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Pool Notes - Upcoming events and recent happenings:

As Aquatics Director I have the privilege of interacting with my community in a manner that makes me very grateful. Time and again I find myself heading into work with a huge smile on my face. I find myself presented with opportunities to get more involved all the time. One opportunity that I am proud to be a part of is serving as head coach for the Avery High School Swim Team. Yes, we have a swim team! The team has been around for four years now and for the past two I have had the privilege of serving as its coach. The team made use of the YMCA pool every day after school. Without the Y pool the team would not be possible as high school swimming in Western North Carolina is a winter sport. We just wrapped up our season at the end of January and I am happy to report the team made a fine showing, with several swimmers finishing in top spots in their respective heats. I would like to thank all the swim team parents for their support as well as Jay Smith, Athletic Director at ACHS, for his support of the team and especially his time and effort at the conference finals. We look forward to next season and your support!

Staying on the topic of swim teams, the Avery County Special Olympic swimmers will begin using the pool again on Tuesdays around 4:00PM. The team has made use of the Y pool for several years now and we look forward to continuing that relationship as the Y's partnership with Avery County Special Olympics continues to grow.

Pre-K SPLASH will begin soon!!! SPLASH is a program that offers group lessons to Avery County students. Every year, each pre-kindergarten and second grade class gets five visits to the pool for guided, group lessons. Each kid also gets an awesome SPLASH t-shirt. The program is free for students as it is sponsored by Wee-Kirk Presbyterian Church. We finished up the second grade sessions before Christmas Break and are ready to get going again around the end of March without pre-k sessions. If you would like to volunteer to help out with these sessions I would love your support. If you are looking for a fun way to give back to the community, this is it. If you would like to take part in something that will lift your spirits, this is it! A schedule for visits is in the making and will be posted to our site and Facebook page shortly. Anyone interested can always contact me matthewh@ymcaavery.org.

Water aerobic classes (MWF 8-9am & 9-10am; Tues./Thur. 5:30-6:30pm) are plowing straight through the cold weather outside and picking up a full head of steam, come join in and join the fun, the only thing missing is you! Also, our Youth Swim Club is better than ever, bring your kids to see Ms. Lucy.

Lifeguard training class is also on the horizon, be on the lookout for a specific date in the coming weeks. The class will be held well before Memorial Weekend!

That is all for now, as always, see you at the pool!

Matthew Hitechew
Aquatics Director