

**From:** [Jemelee Melendres](#)  
**To:** [Cupertino Recreation and Community Services](#); [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Molly James](#); [Jem](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you Cupertino! for creating a much needed Special Needs Swimming Lesson program  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019 9:51:40 AM

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Dear Cupertino Parks and Rec Department,

This year was the first year the city of Cupertino Parks and Rec department created a private swimming class specifically for the Special Needs community at Blackberry Farm. This is a very much needed program as there are limited choices for swimming lessons for the special needs community. Blackberry Farm is an excellent facility to host the swimming lessons.

My daughter has enjoyed her swimming lessons and she has mastered water safety because of the private lessons provided by the City. We hope this program continues again because it is a fantastic program that helps special needs kids learn water safety and how to swim in a calm, quiet and peaceful environment that Blackberry Farm provides.

A big shout-out to Molly James for all her work in coordinating schedules and the program implementation. We are so grateful that this program started in our community, our city of Cupertino. A heartfelt thank you to Alissa Paterson for being a supportive and wonderful teacher to my daughter. All the progress in water safety and basic swimming techniques is attributed to Alissa and her dedication and all the different swimming techniques she comes up with.

Thank you!

Jemelee Melendres and family  
Cupertino resident since 2003