



MOSQUITO EXPRESS



MANITOU SUMMER NEWS FOR OUR MANITOU FAMILIES

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THE DIRECTORS' CLIPBOARD

It's amazing how the second session just takes off with such a positive and spirited vibe. It feels like the second session kids have already been here for weeks. No homesick kids, everyone happy and engaged. It's truly a sight to see.



It's wonderful how easy the adjustment has been for the second monthers and no doubt the beautiful weather has helped a great deal. Camp is as active as ever with kids busy at activities, intercamp competitions, and special programs. We've already had "Chris's Playhouse", Halloween, the Camper Talent show in addition to many other unique and inspiring activity projects. We have had glowing reports from every single canoe trip this year and it seems that everyone wants to get out with our incredible team of trippers to enjoy the beautiful scenery that surrounds us. We can't wait to kick off our 5th annual 'Manitou Community Week' tomorrow Night, which we will tell you more about in the coming days.

In the meantime just know your kids are happy, singing, laughing, and enjoying the outdoors. If your camper is here for the first time we can assure you they are settling in well. We have personally met with each and every first time camper whether they are 7 years old or 15 years of age. Enjoy the stories that follow, there is loads more to tell!

- Mark & Jeff

MINI-INTERCAMP

It was a special mini-intercamp this past Tuesday, just about the perfect size for our more "mini" campers. A group of mostly Sophomores and Juniors competed against a team that came in from Camp Tamakwa for an only-under-12 competition. Our campers did incredibly well dominating in both Basketball and In-line Hockey and also did very well in other events such as Soccer and Archery. But as always, it was the fun and spirit of the day that really carried it through. Campers from Manitou and Tamakwa seemed to have had a great time through their competitions together.

TRICK OR TREAT

Nobody likes a scary clown. In fact, there are plenty of folks freaked out by happy clowns. But on our special Halloween night on Tuesday, a whole bunch of evil, scary clowns busted out of their holding cell and went on a rampage all over camp. Turned out that it was the Senior Leaders that were putting on their annual haunted house. It certainly set the tone for a creepy night in addition to the spooks and crawling characters that were wandering through camp. Campers quickly got into the spirit of the evening putting on costumes of their own. Having a second Halloween for trick-or-treating and collecting candy is always a great thing, even if it does come with scary clowns!



Once the haunted house and trick-or-treating started to wind down, it was time for the music to pick up. DJs were set and ready to go for a very special costume dance to end off the evening. The Hanger was lit up and campers and staff that had gotten into costumes were adding their own special colour to the event. We saw angels and animals, skeletons and pirates, cartoon and story-book characters, mystical creatures and various celebrities. Thanks to all the campers and staff that did a great job of getting into the spirit of the evening and to the Senior Leaders for doing a great job with the haunted house.

PLAYHOUSE RETURNS

Chances are pretty good that if you've been connected with the Manitou family for a while, you've heard about "Chris' Playhouse" which is always one of the wackier parts of a Manitou summer. As host Chris takes the stage and invites in some of his weirder friends, campers typically go wild. It might be because of the silly songs or stories or games that these characters play. Frankly, we think it has more to do with the candy that gets given out. Regardless, on Wednesday Chris was back with a new episode and the campers won't soon forget it.

ARTISTS' CORNER

Campers wasted no time starting second session by getting into a whole bunch of great projects up on Art Hill. Creative Arts had two special theme days this week starting with Manitou Ink on Tuesday where campers were working on washable body art and carried on with Watermelon Wednesday focusing on fruit themed still life drawing. There were also Mardi Gras masks and special cards and envelopes made for letters going home. Crafts meanwhile was focusing on jewelry making. Special glass beads, earrings and even melt beads were all being used for personal accessories. At Wood, our 8-day canoe trip campers took on the challenge of sanding down and painting their own personalized canoe paddles. Other popular projects at Wood included 3D flowers, animal cut outs, skate boards and even a working catapult. The final truly GIANT art project of the week was being worked on by our Tech Crew as they built a giant whale for next week's production of Pinocchio. Prints were flying out of the darkroom this week as Photo campers were shooting and processing film like never before. And as the print media shifted into high gear, Radio campers put together the first in-camp edition of the Mosquito for this session.



Performing artists also had a lot going on to keep themselves busy. Production began on video shorts for this year's Manitou International Film Festival. Claymation, live action and documentaries are all being produced by eager campers for next week's showcase. Drama Inc. introduced a new element for second session with senior Master Classes. Campers were introduced to skills used at the Canadian Improv Games, though Matt claims that he has also been training ninjas. Musicians did a lot of jamming this week at both Guitar and Rock as they started getting organized into bands. Guitar also hosted Beatles day this week while the Rock program assisted in the production of Chris' Playhouse.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



Outdoors are usually the place to be, especially when our Adventure programs are going full speed. The Greenhouse was harvesting vegetables and started doing some serious cooking this week. They were also making their own soap and molding them into animal shapes. Eco Adventure had their own cooking going on during their Barbi-Eco day. Cooked eggs in orange peels, banana boats and cinnamon apples were all on the menu. At the Adventure Park, one of the big themes of the week was Epic Whalewatching Ninja (we don't have any clue what that means either!) And campers were a bit "off the wall" at Ropes as they spend time on the climbing wall. Finally we launched an 8-day trip to Temagami this week in addition to shorter trips to Algonquin Park, Killarney, Kukagami and, of course, Freshkid Island with lots more to come!

