SST NEWS

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**2014 Swim-A-Thon**

The time is near for the Stingray Swim Team 2014 Swim-A-Thon! This is one of our largest fundraising opportunities for the year, and it is also a fun event for all swimmers. This year, our Swim-A-Thon will also be a great marketing platform to show Fairbanks what a successful and energetic team we are. We will be contacting local media outlets to preview and cover the event, and we may even convince one local news anchor to swim! We are excited and motivated to make this year’s Swim-A-Thon the most successful event in Stingray history.

The Swim-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, May 3 at Hamme Pool. Our team will begin collecting donations on Saturday, March 1. This will give us two months to collect donations, generate excitement, and build a strong community backing. The main donation platform will be online, right on our team website, where donors can pledge with a credit card as they would when making any online purchase. No more chasing down checks! There are donation packets available for those who prefer the off-line route. So start prepping Grandma and Grandpa, but don’t forget your neighbors and local businesses. More information to come as we near our kickoff on March 1.



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**Great Alaska Open Recap**

The Stingrays had another successful meet racing against some of the top swimmers in the state. All of our swimmers made it to finals in at least one event, and everyone raced hard. It was a long weekend, but our swimmers stayed focused and used their warm up/cool down in order to stay at peak performance throughout the meet.

Highlighting the meet were our five Stingray competitors. **David Chen** put together some nice swims, dropping time and making finals in three events. He placed 9th in the 100 Breast and 200 Breast, and came in 10th in the 200 IM. **Cassidy Heaton** swam very well after only two weeks of practice, making finals in four events. She placed 2nd in the 400 Free, 3rd in the 800 Free, 10th in the 200 Breast, and 11th in the 100 Breast. **Martha Hood** was our top scorer of the meet and also earned 3rd place in the high point awards. She made finals in all six events, placing 2nd in the 200 IM, 200 Breast and 100 Breast, 3rd in the 100 Back, and 7th in the 200 Back. She was also the event champion in the 100 Fly. **Rose Mercer** raced well to make the finals in the 100 Fly, placing 11th. The Stingrays also swam well in both relays on Saturday, earning 5th place in the 200 Free Relay and 400 Medley Relay. In the 200 Free Relay, Martha Hood led off and finished to the wall nearly in 1st place, followed by **Rachel Birkholz** who held her own against some very fast swimmers. Cassidy Heaton followed with a great swim in the number 3 spot, giving our anchor, Rose Mercer, the opportunity to race for a 5th place finish. Rose held off the competition and earned the 5th place spot with a great lunge to the wall. In the 400 Medley Relay, Rachel Birkholz led off on the Backstroke leg, followed by Cassidy Heaton in Breaststroke, Martha Hood in Butterfly, and Rose Mercer in Freestyle. All four athletes swam personal best short course meter times and beat some fast teams to earn a 5th place finish. Congratulations to all of our Great Alaska Open swimmers!

**Valentine’s Day Meet Recap**

The Stingray Swim Team hosted their annual Valentine’s Day Meet on February 8th. We exceeded our participation goal of 45, as there were 50 Stingrays racing at the Patty Pool. It was very exciting to see all those pink caps in the water, and the coaching staff was impressed with each athlete. We had more swimmers in the meet than North Pole and only a few less than Midnight Sun, which is a testament to our improvement and mission. Everyone raced hard, stayed positive, and showed great team spirit.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1st Place | 2nd Place | 3rd Place |
| Meah McCallum – 8&U 50 BK | Lily Hsieh – 8&U 25 BK | Grace White – 8&U 25 BK |
| Taylor Keyes – 11-12 200 FR | Blaque Secor – 8&U 50 BK | Madison Hrinko – 11-12 200 FR |
| Cassidy Heaton – 15&O 200 FR | Cole Grimes – 15&O 200 FR | Martha Hood – 15&O 200 FR |
| Logan Fox – 9-10 200 FR | Bradley Birkholz – 9-10 50 BK | Victoria Schachle – 11-12 50 BK |
| Trevor Chiu – 11-12 200 FR | Logan Hite – 11-12 50 BK | Crieghton Beshears – 11-12 50 BK |
| Abigail Birkholz – 9-10 50 BK | Audrey Fox – 8&U 25 BR | Marissa Strauss – 11-12 100 BK |
| Lauren Hite – 13-14 100 BK | Grace White – 8&U 50 BR | Meah McCallum – 8&U 50 BrR |
| Rachel Birkholz – 15&O 100 BK | Crieghton Beshears – 11-12 50 BR | Lauren White – 9-10 50 BR |
| Blaque Secor – 8&U 25 BR | Lauren Hite – 13-14 100 BR | Logan Hite – 11-12 50 BR |
| Blaque Secor – 8&U 50 BR | Victoria Schachle – 11-12 200 BK | Lauren White – 9-10 100 BR |
| Logan Fox – 9-10 50 BR | Lauren Hite – 13-14 200 BK | Mary Lucero – 15&O 100 BR |
| Cassidy Heaton – 15&O 100 BR | Bradley Birkholz – 9-10 50 FL | Abigail Birkholz – 9-10 50 FL |
| Logan Fox – 9-10 100 BR | Taylor Keyes - 13-14 200 BR | Olivia Hrinko – 15&O 100 FL |
| David Chen – 15&O 100 BR | Eden Gumaer – 15&O 200 BR | Rose Mercer – 15&O 50 FR |
| Madison Hrinko – 11-12 200 BK | Blaque Secor – 8&U 50 FR | Crieghton Beshears – 11-12 50 FR |
| Martha Hood – 15&O 200 BK | Logan Fox – 9-10 50 FR | Marissa Strauss – 11-12 100 FR |
| Grace White – 8&U 25 FL | Madison Hrinko – 11-12 200 FL | Rachel Birkholz – 15&O 100 FR |
| Rose Mercer – 15&O 100 FL | Lauren White – 9-10 100 IM | Crieghton Beshears – 11-12 100 FR |
| Cole Grimes – 15&O 100 FL | Raven Drake – 11-12 200 IM | Cole Grimes – 15&O 100 FR |
| Lauren Hite – 13-14 200 BR | Rachel Birkholz – 15&O 200 IM | Mary Lucero – 15&O 200 IM |
| Cassidy Heaton – 15&O 200 BR | Taylor Keyes – 13-14 500 FR | Michael Lucero – 13-14 500 FR |
| David Chen – 15&O 200 BR |  | David Chen – 15&O 500 FR |
| Grace White – 8&U 25 FR |  |  |
| Meah McCallum – 8&U 50 FR |  |  |
| Martha Hood – 15&O 50 FR |  |  |
| Meah McCallum – 8&U 100 FR |  |  |
| Yuki Nagaoka – 13-14 100 FR |  |  |
| Trevor Chiu – 11-12 100 FR |  |  |
| Martha Hood – 15&O 200 FL |  |  |
| Makenna Beshears – 9-10 200 IM |  |  |
| Shannon McCallum – 11-12 200 IM |  |  |
| Abigail Dixon – 15&O 200 IM |  |  |
| Trevor Chiu – 11-12 200 IM |  |  |
| Cole Grimes – 15&O 200 IM |  |  |
| Cassidy Heaton – 15&O 500 FR |  |  |
| Trevor Chiu – 11-12 500 FR |  |  |

