



MOSQUITO EXPRESS



MANITOU SUMMER NEWS FOR OUR MANITOU FAMILIES

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Thursday, July 1, 2010

THE DIRECTORS' CLIPBOARD

Every year when we drive up to camp we are more excited than the last. For us it's more than a job, it's a way of life. After 12 years of pre camp this has been without a doubt one of the most dedicated, supportive groups of staff we have ever seen. It seems that each year is better than the last and we are fortunately to be at a stage where our 75% of returning staff and our 46 incredible new staff additions have been welcomed with open arms. The staff have a moral fabric that truly reflects the Manitou family.



So what is the staff of 2010 about? After eight extensive days of pre-camp we have run more than 50 different sessions on every topic you could imagine. But in addition we had top parenting experts/speakers join us. Recently, the renowned social worker Jennifer Kolari spoke to our staff about camper relationships, mirroring and active listening. If you wish to read an excellent book about how to deal with your kids, check out her book "Connected Parenting". Another guest speaker, Joey Rich once again spoke to our head staff (of 50 people), about staff management, supervision, role modeling and other topics. Sandy Foster developed a separate work shop about leadership skills for our Unit Heads (our favourite quote of that day was "a leader is a dealer in hope") and we even had a camper parent come up and talk to the staff so they could hear from one of you about what a parent truly expects from their child's camp experience. The staff reaction to every session was positive and the fact that they kept on thanking us for having us deliver these sessions illustrated what dedicated professionals they are!

Every year the staff bring to us similar core values along with a staff personality and culture. This year the words that define that personality or character are "friendly warm and socially integrated". The old timers have reached out to the new staff and the mutual support the staff are giving each other, as one united team is truly unprecedented. Hey we know it's camp, and with an average of 430 kids and 200 staff we know we will have issues and challenges to deal with every day. That is our job but how we respond to each issue or challenge, will be the true test of summer 2010. We are certain our staff will respond with the Manitou commitment and compassion as true professionals allowing your children to grow a little each day while making new unique friendships, enriching old friendships and just having good old fashioned fun!

- Mark & Jeff

PRE-CAMP HITS

So what exactly has been going on here for the past week? Here are just some of the many topics we've covered with our staff:

- Activity Philosophy, (trying things for first time)
- Back Pocket Games
- Minimizing Bullying and Exclusion
- Cabin Activities
- Cabin Dynamics/Group Bonding
- Canoe Tripping
- C.I.T. & Senior Leader Programs
- Creative Programming
- Dealing with Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Issues
- Effective Discipline (alternatives to discipline)
- Positive Reinforcement
- Emergency Procedures
- Fire Building
- Health, Safety, Risk Management
- Healthy Eating & Body Image
- Homesickness
- Instructor Training
- Junior Counsellor Transitioning
- Communication Strategies
- Lifeguard Training
- Parents Expectations
- Professionalism
- Technology & Camp
- Everyone's "Cool" at camp
- Creating memorable moments
- Putting your campers to bed

In addition we've been having a lot of fun with our staff "Clash of the Titans" theme and starting with Unit Cheers and musical meals in the Dining Hall. The spirit has been ramped up as high as we can get it. All we need now are a few campers to arrive and join in on all the fun!

WHAT THE UNITS ARE SAYING...

The Unit Heads have been working hard with their counsellors over the last few days getting Unit themes and spirit going and organizing their first few evening programs that you'll be hearing lots more about in the weeks ahead.

For the Freshkids, the theme is simply "FUN". In fact, the Freshkid 'F' now stands for fun along the lakeshore of freshkid village. The General Counsellors have spent a lot of time learning new games to play with campers, bonding new campers and creating new friendships. Those games will kick off almost as soon as campers get off the busses and into evening programming over the first few days. There is also a very special campfire ceremony to welcome so many new campers into the Manitou family. It will be a special moment for all our new campers.

The Sophomore Unit has been talking a lot about Camp and Nature Appreciation as a theme of the summer. The staff are planning on developing a special "Soph Sanctuary" where campers from the unit can hang out with friends and enjoy the special environment that they're in. Some of the early evening programs include a human game of "Guess Who" as campers get to know the staff and then we hear a Murder Mystery is about to hit the Unit.

In in the Junior parts of camp, the word is "cohesion." The Junior Staff want their Unit to come together as one big team. They've been talking about campers acting as flashlights spreading their light to all parts of camp. But there is big fun in store for our Junior campers. Throw-back Junior cheers are being heard in the dining hall and some of the early evening programs we're hearing about involve a girls Kickball league, a trivia tournament called "Win Mark & Jeff's Tuck" and a very special Twilight themed E.P.

**A REMINDER THAT OUR ADDRESS FOR
REGULAR MAIL THIS SUMMER IS:**

**Camp Manitou, 10 Camp Rd, R.R. #1
Parry Sound, ON, CANADA P2A 2W7**

**ALSO, WE'RE OFF E-MAIL FOR THE SUMMER
TO MAXIMIZE OUR TIME "OUT AND ABOUT" AT CAMP
WITH THE CAMPERS. WE CAN BE REACHED
BY PHONE AT 705-389-2410.**

The Seniors are talking about dining in style this summer. The counsellors have all been working on lazy susans to place on their tables in the dining hall. Campers will be decorating their lazy susans when they get to camp and adding a bit of flare to their table. There are some programs coming down the pipe including a series of games "connected" by the theme "Tie 'em up." Unfortunately, we aren't allowed to say anything more for the moment.

Emily has been working with our Program Director getting organized with some of the camp-wide programming that the CITs will be working on this summer. They are also getting organized for the 3-day canoe trip that all the CITs will be heading out on in the first few days of camp as they get ready to start their placements.

THE BUZZ FROM THE ACTIVITIES

All of the Activity Heads have been hard at work as well both in getting their programs physically ready to run as well as brainstorming some new and creative ideas to get camp moving this summer. Some of the new ideas we've been hearing buzz around over the past few days include camp improvement projects throughout camp led by our Creative Arts program. They'll be decorating all kinds of things throughout camp and making our world a little more colourful. Baseball is running an international day. Rumours circulating tell us that this day may also involve some cricket coming to Manitou. Our Eco Adventure staff have been setting up and new orienteering course for a special challenge event that will be a competition day during the summer. At Yoga this summer, we are launching Pilates as part of the program so campers will get even more variety in their workouts. Golf staff have been polishing their clubs and getting very excited learning that all of our off-site golf activities will be taking place at the Ridge at Manitou this summer. Our serious golfers are really going to get a great experience. With all the World Cup excitement floating around in recent weeks, Soccer is sure to be more popular than ever, especially as they kick off their own World Cup event at camp. The Canoe/Kayak staff have been busy organizing their Easter Egg hunt down on the river which is sure to be a fun filled day. Up at photography, we're starting to go digital this summer. For the first time ever, campers will get to experiment with photo manipulation and create projects through creative software in addition to getting into the darkroom and learning traditional development techniques. Drama Inc. will be running skits throughout the summer promoting all of these new events and activities as well, and you'll be hearing lots more in our upcoming newsletters as things get started.