THE SPORTS REPORT

Second session was off and running on the sports fields this week (quite literally!) Athletes were all being kept busy with various sports throughout camp. Walking around there were no shortage of events to watch, some traditional, while others very creative. On the diamond, campers were dodging geese to get in their activities. Though Russ was stressing skill development in running, throwing and hitting, there was also time for inventing a new game: Baseball Golf! Over at Volleyball, they were also playing around with the traditional rules, especially with the younger campers as "Nuke 'em" tournaments became the theme of the week. And at Aerobics, there has been a lot of stepping going on as step class competitions became this week's big thing.



House leagues were getting back under way this week as well. Hockey Day at Manitou helped kick off the second half season of the J.M.H.L. Campers were picking up their hockey sticks in their quest for the second session cup. Up at Soccer there was a heated (and much discussed) draft leading into the second World Cup Tournament (not to be confused with the World Cup drills running during periods). Basketball launched a new house league known as the MBA. The league is hugely popular in its early days with 6 teams competing every other day in full 5-on-5 games. There still have been plenty of scrimmages along with games of BUMP and HORSE on the court as well.

On the waterfront, the big event of the week was Hawaiian Day at Swimming. Campers down on the docks not only enjoyed a luau with their swimming but were treated to grilled cheese sandwiches made right there on the beach. Over on the ski docks the Ski staff were teaming with the Photo team for photo competitions. Campers were competing behind the boats to see who could get the best poses in. On the sail docks meanwhile, campers were all tied up in knots over... well... knots. Aoife said that the bowline knots were particularly challenging as more of our Sailing Academy campers moved on to their level 2 this session.

WHAT THE UNITS ARE SAYING...

With second session underway, Unit Heads were pulling out all the stops to get in some great evening programs. Freshkids started the week on Thursday with a Paint Wars evening that was very messy but also a whole lot of fun. The next night they joined with the Juniors for "Keep it Fresh." Junior campers were paired with freshkids for a range of athletic challenges that they could compete in together. The next night was all about lassoing counsellors as campers caught as many as they could find. They were back on the hunt Monday as well as they captured counsellors again and brought them before a judge on charges in Counsellor Court. Our favourite cabin activities were camouflage ops at canoe and a werewolf hunt (they were of course only actually hunting Activity Coordinator Leigh... no real werewolves this time around).

Sophomores started the week with a session of Name that Tune. The next night, they took a page out of the Freshkid book and hosted a Paint Your Counsellor Night which was every bit as messy as the Freshkid Paint Wars the night before. On Saturday night the Unit split up. The girls held a slumber party complete with bedtime stories and pillow fights, while the boys took the field for a military Boot Camp. The boys and girls were certainly happy to be back together by Monday for their epic pizza making competition. Karen and the video team set up cameras in the dining hall and had a live feed to a giant video screen. So as the competition was going on, campers could keep track of their competitors by watching them on TV. Think of it as a half-pint version of Iron Chef complete with a whole lot of pep-

HOCKEY DAY AT MANITOU

Hockey is a huge part of the culture at Camp Manitou. We love to play in-line hockey and ball hockey, whether it's in the MHL staff league, or the JMHL camper league. And of course, we love talking about our favorite NHL teams (sorry Mark, it's not always the Leafs!) So it was very special to welcome NHL veteran Brad May into camp this past Saturday to help celebrate Hockey Day at Manitou. Brad spent several minutes talking to campers about his NHL experience, then took to the hockey rink to play a scrimmage with our JMHL kids. Later on in the day, our under 16 intercamp Ball Hockey team took on a team of staff who were the MHL all-stars. The campers played a tough game, but lost out to their elders in this contest. Regardless, it was a great day for all.



peroni. Some cabin activities included a water trampolining competition, a cabin hockey game and cooking with the camp doctor.

The Junior boys started the week with a big dodgeball competition while the girls joined up with the Senior Girls for a game of Flashlight Tag in the Hanger. We're still not clear on the rules of Flashlight tag, and we don't think that the girls were either, so it wasn't long before the whole thing turned into a giant dance party. Either way, the girls loved it. After getting involved with the Freshkids for "Keep it Fresh" on Friday, the kids went back to the 90's on Saturday for a 90's themed Airbands competition. The final E.P. of the week was called Story Time. No, the campers weren't read stories, they had to make them up. They were given an opening line and some props and they had to come up with the rest. The stories they ended up with were certainly entertaining. There was a lot of soccer for the Junior boys cabin activities this week while the girls were baking, tubing and competing in life-jacket wars.

While the Senior Girls were in the Hanger for the Flashlight Tag dance party, the boys were really being put through their paces in a session of blind-folded yoga. (We personally think Yoga is hard enough when you CAN see). The next night the unit was together for a Mock Beauty pageant then split up again for Saturday. That night however, the female staff took the boys and the male staff had the girls. The boys were entered into another pageant called the Anti-Pageant, while the girls went up to the Soccer field to compete in the Powder-puff Football League. By Monday the Unit was ready for a big party which they held down on the riverfront. Splash Bash was a wet evening and a while lot of fun. Cabin activities included photo shoots, survivor teambuilding, scavenger hunts and volleyball.

CAMPERS BACK ON STAGE

With all of the performing artists that come to Manitou and sign up for activities like Theatre, Drama, Music and Dance, you can usually count on talent shows being pretty good. Without question the campers didn't let us down on Wednesday. They took to the stage for our second session talent show and knocked the pants off of everyone in the crowd. Some songs were poignant, others were comical, but all voices were exceptional. Dances were graceful and after several campers impressed with their moves, we even had some gymnasts show us their stuff. Congratulations to all who were involved.