

PineBrookWood ORCAS

Whale Tales



Volume 16 Issue 1

May 19, 2011

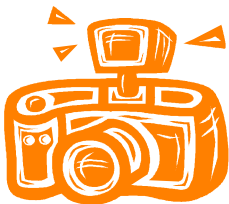
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Picture Day

Mark your calendars
for

Monday, June 6



4:00 p.m.

Individual Pictures

5:00 p.m.

Team Picture

From the President

Dear Orca Swimmers and Parents:

Welcome to the PineBrookWood Orcas for our 2011 season! We have a great team of coaches and swimmers, and 2011 is sure to be yet another outstanding year. As of Monday, May 16, we have 213 registered swimmers. It is not too late to sign-up, so tell your friends they can still join!

I hope all of your children have enjoyed the first two weeks of swim team. Our Practice Meet is this coming Saturday, May 21. This meet is a great opportunity for the kids to understand the meet process before we introduce another team. It gives parents a better understanding of all the volunteer assignments and responsibilities required during a swim meet. Lastly, this meet will give Coach Chris and Coach Kip a chance to see all your kids in race form! It should be a fun day.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the 2011 Orca board. You will see all of us wearing our white with red board shirts during the meet. We have been working since September to get ready for the season:

Lee Ann Kerr - VP, Head of coaching	Kristen Boe - Treasurer
Debbie Basich - Secretary	Sharon Marston - Clerk of Course
Rob Plaza - Operations	Melanie Saunders - Volunteer Coordinator
Shawn Lovely-Kennedy - Sponsorship	Lynn Guenther - Roster and Registration
Joe Swingle - CCSL Representative	Greg Finch - CCSL Representative
Chris Woodard - Head Coach	Kip Schneider - Assistant Coach

There will be several openings in the board for the 2012 season, so if you are interested in joining our team (and we would love to have you), contact me or one of the other board members.

Our first regular season meet will be Saturday, June 4, away against the Baytown Buccaneers. It will be very similar to this coming Saturday, but with twice the number of swimmers! Remember to let Coach Chris (headcoach@pinebrookwoodorcas.org) and Melanie Saunders, volunteer coordinator, (volunteers@pinebrookwoodorcas.org) know if you will be missing all or part of the meet.

I believe this season may be one of our most competitive and successful seasons yet. Thank-you for all your efforts to get the kids to daily practices and for working so hard during the meets. The swim season would not be possible without you.

Go Orcas!

Debbie Rudisill

Coaches Corner by Chris Woodard

We're off to a great start this year with more than 210 swimmers registered, and we still continue to sign up new swimmers everyday. Except for our bad weather last week, our first 2 weeks went great. I'm glad to see so many swimmers taking advantage of practice, keep it up. Remember, if we do need to cancel practice, I will update it on the calendar, and a text and a twitter will go out. As for our new swimmers, I would like to welcome everyone to the team and if you have any questions don't be afraid to ask one of our veteran families.

We had a great season last year, only losing to Pearland at our interdivision meet, but, because we beat the rest of the teams in our division, we ended up winning our division. Then at the Champ Meet, we finished fourth with League City just barely beating us. There were quite a few people missing at the Champ Meet, so we need to make sure that everyone who is qualified is in attendance. My goal is to get top 3 this year. Our biggest competition at our dual meets this summer will be Friendswood, so everyone needs to come prepared to swim hard that weekend.

Before our dual meets get under way, we will have our Practice Meet this weekend. The sign-ups for this meet will be different than the rest of the meets in that I will only need to know if you are going to be there or not and if you need to leave early or arrive later. I will be checking with swimmers Monday and Tuesday to see if they will be available, so if you miss me you can email me at headcoach@pinebrookwoodorcas.org. As for what you will be swimming, below is a list of events that each age group will be swimming:

4-6 Yr. Olds	25 Free, 25 Back, 25 Breast
7-8 Yr. Olds	25 Free, 25 Back, 25 Breast, 25 Fly
9-10 Yr. Olds	100 IM, 50 Free, 50 Back, 50 Breast, 50 Fly
11-12 Yr. Olds	100 IM, 50 Free, 50 Back, 50 Breast, 50 Fly
13-14 Yr. Olds	100 IM, 50 Free or 100 Free, 50 Back, 50 Breast, 50 Fly
15-18 Yr. Olds	200 IM or 200 Free, 50 Free or 100 Free, 100 Back, 100 Breast, 100 Fly



The main reason we are doing this is so that I can get some updated times to enable me to put you in your appropriate heats for our first meet against Baytown. We will also have our signups for the Baytown meet this weekend, so please follow the procedure listed in the Whales Tales. This Saturday the check-in time will be 6:30 am at the Pinebrook Pool. We will start scratches at 7:00am, so be sure to check the meet check-in procedures listed in this Whales Tales.

