

Stingray Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2010

SWIM-A-LAP FUNDRAISER

A huge thank you to all who participated in this year's swim-a-lap fundraiser!! Thanks to Annetta Drager and Chris Dal Pra for spearheading this fundraiser and insuring it's success! We should have some final numbers in next month's newsletter. Thank you for your support!

TEAM RALLY BOWLING PARTY/ SWIM-A-LAP AWARDS

Don't miss the fun! The entire family is welcome. Registration for the Bowling Rally Party is due no later than February 15th. Forms were mailed home several weeks ago and additional forms are at the bulletin board. The party is Sunday, Feb. 21st at Cherry Bowl from 5:00 PM until 7:30 PM. Swim-a-lap prizes will be awarded after we bowl. Go Rays!

THANK YOU PARENT VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered at our home meets and helped to make them a success. Our home meets are run completely by parent volunteers. Running a good home meet and cleaning up well afterward is important not only for our reputation in the District, but also for the Y, as it is a privilege for us to be able to use the Y pool all day and host home meets. I think we did an awesome job. Many hands make light work thank you to those who stepped up to lend a hand.

TEAM BANQUET DATE AND LOCATION -- PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We have set the date, location, and time of our annual Stingray Team banquet. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. The banquet will be on Sunday, March 28 at the Radisson Hotel from 2-5 PM. Thank you to Susan Pilgrim for all her hard work in securing this location for us! More details and sign up information will be out soon. All swimmers will be recognized. Another great team video is also in the works thanks to Ellen Pidde. Please get your pictures and video clips turned into Ellen if you would like them included in the team video. Questions contact Ellen at EllenPd@charter.net

DISTRICTS/ JR CHAMPIONSHIP MEET - 12 & UNDER, SATURDAY, March 6 , IL Valley YMCA

All families should have received a packet with all the District Championship information in the mail last week. Please register your swimmer as soon as possible (Feb. 17th deadline) and contact Wendy Crouch at wrcouch@pslegal.org before February 17th to select your volunteer position. We are very excited to have the opportunity to Co-Host this meet with IL Valley! Every family with a swimmer entered in the Championship meet will have a volunteer position. Contact Wendy asap to get your preferred slot.

The District Championship meet for all 12 & under swimmers is at IL Valley YMCA. The entire 12 & under team will participate in this one day Championship meet starting with a spirit parade. (All teams parade around the pool deck before the Championship meet and make lots of noise! This year's theme is "Peace, Love, Swim", and we will dress up in 70's/Hippie attire. Each swimmer will be given a few 70's/Hippie accessories for the parade at the meet. Any swimmer that has swum in at least 3 meets throughout the season, is eligible to swim in the Championship meet. The team will pay for each swimmer's entry fees for this meet, but each swimmer **MUST REGISTER** so Coach Kim knows who to enter and how many entries to pay for. Registration forms were mailed home a couple weeks ago and are due by Feb. 17th. Please don't wait until the last minute to turn them in. Let's try to have 100% participation this year! Last year we took 2nd place! (Extra forms are at the team bulletin board)

At the District meet, all swimmers will swim in the morning session which will end approximately 2pm. The Top 8 swimmers in **individual events** of the **District division** will swim in the finals in the afternoon. All relays will swim only one time as a final in the morning. The afternoon finals should start at approximately 3:30 pm. If you make the finals, you must stay. Plan accordingly. We will have a team area in the gym at IL Valley Y. Please bring sleeping bags, fold up chairs, cards, games and anything else that will keep you comfortable and your child busy throughout the day. Concessions are also provided, but you may bring your own food and snacks if you wish. Warm up times will not be posted until the Wednesday prior to the District meet, but will most likely be early (approximately 7:00 am.) The Parade of Athletes will be at 8:30. The meet will begin at 9:00 AM

If your swimmer swims a state time at the District meet, this qualifies them for the State meet in Dekalb the weekend of March 20 & 21. Boys will swim on Sat. the 20th and Girls will swim on Sun. the 21st. The District will automatically enter swimmers with qualifying times. Be prepared to advise Coach Kim if you if you qualify for the State Meet, but will be unable to swim. If you are in a relay, your participation affects the other 3 swimmers.

The kids have all worked very hard for this meet. We have also talked a lot about being responsible, being a good sport and having fun first! Please help reinforce this with your swimmer. Let's have a fun day and represent our team well! **GO RAYS!!!**

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP - 13 & UP, SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010 IL Valley YMCA

The same information as above, however, there is no parade for the older kids. You must have swam in at least 3 meets prior to this meet, (2 for high school swimmers) and you **MUST REGISTER!** ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ABOVE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT COACH KIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

PRACTICE SCHEDULE/ STATE QUALIFYING SWIMMERS

The last day of team practice is scheduled for Friday, March 5th unless you qualify for the Area/State meet on March 20 & 21. Only those swimmers that have qualified for the state meet, by swimming a state time at the district meet, will continue practicing after March 5th. A schedule of State Team practice times will be given to you at the district meet, along with the state meet information if you qualify.

SPIRIT POSTER NIGHT

Come show your team spirit at our annual poster night to make spirit posters for our District Championship Meet on Monday, Feb. 22nd in the Harding Center Conference Room on the 3rd floor. Come before or after practice (6 pm to 8:30 pm) to make a poster. Poster board and markers will be supplied. You may bring other supplies to make your poster special if you like. (No glitter please) Posters will follow the "Peace, Love, Swim" 70's/Hippie theme. Anyone interested in helping with the poster night or District Parade can contact Carla Logan at (815) 621-4234

NEW COACH

You may have noticed a new face on deck last week. Please welcome Michelle Herron to our coaching staff. Michelle grew up in the Chicago Suburbs and recently moved to Rockford to work as a Social Worker in the Rockford School District. She has many years of competitive swimming, teaching, and coaching experience. She loves children, is very enthusiastic, and will be a great asset to our team. Please introduce yourself and welcome her if you see her on deck.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Feb. 15	Team Bowling Rally Registration Due
Feb. 17	Championship Meet Registration Due, volunteer sign up due
Feb. 21	Team Bowling Party Cherry Bowl 5:00 pm
Feb. 22	Spirit Poster night in Harding Center 6:00 to 8:30 pm
Feb. 22	Mandatory Monday for Meet 2/27 @ Dekalb
Feb 23	Registration for Dekalb Open/Time Trial due
Feb 27	Triangular meet at Dekalb 10 am warm up
Feb. 28	Dekalb Open/Time Trials 1:00 PM Warm up
March 6	District/Jr. District Championship meet IL Valley (12 & under)
March 7	Districts 13 & up –IL Valley Warmups TBA
March 20	Area/State Swim Meet – Boys Dekalb
March 21	Area/State Swim – Girls Dekalb
March 28	Team Banquet Radisson Hotel 2 PM
April 7-10	YMCA Nationals - Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Stingray Hotline Number (815) 489-1201

Web site: Rockfordymca.org/programs