



MOSSQUITO EXPRESS



MANITOU SUMMER NEWS FOR OUR MANITOU FAMILIES

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THE DIRECTORS' CLIPBOARD

Amazingly the second session only has a week left until Manitou 2010 comes to a close. This is always our favorite week of the summer because everyone in camp knows that they have to make the most out of every single day. With the sail trips, canoe trips, three plays, dance show, video show, Art in the Park, and almost every activity doing something special this week the energy is boundless. But the nicest part is that we had a guest speaker for Friday Night Fireside. Danny Richmond, who works with the Governor General of Canada on poverty relief around the world, spoke to all of our campers on how they can make a difference. His talk inspired each child to take a lead, giving examples of a six year old who started raising money for the poor, by age 12 had helped create six wells in countries around the world and by age 18, 120! Campers are all raising money that the camp donates to organizations including 'Me to We' Free the Children, 'Save the Dolphins', and 'Right to Play'. Every camper on Friday this week filled a knapsack full of education supplies for orphans in Haiti with a personal note to each of them which will reach the orphanage in late August thanks to the charity Ve'a'havta. Our theatre, dance, guitar, rock'n'roll kids are going to the seniors home in Parry Sound to perform, our sophomore girls are going to buy food to bring to the Parry Sound shelter, our Rock kids are also going to Tim Horton's Camp to do a special concert for kids in need, and campers are all doing special activities around camp, sending notes to staff to thank them, having kitchen staff appreciation day, and the list goes on. This is the week that we bring our community together to help those around us while also realizing that we have to appreciate every second we have at camp. Our spiritual ending to this week was our annual 'Walk of Hope' where every single unit in camp first sees a slide show about poverty in the world and then participates in The March, then walks around our candle lit main field. The walk includes a wishing well for peace, education, food and clean water for the world around us. As you know our campers can not appreciate camp to its fullest unless they also understand about their role in making this world a better place. Thank you for allowing us the privilege to give your kids a summer of fun friends and fulfillment.



- Mark & Jeff

THE GAMING WORLD

Campers going through video game withdrawal up at camp? The CITs had a solution! Sunday night brought our annual Midnite Madness. The CITs brought video games to life in the Dining Hall for a massive camp-wide party in the later evening. Video game characters from Mario to Zelda, Pac-man to Sonic the Hedgehog were on stage in the Theatre as the CITs broke the program and then the real party began. Once inside, campers were participating in real life versions of their favorite video games. Mazes, target shooting, obstacle courses and even banana eating with Donkey Kong were all part of the excitement. The walls were covered with massive posters celebrating the games. But no late night party would be complete without music and food! So the CITs jumped on stage in the Dining Hall to jam with their live band and Serge had a pile of hot party food and cold pop waiting for the campers as they enjoyed their games. We hope the evening will kill the video game bug for at least a few more weeks!



THE FIRES STILL BURN



Over the last couple of years, Backdraft has been one of the most anticipated camp-wide events on the calendar. Saturday night, the camp was split into four teams (fire, earth, wind and water) to compete in the large-scale capture the flag type program. The catch with Backdraft though, is that instead of capturing a flag, campers enter into a "safe zone" in enemy territory and can splash a cup of water onto an opponent's bon-fire. At the end of the evening, the team with the tallest flame is declared the winner. As usual, it was a close competition, but the team down on the riverfront, team Wind ended up winning this year's event.

WHAT THE UNITS ARE SAYING...

What a week for all our Units! While there were a pile of camp-wide events, there was still time for Unit fun. The Freshkids got out of camp for their beach trip to Parry Sound. They returned in the evening to curl up with the Sophomores for a movie night. After participating in the Walk of Hope on Tuesday, they were getting into a Murder Mystery on Wednesday night racing against the clock to figure out "who done it?" For cabin activities, the boys were doing their overnight trips across the river, while the girls got a special session on the ropes course.

The Sophomores started the week at Killbear Park before returning for their movie night. Before the Walk of Hope on Tuesday, the whole Unit got together for a massive game of Dodgeball. Finally on Wednesday, the boys and girls split up. Sarah took the girls into Parry Sound to make a food donation to a local shelter and then spent some time in town talking about their involvement. The boys stayed in camp with Francois for a special boys night by the campfire. Cabin activities included an English tea party, scavenger hunt and a Bar Mitzvah for Tennis Head Jose Vidal.

Juniors had a major celebration to kick off their week last Thursday as Unit Heads Brittny and Brad walked down the isle together celebrating their wedding. Campers were all invited for the ceremony, wedding cake and party to follow. On Tuesday, the Juniors got together for a game of Name that Tune. Wednesday split the group up. The Junior Girls had a slumber party going in the Dance Studio for the evening. The boys got a little more muddy as they went up to the Soccer Field for a game of "Capture the Football." Some of the cabin activities the unit got into were craft sessions for community week, dance lessons, Fear Factor, the Amazing Race and a second running of the Camp Quidditch tournament.

The Senior Boys started the week with a full day Dodgeball tournament on Thursday. The girls got together for the Bachelor in the evening after cabin activities including baking, birthday parties and a photo shoot. On Tuesday night, the Unit got together for Kangaroo Court, a chance for campers to roast their counsellors for habits and behavior. They ended their week with a special Middle Eastern themed night complete with ethnic foods, music and dance. It seemed to be a big hit.

CITs worked so hard on Midnite Madness this week, that they celebrated at week's end with a trip to Dairy Queen. With proceeds of Blizzards going to the Hospital for Sick Children on Miracle Treat Day, the yummy treat became a Community Week project!