I hope everyone has a fun and exciting season this year and if anyone ever has any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at 832-221-1487.

Go Orcas!
Coach Chris

Meet Check-In Procedure

Step 1: Before you do anything, you will need to find the coaches. Our meets will be held at various locations so our check-in area will be different every time.

Step 2: Get your label. There will be two lines, one for girls and one for boys, both of which will have signs stating which one is which. Here you will receive your Event Labels showing all of the events you are in for that day. Children who are 10&Under will need to have a parent with them so that the parent can get the label immediately. (11&Up do not need to have a parent with them to get the label.)

Step 3: Get your events written on your hand. There will be six lines, 8&Under Girls, 8&Under Boys, 9-10 Girls, 9-10 Boys, 11&Up Girls and 11&Up Boys, and each will have a sign stating which one it is. The coaches will then write your events on your hand so that you can easily see what your doing for the day.

It is important that you follow the above procedure because if you fail to get your label or your events written on your hand you may be scratched from the meet. Also, sometimes a swimmer gets left off the entries so, if you don't have a label, you will need to find Coach Chris because you can easily be put in the meet.

A Note from the Clerk**Sharon Marston****Goggles and Caps**

I have not been at practices much this season, but I know from past years that some swimmers aren't wearing goggles, and many swimmers aren't wearing caps. I have a few observations from my 7 years with a young swimmer.

First on goggles. After talking to adults who were swimmers and experiences with my own child, swimmers are extremely picky about their goggles. I have personally been through 8-9 different styles of Speedo and Tyr goggles before my son landed on his latest favorite, which has lasted for a year now. Some have lasted longer than others. I have a bucket full of cast offs in my utility room in case a friend comes to swim and needs a pair. For younger swimmers, choose a goggle that is sized for the smaller face of a child, not an adult pair that doesn't fit and leaks. Be prepared to adjust and readjust. It's just part of being the parent of a swimmer. If your child's goggles need adjusting, please try to help out so the coaches don't have to do this.

And on to caps and hair. I don't have to deal with this with a boy, but when girls with long hair don't put it back in a ponytail or wear a cap, they constantly stop to get it out of their eyes and face. Caps are recommended for ALL swimmers, girls AND boys. Caps help improve their times, keep hair contained and protect it from chlorine. They also are a visual aid to help our coaches see our swimmers when they are in the water. If you ordered a team cap, they will be in the bags with your T-shirts that will be distributed at the Practice Meet.

Observations for New Swimmers and the Practice Meet

For those of you new to swimming the first meet can be an interesting experience. I remember our very first meet. My son missed the practice meet and our first one was an away meet at League City. He was 5. When we arrived, I wondered what we had gotten into. It looked like complete chaos to me. Tents were being put up, swimmers were everywhere, coming and going from the pool. I felt completely lost trying to check-in and get him to warm up. I soon learned, after having a couple of meets under our belt, that it was, in reality, organized chaos. What you don't see when you arrive is the amazing organization that most teams have to get set up for, and start a meet on time. And most teams do a very good job of it. I think after a meet or two, you will get the flow and realize, like I did, that a meet isn't nearly as chaotic as it seems.



With that said, there are a few things that your friendly neighborhood clerk requests. I have to rework the entire meet, removing swimmers who scratch (aren't there), and combining heats to make them run as efficiently as possible. If I don't have the first few events ready to go before 8:00am, the meet will not start on time. So please do your part. Check-in for ALL meets is 6:30am. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE be on time. This will give swimmers time to check-in before I start looking for scratches from Coach Chris. Also, if you need to leave early, make sure that you CHECK OUT WITH THE CLERK prior to leaving. This will allow me to pull your swimmer from any remaining events, AND most importantly, gives us a chance to substitute a swimmer in a relay if your swimmer was entered in one. Nothing is worse than having 3 swimmers show up for a relay and the 4th has left without telling anyone. This leaves 3 very disappointed teammates. Checking out also ensures that your friendly neighborhood clerk remains friendly and happy.

