

## ~Welcome to Edgewater Crew 2017/2018 ~



What an exciting year lies ahead as we enter our 55<sup>th</sup> season! This milestone is, indeed, cause for celebration; but it also comes with great responsibility, to both honor traditions and to build upon the foundation laid by so many before us.

Crew is the ultimate team sport – for both rowers and parents. Rowers can only be successful when they row flawlessly together. Likewise, this organization can only exist if parents and volunteers come together to contribute their unique skills, ideas and time. It's really a win-win . . . You get to know the other parents, you gain perspective on how and why things are done, and you have a lot of fun being a part of the “team that supports the team!”

2016/2017 was a phenomenal year, with our Boys Junior 8 winning the State Championship as well as posting the 6<sup>th</sup> fastest time in their category of 53 boats at Stotesbury, the world's largest high school regatta. It's going to be exciting to see what the high school team achieves in the upcoming season as Head Coach Brad Arnold, Coach Bill Palmer and Coach Brandon Walker combine the talents of our returners with incoming rowers, some of which have been training in our Junior Eagles program. Our Masters rowers are also exhibiting amazing potential and are poised for a great season.

While I acknowledge Crew involves a huge time commitment, I assure you it's a sacrifice you'll never regret. Time invested in kids' futures always pays huge dividends; but the development I've witnessed with rowing extends well beyond their success in the sport. It teaches self-discipline, responsibility, accountability, respect for others, multi-tasking skills, teamwork – and many other character traits that benefit kids throughout their lifetime.

As I reflect on the past two years with Edgewater Crew and its positive influence on my son's life, and on mine, I'm overcome with gratitude to the many people who have made it possible. Coaches, fellow-parents and other volunteers have given selflessly of their time, supporting one another in ways too numerous to mention. Endless hours preparing for race days, planning and hosting events, participating in fundraisers, preparing food, decorating cars, transporting kids to regattas, selling merchandise, creating yearbooks .....Making memories to last a lifetime!!!

My Involvement with this organization began out of a sense of responsibility, but it's evolved into rich friendships and so much more - and I encourage you to join in! Like the rowers, you get out of it what you put into it☺. THANK YOU to everyone who has already contributed so much – and to those who will be joining me to try to make a difference now and for years to come. Can't wait to spend time with you at the Boathouse, at Regattas and at various events!



Crystal Garner