ARTISTS' CORNER

The pinnacle of the summer's arts calendar is always Art in the Park, an outdoor festival on Art Hill bringing almost all of the visual and performing arts activities for a great day. This year's festival was filled with Art projects from painting garbage cans to building Christmas Trees and other activities from body painting to beading and tie dye, with entertainment from the Radio campers, Guitar campers and even Drama Inc. There was even cotton candy being made for campers that might have been a little 'snackish.' But there were plenty of other great arts activities going on this week as well!



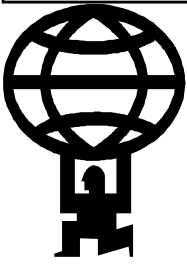
Photography campers were snapping candid photos of staff all week as they participated in their Paparazzi program. Granny Day at Creative Arts included knitting and making cards for grandparents. At Wood, boomerangs were the theme of the week as campers got out and tossed their creations around. Crafts was focused on teddy bears and pillows as campers stuffed their sewn creations. Radio campers were making record breaking necklaces (made with broken vinyl records), while Guitar had invented a game of Fristar, an obstacle course made with broken guitars. They also had plenty of playing to do though as they got out and around camp on their Magical Mystery Tour playing guitars in strange locations.

THIS WEEK ON STAGE

As our artists celebrated Community Week and Art in the Park, there were several noteworthy performances this week as well. Early in the week, the staff put on a talent show with the theme of the smash TV show Glee. Small groups worked out songs complete with multi-part harmonies for an impressive performance by each group. Monday night, it was the campers chance to shine once again as the Freshkid and Sophomore Theatre campers put on their rendition of Pinocchio, the wooden puppet that came alive and dreamed of becoming a real boy. All of the kids did an amazing job, especially considering how little time they had to prepare. Finally, this very morning, the Video campers' hard work came to life as campers came into the Theatre for the 6th annual Manitou International Film Festival. As usual, there were some exceptional short films both emotional and comical. We are all looking forward to the finale of the show season in the coming days.

COMMUNITY WEEK '10

THE SPORTS REPORT



The theme of Community Week is quite simple: Think of a way that you can make your community a better place. For some that meant making camp a better place, for others, the greater community of Parry Sound. Other campers thought bigger still, thinking of ways to make the world a better place.

After a special presentation at last week's Friday Night Fireside to set up the program, each Unit has taken turns doing presentations at Flagpole this week talking about what Community Week means to them.

Unit initiatives this week have included CITs organizing appreciation cards for people all over camp. The Junior Unit has organized a silly bands donation program with 50% of proceeds going towards charity. The Sophomore Girls organized a food drive, going into town, buying food and donating it to a local women's shelter. Finally the Senior Boys are organizing a staff vs. camper hockey game for charity. Together, all Units have banded together to promote Random Acts of Kindness sweeping through camp all week.

At activities, there have been a range of fundraisers and other activities. Performing artists from Guitar, Dance and Theatre took a trip to Parry Sound to perform for the elderly wing of the Parry Sound Hospital while Rock campers are getting ready to get out on a short tour playing to entertain other camps in the area. Artists were painting garbage cans to make them look nice. Swimmers and Greenhouse campers cleaned up the waterfront during Green Swim. Swimmers were also raising money through a treading water marathon and a program organized by campers getting kids to swim laps to raise money for dolphin protection. Other activities raising money included a Slapshots on Goal program at Hockey, an NBA 2-ball competition at Basketball, a camper/staff charity softball game and the annual Handstands for Humanity program held in the Dance Studio.

The emotional peak of the week came during our annual Walk of Hope. Units in turn watched a slide show raising awareness on poverty, then took turns walking around a course set up on main field. The course was lit by hundreds of candles in bags that each camper took time to decorate during the week. While campers were walking, they listened to music put on by our Guitar and Rock campers and staff. If they wanted to take a break, they could write a rock for the wishing well. At the end of the evening, the staff took their turn as well. It was a fitting close to a wonderful week.



Competitions were raging all over camp on our many sports fields this week. Volleyball ran their 3-on-3 tournament that was won by a team of CIT boys. Hockey ran the annual Danny Markov Hockey Tournament while Basketball and Baseball got together for a Basketball tournament which we're told had something to do with shooting baskets for baseball hits. That wasn't all though. Basketball campers were also in a Charity 2-ball shootout while Baseball campers were practicing sliding into bases by setting up a massive slip and slide on the Baseball Field. Tennis hosted a series of tournaments this week for male campers, female campers and staff, while Golf held Scramble Day for off site campers at the Ridge. On the waterfront, both the Sailing and Canoeing program ran day trips this week. The sailors took the boats through the channels to McKellar, while the Canoe campers paddled to the far side of the lake for a special picnic lunch. Swimming got into the green theme this week for Green Swim. The beach was cleaned up, the staff set up a slip and slide and as you would expect for a Green Day, campers painted themselves green.

This report wouldn't be complete however without mentioning the two major intercamp events of the week. Our campers made the drive to Huntsville on Friday for a competition with Camp Winnebagoe that ended with a boys softball game that went three extra innings before being declared a draw. On Wednesday we hosted Tamakwa's under 16 teams. As usual we had an epic and exciting day capped by a comeback win in the u16 Roller Hockey game.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

With only a few days left in Adventure programming, activities were buzzing trying to get some of their big final events in. Eco Adventure introduced campers to Art D'Eco in conjunction with Art in the Park. Campers were bursting paint filled balloons with arrows to create artwork on a canvas. Greenhouse also got into the Arts theme making sand candles this week along with puzzle blocks molded from recycled paper. Ropes staff were looking for Harvey this week. He wasn't banging on the Wall, but Manitou climbers did bang out an intercamp win. Finally the highlight of the entire Adventure season came this week with the running of the annual Dale Evan challenge. After participating in a whole range of whacky adventure challenges, the team titled The Hottest Desert in all of Antarctica won the event.