Dear Ronnie & Donnie,

I am writing to you because I am in one of the most awesome classes ever. It is a freshman athlete class based on character development and how to be successful both in and out of the pool throughout our time here at school. After an amazing person spoke, we were given an assignment to write to a person or persons who have impacted our life and helped us to develop into the person we are today. There is no one better to write to than the two of you.

I think about where I would be in life if I was not introduced to Orinda Aquatics, and honestly, it's scary. I was becoming a person I did not want to be and never thought I would be. I never realized what it was like being around negative people because that person was always me. Today I cannot stand to be around negative people and I make a choice not to. I realized that getting caught up in everyone around me was not how I wanted to live my life. I need to surround myself with the kind of people I want to be like, and I do.

Additionally, I was not sure I even wanted to swim again. You both have made me fall back in love with the sport I used to dread, and it is all for the right reasons.

And I have learned what is truly important in life and I am not sure I would have figured it out if OA was not there for me. It's hard to believe that being in one place for such a short time has completely changed my life.

Thank you for teaching me so much.

Paige M