**Welcome to the 2017 summer swim season, Whitehurst swimmers and families!**

We're looking forward to a great season.  Here's some information to help you through the start of the season.

***Your head coach this year is Katie Harmon. Katie just finished her second year at the University of Maryland. She is an experienced competitive swimmer, having previously been a member of the SPY and SPHS swim teams. She’s also served as an assistant swim coach for several summers and this will be her second summer as the Whitehurst Head Coach. She brings with her the desire to teach kids, encourage team spirit, and great enthusiasm for the job.***

***We have a new assistant coach, who is also one of our swimmers, James Muessig. James will be a graduate of Severna Park High School and is an experienced competitive swimmer for SPY. James has experience in coaching with the SPCC Intramural Swim Team. James’ role will be to support Katie in creating a safe and positive learning environment, rich in quality instruction, spirit, enthusiasm, and fun.***

**Info and Reminders**

**-Communication will be done primarily via email and website (**[**http://whitehurstswimteam.weebly.com/**](http://whitehurstswimteam.weebly.com/)**). Please check both regularly.**

**-Check the calendar on the website regularly for changes/updates. You will receive a hard copy initially, but all adjustments will be reflected on the website version.**

-Swimmers need goggles for practice.
-Caps are recommended for girls (and boys with shaggy or long hair) in practice and meets.
-Please arrive on time (early) for warm-ups at meets.  This will allow the coaches to run warm ups and organize the team in an efficient way.
-Parents-Please limit interactions with your swimmers during their practice time, unless there is an emergency or other necessity.  It can create distractions and undermine the relationships coaches are trying to establish with the team.

-If you need to speak to a coach, please email them, or wait until after practice.  Please also feel free to reach out to a swim team board member at any time.

-If your swimmer will be missing a meet (or part of a meet), please notify the coach via email no later than the Tuesday before that meet.

-If your child wakes up sick the day of a meet or cannot swim for any reason, please send word to a reliable swimmer so that the coach may be notified immediately.

-Please help your swimmer to understand that they may be put in events they don't love occasionally, and that it's part of being on a team and gaining valuable swimming experience and sportsmanship.

Weather and other cancellations:
We will always do our best to make decisions regarding the status of practices in a timely manner.  Whenever possible, the website will be updated and an email sent out.  It may also help to call the pool.  However, it will not always be possible to make a decision with enough time to get the word out before you make the trip to the pool and we appreciate your understanding and patience.  Notes will be posted at the entrance to the pool in these instances.  Cancellations due to weather or other issues are at the discretion of the head coach and swim team board member.

**Swim Meet Jobs**: Due to the large amount of jobs required to run a swim meet, **all families must sign up for 4 jobs for the swim meets/events**. [**East Severna Park League**](http://www.esplswimming.org/Home.html) **(ESPL) Clinic**: Parents assigned to work swim meets can get meet job training (June 12). Each job will be explained and demonstrated, so it is important to attend if you will be performing a new meet job this year. ESP League representatives will be there to answer questions. We are always looking for people to step up and learn new jobs.

**Practice Rules**: Swimmers must not be in the pool enclosure unless it is their practice time. No one is to be on the beach area during practice times. Siblings of practicing swimmers must be with a parent or responsible sitter. Keep in mind the coach is the lifeguard at swim practice – please do not endanger the children by speaking or discussing concerns with the coach at practice time. Also, if the coach is out of the pool enclosure, no one may be inside the enclosure (dryland practice, for example).

**Children 9 years and under** must be accompanied and closely supervised by an adult, or responsible babysitter 13 years or older, at all times inside the perimeter fence during scheduled operating hours. Therefore, kids that are under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian while at the pool - so parents must attend practice for kids that are on the swim team, ages 4 - 9.

Kids who misbehave at practice will be asked to leave and parents will be notified that their child cannot return to practice unless accompanied by the parent.

**Pep Rallies:** On Friday June 16th, before the first meet, there will be a pep rally from 6:00 – 8:00 PM for swimmers and parents. There will be fun games and dinner will be provided for the swimmers. T-shirts will be passed out.  Come and show your team spirit!

**Swim Meets**: If a swimmer will miss a meet, they are asked to inform Coach Katie by email at least *three days prior to a meet*. Parents are responsible to find meet work alternates and to arrange substitutes if they are unable to work an assigned meet.

**Grandchildren** of members of the [Whitehurst Club Association](http://whitehurst.editme.com/) are welcome and encouraged to join the Whitehurst Swim Club. Grandchildren of members of the swim team are welcome to participate in all swim team events such as pep rallies, practices, and swim meets without the Whitehurst resident present at the pool. This does not however provide access to the Whitehurst pool during non-swim team events. Therefore, during regular pool operating hours, the grandchild/children may only attend the pool when their Grandparent is accompanying them. This is the policy of the Whitehurst pool stating: All guests must be accompanied by an Association member sponsor. An exception is made in the case of houseguests, or overnight guests, who are permitted use of the pool unaccompanied by their sponsor during their stay in Whitehurst.

 **--If you have any concerns about practices, coaching, meets, etc...(anything really), please contact Ali Mikeska at** **ali.mikeska@verizon.net****.

We are excited to start the season off and look forward to working with our swimmers as the year progresses.  See you at the pool.**