**Age Group Championship Preview**

The Alaska Age Group Championships are this weekend, February 14-16, at Hamme Pool. The Stingrays have 14 individual competitors, our largest championship team in many years. There are also a few SST swimmers who will be competing in relays and helping our team score points. We are very excited for the meet this weekend, and the coaching staff is confident our swimmers will stack up well with the best age group swimmers in the state. This is a long, three day prelim/final meet, and our athletes will be ready for the challenge. They have prepared all season and are ready to shine. The 2014 Stingray Swim Team Age Group Championship Roster includes Heidi Billings, Gwendolyn Bunch, Trevor Chiu, Katie Day, Raven Drake, Logan Fox, Lauren Hite, Madison Hrinko, Greta Johnson, Sadie Johnson, Taylor Keyes, Meah McCallum, Shannon McCallum, Yuki Nagaoka, Yazmen Rhodes, Victoria Schachle, Marissa Strauss, Tatum Weckwerth, Siwah Welterlen, and Lauren White. These swimmers will compete in 60 individual events and 11 relays. Congratulations swimmers on making the 2014 Age Group Championship Team, and we know you will all swim well.

**Parent Volunteer Recognition**

We would like to take this time to show our appreciation to all of our wonderful Stingray parents. The sport of swimming requires many hours of volunteer support, and we thank you for your time and effort. It is because of your hard work and dedication that we are able to provide your swimmer with the highest quality experience possible. A special thanks to the board of directors who put in countless hours operating the team and managing member support. Also a special thank you to those parents who have/will volunteer at meets in which their child is not swimming. That shows true dedication to the Stingray Swim Team, and an understanding that overall team success is directly related to your individual child. Those families who have volunteered 10 or more hours so far this season include Hrinko, Hood, Johnson, Birkholz, White, Bunch, Montayne, Williams, Billings, Keyes, Fox, Chen, Luzzader, and Dixon. We also have many officials who have volunteered their time at ALL the meets this season. We thank each and every parent for your help and volunteer support.

**February at a Glance**

* February 2 – Yazmen Rhodes’ Birthday
* February 4 – Ezra Billings’ Birthday
* February 4 – Heidi Billings’ Birthday
* February 7 – Risa Heinrichs’ Birthday
* February 8 – Valentine’s Day Meet
  + SST hosted meet, held at Patty Pool
* February 9 – Arwen Gustafson’s Birthday
* February 11 – SST Board Meeting
  + Held at Madden Real Estate on Barnett Street, 6:30 pm
* February 14-16 – Age Group Championships
  + Prelim/Final meet held at Hamme Pool
* February 21 – Talia Wentz’s Birthday
* February 27 – Abigail Dixon’s Birthday

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**Patty Pool Closures**

The Patty Pool will be closed on the following dates due to university policy:

* February 6
* February 20
* February 27

**SST 2013-2014 Meet Schedule**

Back to School Meet September 28 – Wescott Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Halloween Meet October 19 – Patty Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Wishbone Invite November 15-17 – Hamme Pool

Prelim/Final Meet

Coach Robb Coady Novice Invite December 7 – Hamme Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Candy Cane Time Trial December 14 – Wescott Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Spring Will Come Meet January 11 – Hamme Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Great Alaska Open January 24-26 – Hamme Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Valentine’s Day Meet February 8 – Patty Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

AK Age Group Championships February 14-16

Warm ups: 8:00 am

St. Patrick’s Day Meet March 15 – Wescott Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Northern Area Championships April 4-6 – Hamme Pool

Prelim/Final Meet

AK Junior Olympics April 24-27 Bartlett Pool

Prelim/Final Meet