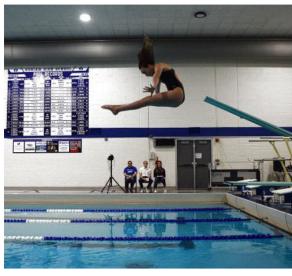
MAKING A SPLASH Moments after taking off the diving board in a pike dive, with the judges' eyes staring intently at her, Lindi Jenkins (7) goes into her lineup, ready to hit the water, and win the meet. Jenkins' always enjoyed learning a new dive due to the fact that she loved to overcome the challenge and become an expert in the dive but, that was not always the case. "One time I was really scared to do this dive, and I was talking with my friends and they were all encouraging me," Jenkins said. "I did the dive, they all cheered for me, and it was really nice." photo by Deniz Ozil



SWIMMIN AND SMILIN About to take another stroke, mere seconds away from the finish line, Ellie Brunty (8) swims the 100 freestyle at a home meet against Dexter, where she goes on to win first place in the race. Relationships and bonds were a big part of Brunty's swimming season and it's one of the huge reasons that she joined the sport. "My favorite part of swimming is making relationships and friendships and being able to do something that's fun with your friends," Brunty said. photo by Angelina Sanna

TO THE FINISH LINE Racing to the finish line, Addison Balasick (7) swims the 100 freestyle at a meet in Adrian on December 4. Balasick's time of 1 minute and 13 seconds led her to a first place finish. Along with the racing and somewhat chaotic side of swimming, Balasick also enjoyed being calm and relaxed in the water. "I like [swimming] because it's really relaxing and in the water you can't hear anyone so it's peaceful," Balasick said. photo by Neil Sachdeva







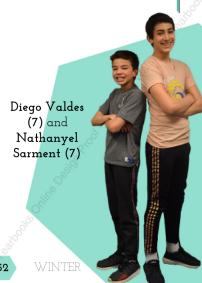
TAKE YOUR MARK, GO Hands glued to the bar on the block, ready to start swimming, Angelina Sanna (8) prepares to swim the 100 backstroke at the MISCA state meet, where she would later get a stellar second place. Sanna also competed in the 200 freestyle where she became a state champion. She enjoyed meets because of its competitiveness and team culture, especially the MISCA state meet. "It's a really fun experience, the swim team is really fun and supportive and the coaches are really nice," Sanna said. photo by Ellie Brunty



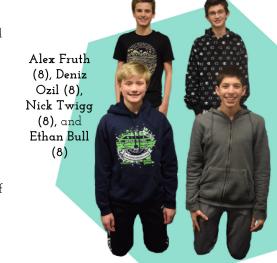


AGAINST THE CLOCK Skimming across the water, mere minutes after the end of a school day, Nick Twigg (8) comes up for a breath as he races with the end result being first place in the 50 butterfly at an away meet against Adrian. Throughout the year, Twigg was in countless other races where he swam the 100 backstroke, 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle, and 50 freestyle. "At the end of the day, it's just you versus the clock and you don't have to worry about your opponents," Twigg said. "It's not luck based, just skill." photo by Deniz Ozil

Swimmers share how friends have affected their season



Valdes and
Sarment's new-found
friendship brought
great joy and
incentive to the duo.
"I think friendship
really helps me
during swimming
because it motivates
me to go to practice
and to meets,"
Sarment said. Both of
these swimmers
made it to the state
championship.



Fruth, Ozil, Twigg, and Bull have a ginormous friendship that played a big role in their success this season. As Bull put it, "It motivates you to go to practice because you know your friends are there." All four of these swimmers were able to make a state cut.

Swimmers and divers take feedback from coaches and accomplish goals, growing along the way content/design by Pedro Brandao, Brady Nachtrieb, and Neil Sachdeva

plash! Divers jump off the diving board and into the freezing cold water as their coach watches intently ready to make improvements. Many divers, like Drew Miller (8), took their coach's advice to heart.

"My relationship with my coach is really good, it's Kara Smith, and she's very supportive and she really helps us out," Miller said.

While the coach's advice can be helpful, superstitions can be too. For Izzy Deveau (8), this was especially true.

"A superstition that I have is that I always tighten my

goggles and slap my sister on the back if she comes with me and I've been doing that since I started swimming," Deveau

Since the beginning of the year, swimmers have set goals for themselves to accomplish by the end of the season. Whether it's making the state cut or hitting a certain time mark, there is no lack of swimmers desperate to fulfill their goals

"Goals that I fulfilled this season are getting under 30 seconds on my free," Victoria Weeden (8) said.

SWIM & DIVE