

The Eye of the Storm



I'm standing on the starting block, seconds away from diving into the pool, and the noise of the crowd surrounds me. I can hear the nagging voice of my coach shouting at me to keep my kick strong. I can hear the cheerful voice of my mom yelling to me just to do my best. I can hear the ecstatic voices of my teammates screaming at me to win. Then, the buzzer goes off and suddenly the only voice I can hear is my own telling me to get to the wall because that's the only thing that matters now. That's why swimming helps me be successful in school. It teaches me to keep my focus on my goals, despite the distractions that life brings. Someday, I want to be valedictorian, graduate from college with honors, and have a successful career, and the only way I can do this is to ignore all of the drama that comes along. However, when the distractions become too much I can rely on swim practice to refocus my mind and prepare me for a new day. At swim practice, I'm surrounded by the constant love and support of my coaches and my teammates, and I'm provided with a place to work through any of my problems. Swimming, to me, is the eye of the storm that life brings, and without it I wouldn't be a honor student on the path to accomplish my goals.

-Mackenzie Crossett, Grade 9