them towards a variety of items including concession purchases, bring a friend to skate admission and **exclusive Fort Dupont gear** that can only be purchased using Dupont Dollars. Get started earning your Dupont Dollars today by visiting www.fdia.org/dupontdollars

RinkRoundup



Schools Skate For Fitness

Spaces are still available for **DC Public and Public Charter schools** to sign-up for our awesome **FREE** program.

Bring your class and get a skating lesson with a professional skating instructor.

Skate rental, gloves and helmets are all included.

Ask your school administrator or physical education teacher to contact our FDIA Program Director Melissa Newberry at mnewberry@fdia.org and get on the schedule today.



United Way of the National Capital Area

United Way NCA Designation Code
7193



CFC Designation Code
18839

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Help Support Kids On Ice® With Tax-Deductible Contribution

- \$60 Sponsors one child for an 8-week Learn to Skate session
- \$240 Sponsors a school group of up to 30 children for 2 visits
- \$375 Sponsors one child for a week of summer camp
- \$1000 Covers the cost of 10 new pairs of skates
- \$ _____ Any amount you can send today helps keep our programs going!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ Yes, please add me to your mailing list!

Please make checks payable to Friends of Fort Dupont Ice Arena and mail to 3779 Ely Place SE, Washington, DC 20019.

Or, make a secure donation online at www.fdia.org using VISA, MasterCard or Discover

