



## News from the Executive Director

By Mike Switalski

In the coming months, the City Swim Project is facing unprecedented challenges. Many of the challenges are still a direct result of COVID among other issues. These challenges have forced the City Swim Project to take unfortunate steps that we hope will be temporary. A lifeguard shortage, facility closures, and grant activation are just a few to mention.

The lifeguard shortage has been a very public issue for the City of Buffalo this year. We anticipate the city announcing that a limited number of pools will be open this summer because of the shortage. We have not received confirmation about what pools will be available or the hours of operation.

Two of our facilities are going offline for the summer. The ECC Pool at the Flickinger Center and Lackawanna School District Pool are not available to for the summer months. Additionally, because of the lifeguard shortage some pools will not have standard operating hours.

Lastly, the City Swim Project is being fiscally responsible with its spending. Due to COVID, some funders have shifted their focus to other areas. This has forced our program to identify new supports. While we have been successful in this effort, the timing for access to the funds has the potential to be cost prohibitive for the summer program this year. If you know of an organization, business or individual that may have an interest in supporting our efforts please contact Coach Mike at [coachmike@cityswimproject.org](mailto:coachmike@cityswimproject.org).

On July 16, the City Swim Project will be participating in the GIVE716 event hosted by the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres. The event is for one day only. On that date, we will be sending out an email to our families to make a donation. During specific times on July 16, donations will be matched. We will share more information as the date gets closer. Please recruit others to participate in this giving effort as well.

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As we approach the summer months, there are few items we want you to be made aware of:

1. Our Learn-to-Swim program will be taking a break from June 13-July 4.
2. Watch for information about the summer Learn-to-Swim program toward the end of June. We expect to start on Tuesday, July 5.
3. We are working to identify alternative facilities that the City Swim Project can use for both the short term and potentially the long term.
4. The summer program will run until either August 19 or August 26. Final date will be

determined by the challenges mentioned earlier.

5. Swimmers will need to bring their own swimsuit and goggles to lessons.

We are working to restore our full services as soon as possible and build beyond for the long term. Our belief is that these steps will only be necessary for the short term. If you have any questions, please contact me at [coachmike@cityswimproject.org](mailto:coachmike@cityswimproject.org).



Bah Dane is a graduate of McKinley High School. He was a coach for the City Swim Project from 2019-2021. After graduation, he joined the United States Army. Meet Private First Class Dane, now his job in the army is a 12 Bravo combat engineer. Private First Class Dane was back at McKinley visiting Coach Mike and recruiting on behalf of the Army at the end of May.

Thank you for your service to our club and our country Bah Dane!

## From the desk of Patti Nabinger, Director of LTS

### Hello everyone!

I know these times have been difficult being moved around due to pool closures and constraints. We are working hard to secure new pools and getting back to normal operational standards. I want to encourage you to continue attending lessons. Lessons are going extremely well. Swimmers are moving up the ladder at their own pace. Our program is nearing 350 swimmers and we haven't even hit the summer rush. This is great news for the future of our program! If you haven't been swimming in a while, come on back to the pool, we miss you!

### What's next for Learn to Swim?

We will be taking our annual break starting June 13<sup>th</sup> – July 4<sup>th</sup>. Our biggest goal is to prepare the next wave for the novice and competitive team. We believe the next group to move up will be happening towards the end of summer. We hope you are looking at the emails from Coach Rick about the success of the Buffalo



future of the City Swim Project/Buffalo Tide swim team.

Those interested in Adult LTS. Please be patient as the City Swim Project secures funding and pool space to make this program grow even more. The long-term goal is to create a master swim team and programming for healthy living around the water. The program has been a great success and we can't wait to get back in the water again.

### What's up with staff!

Coach Sarah was married in May. She is also interning in Italy through June. We want to wish her much success. Coach Patti is now a co-owner of a TAP pool(billiards) league. Graduating High School this

year are Coaches WahWah, Aviana, Irena, and Isaiah. Congratulations to all of them!

### Keeping it real!

After the recent events in our city. I just want you all to know that when the media outlets are gone, and the groups leave, the City Swim Project is here to help in any way we can. Let us talk more and hug each other a little harder and spread more love. Love is the light that will defeat hate! Hate has no place here!





Please remember that we will stop practices as of August 12<sup>th</sup> and resume in September. Please look at the practice page for the updated calendar.

If your child has friends who are interested in joining our program, please reach out to them. We would really enjoy growing the competitive side to greater numbers!



## News from the Head Coach Rick Aronberg

The Buffalo TIDE swimmers have had a great last few months! Our kids have done much better at their practices and it showed up well at the Tonawanda meet we had in May.

We really appreciate your understanding as the ECC pool went under construction and we had to make practice location adjustments starting in May.

We have had a number of new swimmers move up to the Green and Black levels as well as one swimmer moving up to the Bronze level. It is very exciting to see these young swimmers train hard and show a strong commitment towards their own improvement.



The Buffalo TIDE team continues to set strong goals for years to come, however we are really enjoying the improvements in the short term that we see from week to week.

As we continue to bond and grow as a team, we also use this time to really emphasize the important things it takes to become stronger competitive swimmers. These include teaching a strong work ethic, reading the pace clock, learning how to take constructive criticism from the coaches, having their practice equipment every day, coming on time, wanting to be a stronger swimmer and be a great teammate.



I want to thank my assistant coaches Henry Heppner and Melhea Gachette for their incredible commitment to the program as well as their compassion towards all our athletes. Our swimmers are extremely lucky to have individuals like this be strong role models for them and we hope that they feel the same way.



The Buffalo TIDE season will conclude on August 12<sup>th</sup> and we will be back up in early September. The exact date will be posted on our website and we will be sending out an email later in the summer.

As you did this past year, we ask that you re-sign up for the next season (2022-2023) once September comes around and we hope that you will be just as excited as you were this past season.

News from Dr. Sue Baldwin,  
Director of Support Services

**City Swim Project** is ready to launch the Team ACHIEVE (Academics Can Help In Emotions, Values and Education). Team ACHIEVE is designed to support academic achievement, social emotional learning and character building opportunities for **City Swim Project** swimmers. **City Swim Project** has purchased the *IXL Interactive Learning* education software to support math and ELA learning. *IXL Learning* software provides:

- Real-time diagnostics to assess what swimmers know and how to help each swimmer progress academically
- Comprehensive K-12 math and ELA practice at each swimmer's own pace through fun and interactive questions, built in support, and motivating awards
- A personalized feed of practice topics based on each swimmer's precise academic skill level
- Up-to-date tracking on each swimmer's academic progress

The **City Swim Project** purchased a limited supply of tablets for swimmers that don't have access to a laptop/tablet to use on location during tutoring sessions before or after their swim lessons. *City Swim Project* plans to offer free tutoring on Tuesdays from 5:00 – 5:45 pm, from 6:00 – 6:45, and from 7:00-7:45 at the William Emslie YMCA for swimmers in grades 1 through 12. If you would like to sign your swimmer up for Team ACHIEVE, please be on the lookout for the *Sign-Up Genius* from Coach Patti. You must sign up each Monday before 5:00 pm for a spot. Please know that the tutoring spots are limited so make sure to be the first to sign-up!

