



Dear Saline Swim Team Families:

As this note is composed, I am quite sure our families are getting ready for a busy holiday season. Please know, your staff at Saline Swim Team is hard at work as well, creating value adding program enhancements to be implemented in the new year.

The fall season was a great success. With the help of our families, our team has implemented new programming, improved swimmer engagement and won our 5th straight SMSL championships. Perhaps most meaningfully, together we raised nearly \$8,000 dollars for the pediatric cancer research fund at CS Mott hospital!

Motivated by achieving our eventual goals, we have continued our dedicated focus on building a top class staff. Staff improvements have been possible thanks to significant investments from Saline Community Education and the growing popularity of SST. In the coming months you will see additional staff enrichments.

We are thrilled to announce that Coach Karl Shafer (of Titanium fame) has agreed to take over the helm as Lead Coach of our Bronze Group. Due to growing demands in her career, Coach Chrissy will be cutting back her hours with our team. However, we are pleased to note she will still be spending a few hours a week with SST. Under Coach Karl's guidance the Bronze group will flourish and continue developing the skills they need for long-term success in swimming. Coach Karl will follow up with Bronze families shortly. Karl's Lead of the Titanium group will not be effected by this change.

Mini-rays will enjoy a reformulated training progression, to ensure great development for every swimmer. Finally, we are pleased to be recruiting a high level assistant to work exclusively with our top groups: Platinum and Gold.

In addition to recruiting additional staff, we are making an investment in developing our current coaches. SST staff will have opportunities to continue their development through USA Swimming Club Development consulting services and trainings with the American Swim Coach's Association.

To hear more about the short and long term future of our team, please joins us for a "STATE OF STINGRAYS" parents meeting: January 6th, 6:45 pm; High School Media Center just past the commons.

As our team's membership has approached the maximum capacity of our home pool, we are beginning conversations, which will aid in the controlled growth and ensured the stability of SST's future (more on this, shortly). Thanks to you, we are thrilled with our club's direction, and as always...

Pleased but not satisfied.

Jeff Gross
Head Coach- Saline Swim team
www.salineswimteam.com