

Dear Students, Campers, Staff, Parents & Friends,

After 17 editions of SWIM GYM AQUATIC SPORTS CAMP, and a wonderful history of Safety, Fitness, Friends and FUN, the time has come to move on...

At this time, after beginning camp #1 at age 42 and finishing camp #17 at age 59, a couple things have taken priority: I will be a Grandpa twice in 2011; our non profit charity –H2O's Foundation, Helping Others 2 Swim, needs a lot of nurturing due to the fact that the drowning problem in our communities and around the world is a 'real life' problem; the main reason why I went into this profession in the first place. Instead of teaching 20 to 50 people a year to teach gently 'a la swim gym style', I will now attempt to teach 1,000 teachers or more every year via the term I coined years ago: The Robert Strauss Swiminar™. Hoping that every one of them will teach 100 or more children per year.

Approximately 10,000 different children from about 5,000 different families came to camp during these past 17 years. Swim Gym Aquatic Sports Camp was family to many, but most importantly, an integral part of your aquatic education. Many young men and women spent anywhere from 1 and up to 8 or 9 summers with us!

Every year something new, anything that was aquatic education, from monofin to logroll, from water polo to skwim, from snorkeling to scuba, from Grinch skiing to kite board surfing and Stand Up paddling...no wonder the parents always asked, "when can I come to camp?"

Thank you, everyone for having taught me so much, I have always said my best teachers are my students, and I guess that includes my campers, my staff (the best prepared youth group leaders in town). In all honesty, the warmest 'MUCHAS GRACIAS', a thank you that can hardly be quantified, must go to all the parents who trusted Swim Gym with their most priceless possession. Specifically to all those parents who time out of their busy day to tell me what was not right for their child or children; it was their complaint, positive or negative, that I called 'strategic advice' that made our camp the best aquatic sports camp.

As I finish writing this 'love note', a very special thanks you to all!! I am not saying goodbye, I am saying to all of you that learned to be so strong in the water, when you are of age 15 or older, get certified as a WSI and as a Lifeguard, help me to eradicate accidental drowning. If anyone wants to help today, call or write the H2O's Foundation, DBA Swim Gym, the mission for the next Chapter in my life.

Please visit us at the JCC in Kendall any time, we are always there. Following our Mission: 'No one else in our community should ever lose their life on account of accidental drowning.' Help us change education, in the 21st Century, in our community and in our country to; SWIMMING, 'READING', 'WRITING', 'RITHMETIC', to be known as: S + 3 R's.

Swimcerely,
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