

## **Tennis and Tutoring Introduction**

The Tennis and Tutoring program is being developed as an after school program in cooperation with the following community partners: Utah Tennis Association, Utah Junior Tennis Foundation, Liberty Park Tennis Center, Friends of Liberty Park, Salt Lake City Mayor's Office of Education Partnership, Salt Lake School District, University of Utah Lowell Bennion Community Service Center, Third District Juvenile Court, Scott Matheson Jr., the Bastian Memorial Fund, and Chevron who has provided start up funding and support for the program.

Our 2010 program is set to begin Tuesday, February 9 and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 29. Classes begin at 3 pm with a 1 hour tennis lesson from a Liberty Park tennis Pro at the Liberty Park Tennis Bubble followed by a 1 ½ hour one on one tutoring session in the new on site Liberty Park Tennis and Tutoring Classroom.

Students from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades at Lincoln Elementary are being invited to participate in this session. The selection process will be based on students with an interest in tennis and a desire to improve their academic abilities. The program will be provided free of charge to those who commit to the requirements of the program. Parental support is a key factor in the success of this program.

Tutors will be provided by the University of Utah Lowell Bennion Center Community Service Center. Each tutor will be matched, one-on-one, with a student, helping them improve their reading and academic skills. All students will be involved in on-court tennis lessons and taught how to play tennis. Tennis equipment will be provided for each student and Liberty Park will provide court time and tennis instruction.

While raising the academic achievement level of the participants is the main goal of the program, tennis is also important in that it helps raise optimism and self esteem. It also assists with tactical thinking and the development of positive personality characteristics. Tennis teaches good sportsmanship, helps promote healthy lifestyles, competition, discipline, social skills and exercise. Most of all, tennis is fun!