



MOSQUITO EXPRESS



MANITOU SUMMER NEWS FOR OUR MANITOU FAMILIES

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THE DIRECTORS' CLIPBOARD

2010 CARNIVAL

This past week has been the most energetic, fun filled week of camp ever. Nothing like incredible weather to make our jobs way easier! These last couple of years we have forgotten what normal summer weather is and the positive impact great weather has on camp. The beautiful weather has allowed the Unit Heads and staff to concentrate on the kids rather than dealing with rainy day programs. The staff this year are spending more time with the kids at bed time and early morning then ever; a true sign of their commitment to the campers.



It's the people that truly make any camp and not just the great facilities. It's not the wonderful activities or even our annual carnival, Tribal Games or World Games but rather the ability to inculcate values of appreciation for what we have in the Manitou community that results in a fulfilling Manitou summer. That is why our theme this year for the summer is "Attitude." Every Friday a unit speaks to the entire camp about this theme. This coming week, we are also bringing up some special guests to talk to your kids about having an appreciation for what they have and their responsibility to the world around them.

Ultimately the true success of camp comes from friendships but we like to think that kids at camp can make friendships with people they normally would not in the city, thus enriching their lives to an even more significant level. We just had a C.I.T. come up to us and say "you were right I am now good friends with people I never dreamed I would love spending time with and they are making this the best summer of my life". We had Sophomore camper say that he thought he would for sure hang with just the three kids he knew from school but in fact he is loving the other seven kids in his cabin and has made best friends with kids that are from different cities such as Madrid. Speaking of Madrid, the Spanish campers all watched the World Cup and playing their national anthem in front of the whole camp made us all feel so privileged to have such special kids with us from so far away. Of course we have kids and staff from 42 different cities from around the world and that is what makes this place so empowering and enriching. Week 2 was one for the record books, we can hardly wait to see the magic that week 3 brings.

- Mark & Jeff

Carnival day has always been a highlight of the Manitou summer calendar going back for several generations. But never before have we seen carnival activity on such a large scale. Campers this summer took matters into their own hands and the result was something absolutely HUGE. Once again, the Senior Leaders were the driving force behind helping to get carnival stations organized. But this year, all of the Juniors and Seniors were giving them a hand. Each Junior and Senior cabin was tasked with creating their own carnival booth. They each started with a few carnival tickets, which they could use themselves at different booths, or save to bid on big prizes at the end of the day. Best of all, any tickets that their booth took in during the day could also be used by those cabins to bid on prizes! Freshkids and Sophomores could use their carnival tickets at booths or to bid on prizes, but they also earned "Moosebucks" for completing games at the different stations, some of which were very creative, and all of which were a lot of fun. All of the carnival favourites were in camp, including an inflatable maze, a strong-man hammer challenge and a dunk tank that gave each camper who has been cheering for "Markus in the Lake" to soak the Assistant Director themselves. There was also plenty of food, from popcorn, nachos, candy floss and snow cones to a dinner of pogo sticks, pizza, french fries, veggies and cookies.



As is the tradition, after the auction of prizes for cabins with the most tickets from the day, all campers finished the carnival by heading up to the Hangar for a camp wide dance. With many Manitou favourite songs in the playlist, campers of all ages had a great time dancing the night away.

INTERCAMP ACTION

It was intercamp week at Manitou with athletes from all over camp gearing up for competition. Unfortunately, with some iffy weather, one of the planned events hosting Cam Winnebago was scrapped. But the trip to Tamakwa in Algonquin Park and hosting Camp Tamarack here were both huge successes. At Tamakwa, our younger campers did us proud. We had big wins in Sailing, Softball and In-line Hockey, while losing Soccer, Basketball and a Swim meet against a pack of competitive swimmers. We also came away with splits in Archery and half court Tennis. Our older campers hosted Tamarack campers and won their games in Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Softball, Ball Hockey and Sailing. We lost games in Girls Softball and Soccer. We also split in Boys Basketball and Swimming. While we are certainly proud of our results, more importantly, we are proud of how our athletes carried themselves in wins and losses. Campers were respectful and good sports. They tried hard, had fun and gave it everything they had. Thus far it has certainly been a great season for the Manitou Moose.

THE SPORTS REPORT



The big focus at almost all of the land sports areas this week was on the big intercamp competitions. Activity Heads and coaches were holding tryouts and practices throughout the week both during regular periods as well as before breakfast, during rest hour and during O&A. By the time the intercamp events came up, our athletes were ready to go!

There were a few other big events going on though. The Hockey program ran a full day tournament event bringing back some of the defunct NHL teams included the Jets, Nordiques, Whalers and Golden Seals. The winning Jets were presented with their championship plaque at flag-pole along with MVP honours. At Basketball this week, the hype surrounded the staff All-Star Game. Campers were able to vote on their favourite staff to compete in the game and close to 200 kids did just that. It was certainly entertaining to see Director Mark Diamond on the court with our Basketball superstars (though he DID score a basket!) There were some great NBA 2-ball competitions going on this summer as well.

In other areas, much of the week still focused on keeping cool. At Aerobics, getting campers in to water aerobics was a big hit. Canoe/Kayak meanwhile organized a 2-day Woodstock event with Crafts and Guitar giving several activities a chance to do their thing on the riverfront keeping cool with campers that were out paddling. The songs and tie dye were both a big hit!

