

Dear Donnie,

Thank you.

When I moved here three and a half years ago, I could not have imagined the person I have become. I never in my wildest dreams could have imagined how important a swim team could become in my life. How much of an impact the two words 'Character First' could have on my day-to-day life.

Orinda Aquatics is the most amazing team. The sheer concept of this team, putting character above high performance when it is often swapped, is one in a million. This team has taught me many things about myself, about who I want to be, a selfless, trustworthy, hard working person. Because of this team I have met someone of the most amazing role models and have made the most amazing friendships. This team is something special, something I am proud to say I was a part of. Thank you for the dedication to improve my swimming from day one. Thank you for the space to grow as an athlete but also as a person, as a leader. Thank you for the hard sets, for pushing me. Thank you for creating this team, this program that has and is changing lives.

I am going to miss everyone so much; this team has been everything to me for so long. I am always happy and excited to be on the deck, to be in the pool. It is going to be hard to find a team on the east coast that lives up to the expectations OA has set for me. Having a close group of kids who are all working towards a common goal is hard to come by.

Thank you and all the coaches for being a supportive and positive force in my life. This team has truly changed me forever. I will miss you all terribly and I can't wait to visit.

~Ariel Indrisano