

MUSCATINE SWIM CLUB NEWSLETTER

October 2005

It is that time of year again, the leaves are changing, the weather is cooling down and the smell of chlorine in your child's hair is just around the corner. Here is some important information for you as the 2005-2006 swim season nears.

MANDATORY PARENTS MEETING:

There will be a mandatory parents meeting on **Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30 in the MHS Howe Commons**. One parent must attend this meeting. **Just for Kicks** will be present to place your team suit order. There will also be a variety of caps, goggles and practice suits to purchase if you would like. This meeting is a great opportunity to ask questions, meet the coaches, and sign up for the meets you will be volunteering.

REGISTRATION:

Attached to this newsletter is a registration form. A registration form must be completed for each swimmer in your family. If you need more, please photocopy your form. Registration deadline is **Tuesday, October 25, 2005**. There will be a \$10.00 late fee for registrations received after **October 25, 2005**. Please send your completed registration and check payable to the Muscatine Swim Club to PO Box 504, Muscatine, IA 52761.

The fees for this year are **\$135.00 (this includes 1 team suit and a bag)** for the first swimmer in the family and **\$125.00** for each additional swimmer in the same family. Parents who have assisted with the football fundraising will receive credit based on number of games worked to offset the cost of registration.

Swimmers must also have a **current Y membership**. The fees for new swimmers will be held for the first two weeks of practice as a trial period. **Scholarships** for the YMCA and swim club **are available**. Please call Karen Thie at 264-9996 for scholarship information.

IMPORTANT – A SWIMMER CANNOT ENTER THE WATER UNTIL THE REGISTRATION IS COMPLETED, SIGNED BY A PARENT, AND THE FEES ARE PAID. WE HAVE TO ENFORCE THIS RULE BECAUSE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE!

VOLUNTEERISM:

The Muscatine Swim Club is a **PARENT RUN volunteer** organization. It is imperative that **all** parents volunteer in some capacity to make the season a success. We understand that all families have different schedules and situations; therefore there are many ways each family can help. We have 4-5 home meets this year. We would like to see 100% participation from all parents. Please sign up to help with at least 2 home meets. There are things to be done before, during and after the meets. Remember, **if all people help a little – no one has to do it all!**

Sign up sheets will be available at the October 25th parents meeting. You may also contact Tammy Wagner at 264-2118 or e-mail at tamwagner32@yahoo.com.

PRACTICE TIMES:

Coaches for the 2005-06 will be as follows:

Children 9 & over: David Moeller & Cortney Rexroth
Children 8 & under: Cath Hahn

Practice for all swimmers 8 & under will be at the Muscatine Community Y on **M-W-F** from **4:15 - 6:00 p.m.** The first two weeks all new swimmers and K-1 swimmers will practice from 4:15 – 5:15. Swimmers in 2nd or 3rd grade will swim from 5:00 – 6:00. After that time, swimmers will be split into two groups according to ability, and practice times will also be split.

All swimmers 9 & up will swim at the Carver pool at the Muscatine High School **Monday-Friday.**

Practice times will be as follows:

9 & 10	5:30-6:30 PM
11 & 12	6:30-7:30 PM
13 & over	6:30-8:00 PM**

Practice will be until **7:30 p.m. for the first two weeks or so.

Swimmers may need to come dressed for swim due to the availability of locker rooms used by the boy's high school team. The coaches will keep you informed on this matter.

PRACTICE CANCELLATION:

There **will be** practice on scheduled early dismissal school days. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, there will be **no** swim practice on that day at either location. Also, if the Carver Pool is to be used for a Muscatine High School or Middle School home meet, we either **will not** have practice or hold a practice at a different time. Currently we are aware of conflicts on the following dates: November 7, December 15, January 10, January 12 and January 26. Please check the board for practice time changes.

MEET SCHEDULE:

The winter swim meet schedule is attached. In order to participate at sectionals, swimmers need to compete in **three** meets by February 5, 2006. Swimmers must compete in the sectional meet to qualify for the state meet. The state meet will be held in Marshalltown on March 4 & 5. The boys meet will be on Saturday and the girls meet will be held on Sunday. Muscatine has reserved a block of rooms at the AmericInn in Marshalltown. You must call the hotel directly at 641-752-4844 to receive our rate of \$89.90 per room. If you call the 800 number or book online – you will NOT receive this rate. This block of rooms will only be held until February 14, 2006. If you cancel your reservation in less than 24 hours prior to your scheduled arrival, you will be charged the full price of the room.

MEET SIGN UP:

It is the responsibility of the swimmer and parent to notify the coaches on whether the swimmer is going to participate in the upcoming meet by the **Monday prior to the meet**. For your convenience, we have placed sign up deadlines on the meet schedule. **We will make no exceptions to this rule**. Meet entries are due to host teams by 12:00 on Wednesday. Coaches need time to enter events for each swimmer and put together relay teams.

OFFICIALS CLINIC:

There will be a YMCA Swim Officials Clinic offered at the Burlington YMCA on November 5 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Jeanette Mix from St. Louis will be teaching the class. If you are interested in attending, please contact Joni Jackson at 264-0884.

PICTURES:

We will be offering professional group/individual pictures of our swimmers this year. We have two tentative dates set, dependant upon when team suits arrive. We will make sure to get the dates to you as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October 25:	Mandatory Parent Meeting	6:30 PM
November 1:	Practice Starts	
November 5:	Official's Clinic @ Burlington	
November 23-25:	No Practice – Thanksgiving Vacation	
December 23:	No Practice – Christmas Vacation	
December 26 - 30:	Practice Schedule TBA	
January 1, 2006:	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	
January 2, 2006:	Regular Practice Schedule Resumes	
March 4-5	State Meet @ Marshalltown	
March 25 & 26	Midwest Regional Swim Meet @ Minneapolis	

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS:

In an effort to make correct information available to all parents, we ask that you provide us with an accurate e-mail address. This is the most efficient way for us to contact everyone when there is a change in a practice schedule or to notify you of an upcoming event. If you do not have any e-mail address, please find a friend to contact you with the information. Unfortunately, we are not able to call everyone individually. The Swim Club's website is www.muscatineswimclub.com.

MUSCATINE SWIM CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	Bob Calegan	288-3491	calegan@machlink.com
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