

Campbell River Killer Whales Swim Club

December's News

President's Report—Brian Skuse

Holiday Greetings to everyone!

Fast Thursday is over and I can't believe how our season is flying by with lots of fast swimming and broken records! Congratulations to all of the participants who came out to Fast Thursday and swam fast: black vs white! Many thanks to the

volunteers who helped make Fast Thursday a huge success as well as to Little Caesar's for their generosity with the pizza!

As 2009 comes to an end, I am anticipating that the 2010 season will bring us some exciting results from all of our swimmers, especially the younger ones. I hope that

everyone has a great Christmas holiday and will be excited and rested to come back in the new year.

I wish everyone a safe holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Brian Skuse President



As I look back at the past 4 weeks I have noticed a big change in our group. There is an air of expectation that was not there when I first arrived. This attitude change has made you all aware that there is more that you can do, to achieve your goals.

With more meters under our belts, our training is starting to take on a new focus in preparation of our championship season that is fast approaching. Physically you are in pretty good shape (although you can never do enough abs work), now we must factor in on improving our mental state. A physically and mentally fit athlete is a lethal combination, where success is inevitable.

When I swam I was lucky enough to have a chance to travel. Sometimes I traveled to compete other times I traveled to train. The summertime was a chance to get ahead of my competitors by training in Salt lake city at altitude. There not only did I work my buns off, but I was also taught to condition my mind so that I could reach my full potential. I always remember the pain I went through to swim fast. All that is gone and I probably will never feel that way again. However the mental skills I learned will always be with me and I use them every day.

It is amazing what your mind is capable of. Your mind holds the key to all of your current and future success and also your limitations. **VISUALIZATON** is your way to over come your self imposed limits and really unleash the successful self that you train so hard to become.

December 8, 2009



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Upcoming events:

Christmas contest 8

Christmas Cracker—Dec 11-13

VIR champs Jan 15-17

Chris' Stuff

Visualization refers to the process of seeing yourself on a screen in your mind's eye, consciously evoking and guiding thoughts in which you appear towards a specific end. These thoughts can and do affect performance.

A key difference between humans and other animals is the fact that the human mind can visualize, picture and imagine things. Therefore it is possible for you to re-live experiences over and over again. It is also possible for you to **CREATE** images in your mind. Re-experiencing and creating these images, is **Key** to reaching your potential as an athlete.

Scientists who have concentrated on increasing athletic mental efficiency have determined a key factor in positive thinking and programming yourself for success: **THE MIND CANNOT TELL THE DIFFERNCE BEWTEEN AN EVENT IMAGINED AND THE ACTUAL EVENT.**

The brain controls the body so, once you have taught your self to perform a skill, the mind can do it again with out conscious effort that was required the first few times. Here are the steps for you to follow over the next 8-10 weeks, so that you can visualize your peak performance.

- **1. GET YOURSELF IN THE RIGHT STATE OF MIND.** This means being relaxed, positive and focused. Empty your mind of any negative thoughts especially that word CAN"T.
- **2. GET THAT WINNING FEELING.** This is reflective of your self-image and self-awareness. Focus on the positive, the good, your strengths and your successes. Listen to music, watch your teammates, there are many ways for your to capture that winning feeling.
- **3. RELAXATION.** Most important in developing the proper attitude for visual exercises is be relaxed. All top performances are done in a relaxed state of mind. There are many ways to relax such as deep breathing exercises, stretching, or going to a quite place just to name a few.
- **4. RE-SWIM YOUR BEST RACE.** Recreate it in your mind. Use all of your senses. Think about the pool, how did you feel before the race, in the water after the race? Were you listening to music before?? Can you hear your coach, parents swimmers even the starter. Now get on the blocks (in your mind) and swim that race. You have just created a positive experience.
- **5. SWIM YOUR GOAL RACE.** Now take those feelings and imagine yourself swimming the race you have listed as one of your goals for this year. Do it the same way. Imagine the pool, the water, the coach, the strokes, the smell of chlorine, feel the water on your body, the air in your lungs. See yourself with excellent technique and powerful turns. Be positive. Make your goal time split by split. Get that winning feeling.

Your visualization workout can be as quick as 5 minutes and as long as 20 minutes, so you can fit it in anytime during the day or before you go to bed.

To recap, here are 8 guick guidelines for using visualization:

- 1. Set a specific goal about what to practice.
- 2. Perform a relaxation exercise to clear your mind before you begin.
- 3. Focus on "how to perform"
- 4. Focus on the race performance in great detail use your past successes
- 5. Always proceed to a successful conclusion.
- 6. Stimulate as many senses as possible.
- 7. Practice regularly to build confidence.

Enjoy

Visualization is a powerful tool. I hope that you all will use these techniques in swimming and even in your daily routine. They will help make you a more focused athlete. Good luck. Now close your eyes, relax and let your mind do the rest.

Chris Koopmans



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CRKW CLUB RECORDS SET THIS YEAR!!!!

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AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

So far this year there has been 6 club records set and it looks like we will be busy changing the record board at the swim pool in the meets ahead. Lets keep it up.