ARTISTS' CORNER



Art projects seemed to be everywhere this week. Campers were working on projects in the arts studios, but were also getting out and about working on projects around camp. At Creative Arts, campers designed the billboard on the back of the new Theatre extension for "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown." But there was also work being done on dream catchers, Pom Pom animals, dollhouse furniture (for a dollhouse project with Woodworking) and paper mache Cats. In addition to the dollhouse, the Wood campers were building things like skateboards and even a working Tennis racket. Pottery was thinking a lot about their community over the course of the week, building bowls for the Empty Bowls program, making medals for kitchen staff appreciation day and even flower pots so that Greenhouse campers can plant some flowers and make Manitou a bit more beautiful. Photo campers were also out and about camp in full force and have now also made their first prints. Ryan, our Head of Photo, presented the first Photo of the Week Award this week. Radio campers also got in on the action. Sandwich Day was supposed to mean that campers were designing Sandwich Board advertisements and walking them around camp. Turned out though, that most of the morning actually involved munching on real sandwiches. Sounds like our kind of program!

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

This was a big week for our Canoe Trip staff. We've gotten out a whole series of 3 and 4 day Canoe Trips to Killarney, Algonquin Park, French River and Kugagami. Freshkid overnights have also been continuing across the river. But the big story of this week was launching our first ever 12 day trip to Temagami. This is the longest Canoe Trip in Camp Manitou history to one of the most spectacular canoe tripping areas in the world. We're sure the campers are having a great time and look forward to reporting more when they return.



Meanwhile, in camp, the Eco program moved it's focus to Archery this week, but not before getting campers out on the first early morning fishing expedition. Greenhouse has also been harvesting their cucumbers and zucchinis. Yum!

WHAT THE UNITS ARE SAYING...

What a great week for each of our Units! The Freshkids started things off with a trip to Waubuno Beach in Parry Sound. They packed their picnic dinner and managed to dodge some lousy weather to have a great experience on the shore of Georgian Bay. They came back to camp to snuggle in for a movie night. On Saturday, Freshkids and Sophomores became our local business tycoons taking on the Manitou Stock Exchange. Several colourful, and some very strange companies, were buying and selling stocks, trading with our camper tycoons. Some did well, some went broke, but campers generally came out on top. The final evening program of the week was a raft building competition. Campers had to design a build rafts that their counsellors could sail across the swimming area. Between the picnic and ongoing overnight canoe trips, cabin activities in the Freshkid unit were few this week, but we did see a dress-up fashion dance and a tubing session at waterski.

The Sophomores has a similar start as the Freshkids this week. They also started their week with a picnic on the beach, but theirs was at Killbear Provincial Park. They came back to join the Freshkids for the movie night, and also joined the Freshkids for the Stock Exchange on Saturday. Their final evening program of the week however broke the Unit in half. Francois and the male staff planed a Justin Bieber Sing-a-long in the Dance studio with all of the girls. Sarah and the female staff meanwhile planned a military game of Battleship on main field getting all the boys pretty dirty rolling in the grass. Some of their cabin activities included intercabin lacrosse games, baking with Janice and Shelly, a princess party, landscaping projects and a water fight on the soccer field.

The Junior's first evening program of the week was a Mock Beauty pageant getting campers to come

CAMPER TALENTS!

Friday night campers had the opportunity to rival the amazing staff Talent Show from week one. A crazily dressed cast of characters took the stage to introduce the various acts that included a variety of songs and dances and even a few incredible yo-yo tricks. The whole camp was entertained and it was a wonderful evening. Congratulations to all of the many acts that took the stage for the show!

up and perform silly stunts to win prizes competing with other cabins. Their Saturday night was a huge game of Capture the Flag with the Senior Unit, organized by the C.I.T.s. As an added wrinkle, they were playing Stratego rules. Just like the board game, every camper was assigned a mission card with a rank. Only higher ranks could capture lower ranks in the game and teams had to plan accordingly. Their final program though was probably the biggest. Campers got to participate in their own version of "Deal or No Deal" as they negotiated curfew times in the various briefcases. As luck would have it, after turning down several "late curfew offers" from the bank, the Unit Ended up having selected their own usual 9:30 curfew in their selected briefcase. The Juniors also had one of the best cabin activities we've ever seen this week as counsellors organized a three cabin Quidditch tournament on Main Field. But there were also treasure hunts, canoe wars, games of catchphrase, hydration games in the heat, a session at the Adventure Park and an adaptation of the reality show Survivor.

Seniors set the tone for the week early with a "hipster" coffee house. Camper got dressed up in "cool" costumes and gathered in the dining hall performing various songs for all to enjoy. As any self respecting hipster would tell you, it was "OK" (which in translation means "lots of fun!"). The Seniors joined in with the Juniors for the Stratego themed Capture the Flag. The final program of the week was the infamous Mr. & Mrs. Manitou pageant as campers dressed up counsellors of the opposite gender into crazy costumes for a walk on the red carpet. Some of the Senior cabin activities were making candy sushi, making Lady Gaga costumes, Rock/Paper/Scissors tournaments, cabin photo shoots and a wild tailgate party up on the Soccer pitch.

C.I.T.s got busy this week with camp wide programming. Their big events this week were organizing the Stock Ticker and Capture the Flag games for the full camp. They also continued their placements in cabins and on activities with great success.

GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN



We all love Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang and last night at Manitou they were better than ever! The Freshkids and Sophomores took the stage for their production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." Charlie, Lucy, Linus, Snoopy and Woodstock were all on stage for some comedic scenes and wonderful songs. With only 10 days to prepare, the kids did an amazing job and were met with a rousing ovation after the show. We're all looking forward to our next show next week!