

January 31, 2012

It has been a very busy week here at the Auburn YMCA and also at the Skaneateles YMCA. Not only are we full with members (we are about 175 away from hitting the 10,000 mark between the two facilities which might have happened by the time you read this), but the staff has been very busy with some important engagements. After much planning, the first staff orientation was rolled out at Skaneateles for all staff who have been employed at the YMCA for a year or less. There was a real nice cross section of people from all departments and both Ys. While the training was definitely good, what I really enjoyed was driving up to the Skaneateles YMCA and seeing the their parking lot was almost full. As I entered the door, there was a line at their member service desk of people trying to scan in or have questions answered by someone. Once I got upstairs, there was an exercise class going on with a nice amount of people all working hard and sweating as they gave it their all to this challenging class. There seemed to be a full fitness room, full exercise class and lots of people around the lobby chatting and visiting. When our orientation was over and we were leaving, the whole upper level of the Skaneateles YMCA was full with members of the Prime Time class for older adults. Nice to know that the Skaneateles branch is thriving and thanks to their staff for making it that way.

Over at the Auburn YMCA, we had an all staff meeting on Wednesday that was very well attended. The meeting started out with delicious food provided by Daut's restaurant for all of the staff. From there we played a rousing ice breaker of the YMCA's (own version of) Family Feud staff which was won by Sandy Jorgensen, preschool teacher at the Auburn YMCA and Amanda Brown, Member Service desk staff at the Skaneateles YMCA during the final round. After that, the staff was presented with a virtual tour of both facilities as well as information on our annual support campaign which begins this week for our staff. Our annual support campaign helps us to provide scholarships for membership and programs to those who are unable to afford it on their own. It also help us to provide for our Swim Free program for 7 year olds.

The Auburn Stingrays had their last home meet on Saturday and now they spend the rest of their season on the road preparing for the states in March and then the nationals in May. Many of our swimmers are not only involved with Stingrays but also swim for both the girls and boys varsity high school teams which keeps them in great condition but also very busy with all of the practice and meets that they have. Who knows, someone who is in the Swim Free program might eventually make their way to the Stingrays all because they had free swim lessons at the YMCA when they were 7 years old!

Can't believe that it is almost February already. Where has the time gone and how about this crazy weather? Well, all I know for sure is that this coming Friday it is finally here...the 2nd annual and oh so popular, Amy and Mena's Pajama Party at the Auburn Holiday Inn. We know that rooms have already been booked there for those that want to stay overnight and get the full effects of a pajama party. Amy and I have been working feverishly tying up loose ends with vendors, t-shirts and making sure that everything runs smoothly. Surprisingly, we have had a number of men who have wanted to volunteer to be judges for our pajama contest but those spots have already been taken. Again a huge thank you to Mike Lynch from Lynch's furniture for the donation of the beautiful, full length, cherry mirror and to Bob Simmons and Rick(Habbada) Prairie from RJ Jeweler's for the donation of the sparkly and gorgeous diamond pendant. We also appreciate our other sponsors, AFLAC, Savannah Bank, Summit Automotive and Razzle Dazzle Photo Booth. We are really looking forward to this event and all the fun the evening will provide so if you have not already done so, be sure to register at the Y for this fun time!

Happy February and remember if you are interested in any of our programs, please feel free to stop by for a tour and meet with our staff.