

## A New Season

The fun has begun for the 2019 Rockshire Sharks. Possibly spurred on by the unseasonably warm weather, a record number of Sharks turned out for the first week of practice. Luckily, a record number of coaches were there to meet the swarm, including new coaches Caroline and Maddy. Caroline even got out her cap and goggles to demonstrate to the swimmers (and practice for the very important coaches' relay). By third week of practice, however, temperatures had cooled down considerably, forcing many Sharks to attempt to get an early start on Friday's scavenger hunt by looking for the pool's heater. (Meanwhile the coaches competed in their own scavenger hunt for the kickboards and lane rope wrench). Many tough Sharks still braved the difficult conditions and continued to practice despite constant warnings from Alex Thompson that the water was cold. The colder weather did bring out a return of the penguin, who remains undefeated, despite the many fast Sharks.

## Inverness Meet

On Tuesday night, the sporty Sharks travelled to Inverness to take on the Nessies. While the

Inverness lane rope might not have been ready for a meet on Tuesday, the Sharks had no problems. Aiden Scherr and Fuster Kyle took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the opening event (of the first half) and the Sharks never looked back. Aiden went on to win an additional three races (in both halves). Max Fuster and Felicia Wang also earned first place finishes. Despite having just one day of practice between time trials and the meet, many Sharks were still able to drop time. Daniel Blate, Carina Chen, Nicolas Cheng and Helen Duan dropped time in four events. David Fan, Lev Gorban, Nick Kim, Erik Lieske, TJ Miller and David Ye were not far behind with three best times. Carina Chen knocked 9 seconds off her 100 IM for the biggest drop of the night. Audrey Aarhus, Nicolas Cheng, Lev Gorban, Emma Guo, Raimi Kvedys, Maddy Manne and TJ Miller also dropped at least 5 seconds in an event. Hawie Abera, Kim Abera, Salma Badr, Nicolas Cheng, CG Combs, Max Fuster, Kayleigh Hepburn, Mitchell Kupersmith, Erica Lopez, Maddy Manne, Will Metcalf and TJ Miller got all best times. The 11-12 boys dominated all night, as Fuster Kyle, Patrick Liang, Anton Oblonsky, Aiden Scherr combined to sweep the freestyle, backstroke and

breaststroke events. The future looks bright, as Brandon Pino, Max Xu and Lukas Nuredini added a sweep in the boy's 6&under freestyle. Miranda Kvedys, Mitchell Kupersmith, Maddy Manne, Will Metcalf, Lukas Nuredini won best dressed. Amelia Fuster and Miranda Kvedys won the appreciation of the coaches and the Inverness lifeguards by picking up 20 pieces of trash.

## Pasta Night

On Friday night, the Sharks enjoyed their first pasta night of the season. At pasta night, the Sharks received their ribbons from the Inverness meet and competed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual scavenger hunt. Luckily for CG Combs and Kai Thompson-Jones the scavenger hunt did not require you to find two flip-flops. Luckily for everyone, none of the questions involved what to call the period between the 13-14 backstroke and the 15-18 IM, as the Sharks would still be there arguing about the correct answer. When the dust had settled, Team Alex pulled out a close victory. Everyone won best dressed as all the Sharks looked great in their team suits and team shirts for the team picture.

## Halftime of the Review

## Potomac Glen Meet

On Saturday morning, the Sharks returned to the Shire to take on the Gators from Potomac Glen. The Sharks used their Disney magic (especially from best dressed winners Amelia Fuster, Jordan Kelly, Cate Ledoux and Lucy Stanton) to be fast in the water. Early in first **half** of the meet, Kai Thompson-Jones, Jordan Kelly, Daniel Wang and CG won the boy's open medley. At the end of the second **half**, Jason Cobb, Fuster Kyle, Max Fuster, Dylan Pino, Alex Thompson, Andrew Vorozheykin, Nick Kim and Max Manne took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the boy's freestyle relay, and Hawie Abera, Jingjing Wu, Sidney Thompson, Amelia Fuster, Maddy Manne, Felicia Wang, Erica Lopez and Olivia Qin took 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the girl's freestyle relay. In between, there were many other great swims. In addition to the relay, the Sharks swept four other events. Hawie Abera, Yasmine Badr, Emma Barrow, Haile Ma, Maddy Manne, Max Manne, Eshaan Mishra, Brandon Pino and Dylan Pino contributed to those sweeps. Individually, Hawie Abera, Jason Cobb, Jordan Kelly, Dylan Pino, Jingjing Wu and Daniel Wang swept their events. Maddy Manne, Alex Thompson, Max Fuster and Madison Kelly completed the sweep of their respective age groups. Kim Abera and Cate Ledoux earned 4 best times. Gabriela Combs, Amelia Fuster, Max Fuster,

Catherine Hsu, Maddy Manne, Eshaan Mishra, Olivia Qin, Sidney Thompson, Felicia Wang and Jingjing Wu all got 3 best times. A motivated Max Fuster had the biggest drop of the day. Alex Obolensky, Brandon Pino, Olivia Qin and Felicia Wang also dropped a lot of time in an event. Salma Badr, Zena Badr, Emma Barrow, Carina Chen, Lindi Cheng, Jason Cobb, Catherine Hsu, Brandon Pino, Amelia Simmons, Jean-Luc Tessier, Daniel Walker, George Xie, Max Xu and Clement Yuryev competed in their first Saturday meet for the Sharks. Jason Cobb, Dylan Pino and Judy Wu picked-up their first Saturday morning wins. Alex Thompson earned his first all-star nominating time. Minutes after hopping out of the pool from the IM, 12-year-old Madison Kelly swam on the women's open-age medley, competing against swimmers six years older than her. The Sharks had a great time receiving their ribbons and celebrating their outstanding swims at Potomac Pizza after the meet.

## Best Times Count

The Sharks got 78 best times on Wednesday night and followed that up with 81 best times on Saturday morning. This brings their season total to 159 best times. If the Sharks can beat last year's count of 720 best times, Andy will dye his hair green at the banquet.

## Records

Jingjing Wu broke the Rockshire Team and Pool Records in the Girl's 11-12 IM and Backstroke. Madison Kelly also went faster than the old records in IM.

## Upcoming Events

The fun will double this week, as morning practices start on Monday. On Wednesday, the Sharks will face off against the Seahawks at Montgomery Square. There will be another pasta night on Friday. On Saturday morning, the S-H-A-R-K-S will travel to Poolesville to take on the Piranhas.