



Greetings from Midlakes!

Last fall the Midlakes board and parent representatives voted unanimously to support the SPLASH nonprofit organization. SPLASH is working toward building a public regional aquatic center that will include recreational, therapy and competition pools. The plan is to build the facility on land donated by the City of Bellevue with funds raised by the greater community through a grassroots effort. Please visit the SPLASH website at www.splashforall.org/ for more information about the project.

Feeling it was in the best interests of swimming in general and Midlakes in particular, the league made a donation of \$20,000 to SPLASH and agreed to participate by holding Splash-a-thon events that serve to promote and support SPLASH.

At the same time that SPLASH approached Midlakes about gaining our support we as a league were grappling with scheduling our League Championships at the King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way (KCAC). With KCAC's ever tightening schedule of aquatic events we have been forced to hold our championships earlier in the season than we might like and sometimes on a day of the week that is difficult for many of our members. This new facility may take some time and effort to build but the success of the project will greatly impact swimming in our region and our ability to schedule a season as best suits our league and not just around the schedule of a single facility.

Many clubs throughout the Midlakes League are teaming up with SPLASH to host SPLASH-a-thons during July. These SPLASH-a-thon events will raise needed funding and awareness about the project and the need for more pool capacity in this region. The kids that participate in these events will have fun but what they don't realize today is that they might someday watch **their** kids compete in our league championships at a pool for which they helped promote and raise funds!

In this time of overcrowded schedules and overly busy lives it would be easy to decide not to participate in this important awareness and fundraising effort. Sometimes I'm tempted to think to myself that my contribution won't make a difference and that I'm so busy with other things that I'll let someone else do this one but if we all think that way the pool will remain a dream. This is a time where there is much work to be done and we need to join together to do it. Each person's effort does make a difference – YOUR effort and support will help bring the vision of a multiuse aquatic center to fruition. I urge you to participate in the process!

Thank you,

Joan Wold

Midlakes President

joan.wold@comcast.net

www.midlakesswimleague.org