



January 12, 2009

Dear TWST Parents

Happy New Year! The first four months of the swim season have been exciting with club growth, great swimming, and most importantly, fun for our swimmers.

The TWST roster has grown from 157 swimmers last year, to 180 this season, making two straight seasons of extraordinary growth. During this time 5 swimmers have left TWST while many, many more have joined our club. Changing clubs is a family and swimmer decision triggered by any number of reasons. My son Andrew recently left. He had talked with Eric last summer and felt now was the time to join many of his high school teammates. It was a tough decision for him as he grew up swimming for Henry, then Eric, and most recently Keith. We have a number of swimmers from the Cheektowaga Rays, EAST, STAR and other teams. Based on our growth and our number of transfers, TWST is a club families want to be a part of. Our appeal is the great youth coaching, a family atmosphere, and a central location.

Coach Eric semi retired this fall and fortunately for TWST, we had Keith Healy step up and take over as Head Coach. Eric's new baby and job responsibilities made coaching full-time a difficult commitment. The good news is that Eric will continue to be involved coaching level 5 one day per week and helping with meets when needed.

Keith brings over 30 years of swimming and coaching experience to his new position. He has done a great job with the level 3 swimmers and is more than capable managing our program at TWST.



The Board is changing as well. Brenda Romano and Laura Kavanaugh have been great additions. Marianne Hoover has stepped down to devote more time to the numerous other organizations she supports. I am transitioning out as Board President. After three years it's time to give others an opportunity. Kim DiRienzo and Henry Heppner will be joining the Board after the Snowball meet. The Board will be an energizing combination of experienced leaders and TWST community members bringing new ideas and insight.

As the swimmers move into the heart of the competitive season much goes on behind the scenes. The Snowball Meet on January 31<sup>st</sup> is our biggest fundraiser of the season. Everyone is encouraged to help in some way to make the meet a success. The Board is looking for a location and date for our spring banquet. We are making arrangements for our summer swim program - location and coaches will soon be put in place.

The Orchard Park school administration is working on a program where all organizations that use OP school facilities would be charged. This is to help offset state aid cuts we've all been reading about. Right now they are looking at a fee of \$60 a day for the pool. This would be a significant addition to our budget. Nothing is finalized but we are working for the best possible solution.

Much is happening with TWST. We have dedicated coaches and parents that make it all a wonderful experience for your swimmers. The Board actively seeks your participation and encourages you to get involved. We are open to suggestions and willing to talk. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of us.

Gary Duszynski