**CAT Season 2017-2018**

**Mission Statement:** Enrich, encourage and develop young people and their lives through competitive excellence in and out of the pool. Understand that development of young people is a holistic approach involving but not limited to scholastic, athletic (wet and dry sides) and social areas of their lives.

Swimming is our focus here at CAT, but as with any focus, the periphery must be understood and respected to develop the whole young person for these challenges and for those they will face in years to come.

**How We Got Here**

CAT’s story is like many youth sports organizations throughout the world. With our own challenges, pitfalls and shortcomings based on an infinite number of factors, controlled and environmental. Where we differ from so many other organizations however comes down to the most fundamental yet important part of any team. Our people. The successes here are born from a powerful and timeless ideal…...

**Determination**

From the leadership and selfless service of the Board of Directors; to the coaches whose expertise, knowledge and unwavering dedication is critical to the team and its athletes; the army of energetic and exuberant volunteers that aid CAT in many of the machinations of the team, we are all of us DETERMINED to provide the very best in atmosphere, education, coaching and guidance we possibly can each and every day.

**A Historic Year for CAT**

Last year saw CAT rewrite the record books. All told over 40 team records were broken and rebroken throughout the season. We had high school state champions, State medalists in both the short course and long course championship meets, as well as having five swimmers qualify for the South Carolina Zones Team this past summer.

Our team also grew, to nearly 100 swimmers for the first time in memory. The passion and progress the team is showing is truly a thing to behold.

The Clemson Area Summer Swim League also nearly doubled in size this year as well. Swimming is an incredible sport and our neighbors and community members are taking notice!

We also welcome Coach Caylin Hirapara to our staff, she comes by way of the Clemson University Dive program and a great age group and high school swimmer of her own!

If history is any kind of teacher, hang on to your seats, this year has the makings of being even better!

**It Takes a Village**

As the expression goes in life, so it is true here at CAT. There are so many tasks that go into running an incredible organization like CAT, to make everything seem as though we flow one day into the next. The truth is, no one can do it alone, in truth it is by the energy and dedication of those not in the pool that we can offer our athletes the top flight experience they deserve. Some tasks seem large and daunting, some seem menial and unimportant, I assure you that our singular purpose is to support and grow these young people, as such ALL tasks great and small are critical to the progress and sustainability of CAT. We need volunteers, constantly throughout the season, from our three home meets (Two in pool and Open Water) to our social events, web page design, timing, parent education and outreach, the list goes on. I encourage everyone to get involved and be a part of this magnificent team. There is a volunteer coordinator to answer any questions you may have, or just reach out to a veteran parent and/or board member if you are interested in helping.

**The Season Begins September 4th**

I cannot properly express how excited I am to begin this season. It absolutely has the potential to be CAT’s finest year in recent memory. I challenge each and every member of this organization to bring their ‘A Game’ each and every day of this season. Learn something new, try something different, and challenge yourself to be the best version you can be every day. Find the joy in everything we do, both at the pool and away. This balance is critical for success in and out of the aquatic world.

Stay Frosty,

Big Show