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★ 1. Aven Preston 17	200 Free	2:13.70 Island Pacific Cup Invitational	Nov 6-8/09
↑ Taken from	Kristin McFarlane	2:17.69 PCS Christmas Cracker Inv.	Dec.14-16/02
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↑ 2. Aven Preston 17	200 Free	2:12.77 Island Pacific Cup Invitational	Nov 6-8/09
	Aven Preston	2:13.70 Island Pacific Cup Invitational	Nov 6-8/09
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★ 3. Jane Pomeroy	17 400 Free	4:56.32 Island Pacific Cup Invitational	Nov. 6-8/09
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☆ 5. Aven Preston 17	100 Fly	1:08.32 Island Pacific Cup Invitational	Nov. 6-8/09
★ Taken from	Bambi Roy	1:08.55	Jan 3/ 1993
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Coach Carrie's Stuff

What a great start to the season! The swimmers are focused and determine to better their swimming at each and every practice. As the season progresses, I thought a review of nutrition at swim meets would aid us in attaining all our goals. Congrats to all the Swimmers of the Week and Swimmers of the Month; you are all great role models for your peers and competitors so keep up the great training!!!

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Here are some thoughts on Nutrition:

'Twas the time before practice and all through the pool,

Not a swimmer was stirring, not one darn little fool;

The lane ropes were hung on the wall with care,

In hopes that the coaches soon would be there.

The swimmers began activating all 'round the deck;

While visions of racing formed cramps in their neck.

And Brock in his sweatshirt and Jane in her suit

Georgina, Chris, Marissa, Kirsten and Carrie arrived with fresh fruit!

Before we jump in said the coaches to all

Let's look at the poster, we stuck on the wall.

The four food groups it showed and examples from each,

This is something; however, coaches didn't want to preach.

Nutrition is important to swim your very best,

Just as training is and goal setting and rest.

But you don't have to eat fresh broccoli and beets.

We just want you to think before you go to swim meets.

Whether fresh from a tree or sliced in a bowl,

An apple or orange will fill that hungry hole.

Maybe some crackers or how 'bout something cool.

Anything that'll last a day at the pool.

Yoghurt is good for those pre-race hours,

Get rid of those chips, chocolate doughnuts and sours.

If you must have something for your true love of sweets,

Eat fruit gummies or jube-jubes, only after all your heats.

If you only remember one thing, and no more,

The most important foods are the ones you can pour.

Be water or juice - apple or peach;

You must remain hydrated to keep goals in your reach.

Saying "I'm thirsty" is unfortunately too late,

'Sip readily from a bottle, don't ever hesitate!

After practice was over and the kids had gone home,

The coaches went for a swim, in the pool all alone.

They exploded from the blocks at the sound of the whistle,

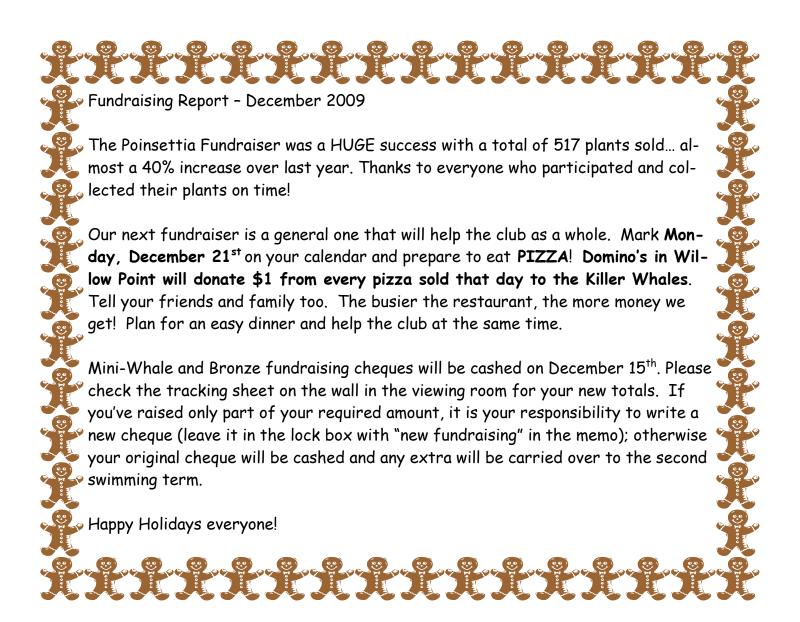
And away they all swam, streamlined - like missiles!

But they were heard exclaiming as they swam out of sight,

"Healthy eating tomorrow and to all a good night!"

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HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

Fast Thursday,

This fun competition takes place three times a year and has been a Campbell River Swim Club Tradition for over 20 years. This year saw many new faces taking to the pool to cheer on their team.

Team Black Attack got off to a quick start but soon Fast Thursday really became a seesaw battle between Team WHITE HOT and The Black Attack.

After the finally race was tallied TEAM WHITE HOT was victorious earning 1,622 points to THE BLACK ATTACK's 1387 points.

Competition between these two rival teams will commence in March 2010

December Newsletter Contest

2. Where does Santa live?

3. What should you eat before you practice? (read Coach Carrie)

YOUR NAME ______
GROUP ______

Put your answer in the newsletter file in the club filing cabinet.