School Sport Victoria State Swimming Championships

On Tuesday 29th April our team of swimmers went to the School Sport Victoria State Championship at the State Swim Centre. We had 5 swimmers competing, three in individual events and our 10 year old boys Freestyle Relay Team.

James Key (Swimming Team Boys Captain) competed in the 12 Boy’s Breaststroke, knocked one second off his personal best time and finished second to collect a silver medal and an invitation to the National School Sport Swimming Championships! What a truly outstanding achievement.

Tim Geers in the 10 Boys Butterfly finished fourth and swum very close to a Personal Best (he set a new personal best by five seconds on the weekend before!) What a great result.

Matt Fothergill competed in the 10 Boys Breaststroke finished fourth and improved his personal best by over two seconds. Another wonderful result. I know last year James finished fourth at this level and spent the year training hard and went a couple of spots better to get a second, so stay in the pool Matt and Tim and keep training hard!

Henry Way and Connor Ward joined Matt and Tim in the 10 Boys Freestyle relay. When I spoke to the boys on Monday they were trying to put on a cool, calm and collected ‘it’s no big thing’ show of nonchalance but I could tell they were a very excited bunch of young boys. Opportunities like this don’t come along very often, in fact they are the first OLHC swimming relay team to reach the state level this century (I’ve been here since 1999 and computer records are very sketchy before that, so it could be ever!) When they finished the race in Third Place, I hear they celebrated like true swimmers as they began to realize they had just won themselves a Bronze Medal in a State Championship! What a fantastic achievement against teams from some very elite schools with their own pools!

While as their PE Teacher and Sports Co-ordinator I can obviously take full credit for putting this great team together, who qualified at the school trials, then won the District, Division and Regional Championships. I guess I need to give a little credit to the boys and their hard work and dedication in the swimming pools during lessons with their clubs! I think too that maybe the parents of these boys deserve some credit and recognition for providing them with the opportunities to swim at this level and for helping the boys stick with what is sometimes a very demanding discipline. I’m sure they are extremely proud of their boys as are we, the OLHC school community.

Normally at this time I say, that brings to an end the School Swimming Season, but now for the first time (again) this century, I wait to see how James goes at the National Championships. Train hard between now and then James! I look forward to giving you one more report.

Well done James, Matt, Connor, Henry and Tim. It is truly fantastic that all our swimmers walked away on the day with State Championship Medals from the School Port Victoria State Titles.

Mark Pinkerton
Extremely Proud Sports Coordinator