

## Six Wet, Wild & Wonderful Weeks of Swimming:

The Baker Park and PAY Swim Teams finished up their jam-packed summer seasons with resounding Championship victories over the past two weeks. The summer swim season is always quick, but brutal in terms of frequency, length and amount of work that goes into setting up each meet. Many thanks to the Phoenixville volunteers and staff for helping to make this summer our best yet!

More than just swim victories and records, the volunteer efforts of our parents, swimmers, friends and fellow league teams resulted in more than \$6,400 being raised for three organizations, including the Gabrielle Vogel Fund, for the 5-year old Phoenixville member with a rare form of brain stem cancer, the American Cancer Society's Save-A-Life Swim-A-Thon campaign, and the Phoenixville branch's Y-CARES Scholarship fund.

The whirlwind began on June 18th with Baker Park hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Out of School - Into the Pool Invitational. More than 200 swimmers attended this meet which is open to all the local swim clubs in the area.

The grueling six-meet dual season began on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and continued over the next three weeks. For the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Baker Park finished the season undefeated, with the 8 and under, 9-10 and 11-12 girls claiming the Tri-County League age group divisions. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, the Tri-County A Division Championships was held at Baker Park. Although it was very hot, the meet was well-run, thanks to all the parent volunteers and senior swimmers. More than 10 league, meet and pool records were broken, many by Baker Park swimmers. The senior and B Division champs were held on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, with the 13-14 girls winning their age group division.

At the conclusion of the Baker Park season, a team of seven PAY USA Swimming team members headed to Penn State University for the Middle Atlantic Junior Olympic Championships July 28 – 31<sup>st</sup>. All swims were best-times, and five individual events were won by Erin Merke, Maddie Cooke and Emma Seiberlich combined. The team of Katya Hayward and Erin Merke claimed the 9-10 Girls' Age-Group Championship, while the team of Kathryn Bland, Maddie Cooke, Olivia Giampietro and Emma Seiberlich took all three relay titles and handily won the 11-12 Girls division.

It's time for a well-deserved break before the much longer winter season begins in October. Fall Stroke & Turn clinic begins early September for those looking to refine their strokes before ramping up for the competition season. Anyone interested in the Phoenixville Y swim team programs, please contact Ryan Kennedy, Head Swim Coach at [paycoach@fvymca.org](mailto:paycoach@fvymca.org).