

December 18, 2010

Dear Eels Parents,

The Slippery Rock Eels Swim Team will be having a **swim marathon on Friday, February 25, 2011 at the SRU Field House Pool**. We will be taking a team photo at 5:00 PM, and individual photos will follow. The children will begin the marathon at approximately 6:15. We expect the swimming portion to last about two hours. The children will celebrate their swim with pizza, snacks and drink immediately following the marathon. The plan is to be finished before 9:00 PM.

Why is the team having a swim marathon? After much discussion, the board decided that it is necessary to raise additional funds for several reasons. First, in order to host Champs in March, we need money up front to rent the pool facility, purchase awards, and print programs. In addition, this year the Eels had to increase the hourly wage paid to our coaches. Finally, the team has incurred additional expense with renting the field house pool for practice.

The swim marathon is a relatively easy fundraiser that generates a better profit margin for the team. A swimming marathon is one way for our children to share the load of funding **their** swim team. The kids ask for donations, and they swim the laps. The costs of the marathon are t-shirts and pizza; thus more of the donations actually go to profit the team. Finally, swimming a marathon is a rewarding challenge for our swimmers.

How will the marathon work? This year, the plan is to have the members of the team collectively swim a 26 mile marathon. The swimmers will accomplish this by swimming on six different modified relay teams (one team per lane). Parents will total the lengths until, working together, the whole swim team has reached 26 miles. To give you an idea, 26 miles = 1716 lengths and each lane will have a goal to work toward.

What is our fundraising goal? This year, instead of asking sponsors to pledge a certain amount of money per length or lap, swimmers will collect a donation **in advance**. The team is trying to raise \$5000 through this fundraiser. We are asking each swimmer for a **minimum** of \$50 in donations and for families with multiple swimmers to collect a **minimum** of \$75. Swimmers are **strongly** encouraged to raise beyond this minimum.

All donations will be due before the marathon on Friday, February 4, 2011. At that time swimmers will turn in a single check for the sum of their donations, payable to Slippery Rock Eels Swim Team and an order form for their t-shirt. By participating in the marathon, collecting the minimum donations, and turning in a shirt form, each swimmer will receive their marathon t-shirt on the day of the marathon. This will be a special reward for a job well done!

Swimming on the Eels community swim team is still the best deal around compared to the price paid to participate in other community sports...soccer, baseball, youth football cheerleading to name a few. The program needs every swimmer to participate in this event!

Sincerely,

Slippery Rock Eels Parent Board