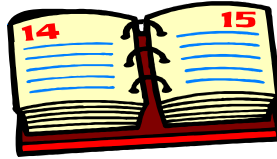
Also, please remember that we are all volunteers. Each and every one of us does our part to make sure the meets run smoothly. The Board Members, Officials, and Clerking Team all work hard to make sure the meets run smoothly. However, we are human and occasionally make mistakes. If we make a mistake affecting your swimmer, please remember that approaching us calmly will allow us to correct the mistake to the best of our ability. And yes, we understand that staying calm with a crying child in tow is difficult, but we appreciate the effort.

Volunteer Information from Melanie Saunders

Orcas Families—The Volunteer Schedule for our first meet, the IntraSquad Meet, this Saturday May 21st has been posted to the website. In putting this schedule together, I tried to honor your job preferences and schedule constraints wherever possible. The IntraSquad Meet is always a little challenging because there is no other team to share the volunteer responsibilities with us. So we need more timers, more everyone than for a regular season meet. For May 21st, we have almost no subs so if you are scheduled but do not show up we will have problems. For the away meets and regular home meets, the lists will look a little different. Please know that if you are scheduled for a late shift this time, I will try to rotate those among the families so that the same people don't have a late shift all the time. The assignments will also vary from meet to meet based on volunteer availability. We realize it is summer and everyone has graduations, weddings and vacations to juggle. I have the information that you submitted with your registration about which meets you will miss. If your plans change, please do let me know. Please don't forget to check in with me when you arrive at the meet Saturday morning. Thanks in advance for all your hard work. You are what makes the meets run and we appreciate you!

Important Upcoming Dates

- May 21: Practice Meet @ Pine Brook
Swim suit sales by Lane Four
- June 4: Away meet against Baytown
- June 6: Picture Day @ Pine Brook!
4:00 PM – Individual Pictures
5:00 PM – Group Picture
- June 11: Home meet against Clear Lake Forest
- June 16: Mid-Season party at Funcity Sk8 Rink
6:00 - 8:00 pm
- June 18: Home meet against Friendswood
- June 25: Away meet against Brooks Blue Marlins
- July 2: Home meet against Pineloch
- July 9 – 10: Champ Series meet (plenty of more information to come)
- July 11: End of Season party at Pine Brook pool
6:00 - 9:00 pm



T-Shirts & Caps

All swimmers receive a t-shirt with registration. We will be ready to distribute the t-shirts, swim caps if ordered with registration, and the bling shirts / Soffee shorts already ordered at this Saturday's practice meet. Please stop by the volunteer check-in table to pick up your items. We love to see our swimmers and families wearing their Orca pride. There will be extra t-shirts and caps for sale, and it is not too late to order a bling shirt or Soffee shorts.

Swim Suit Sales

Lane Four will be at this Saturday's Practice Meet selling our team swim suit for the 2011 season. Although the suit is not mandatory, we encourage everyone to wear a black and red suit to show our Orca colors! The female suit is \$43 and the male jammer is \$29.

Meet Sign-up Procedure:

1. At each meet, we will have the sign-ups for our next meet. For our home meets, it will be by the diving board. At away meets, it will be where the volunteer check-in is.
2. There will be 4 folders: 10&Under Girls, 10&Under Boys, 11&Up Girls and 11&Up Boys. Once you find your folder, you will need to find your age group.
3. Simply find your name and to the right of it each event will have a box with your best time if you've swam it before or a N/T if you haven't. All you need to do is put a circle in the box for the one event you want to do and an X in the box for the one event you do not want to do. Please do not leave it blank. If you want it to be coaches choice just put that after the last event.
4. For those that need to leave early or arrive late, after the last event just put that and say what time.
5. Before you leave you must sign-up for the next meet.

Smile! It's soon time for pictures!

Group Photography will be at the Pine Brook pool on Monday, June 6, for pictures. Group Photography did our pictures last year and did a great job for us. They are the company that brings the clear plastic pool equipment that gives your child a 'floating on water' look.

Individual pictures will start at 4:00 PM, and the group picture will be at 5:00. Individuals will continue after the group picture, so you don't need to come right at 4:00. An order envelope will be in your family folder, and there will be extra envelopes available at the pictures.

Family Folders, Handbooks & Rosters

Check out your family folder! Starting this Saturday at the practice meet, the folders will be located at the Pine Brook pool. They will contain ribbons from each meet, your handbook if you don't already have it, and the picture order envelope. Throughout the season, they will contain miscellaneous fliers and information.

Gatorade/Soda Donations



Please remember to bring in your Gatorade (8 pack of 20 oz. bottles) and soda (12 pack) donations to the Pine Brook Pool. We ask every family to make this donation as it helps us defray concession costs. The supply closet has a check-list where you can mark off your name.

