



MOSQUITO EXPRESS



MANITOU SUMMER NEWS FOR OUR MANITOU FAMILIES

Volume 4, Issue 5.

Thursday, July 29, 2010

THE DIRECTORS' CLIPBOARD MONOPOLY ON '10 GAMES

We can't believe the first session is over already. It seemed just a day ago we were writing our newsletter and this has to be the quickest first session ever. For those of you that were here on Visiting Day we always love to have you join our Manitou family in person. We love you seeing the camp in action, and most importantly having you meet our wonderful devoted staff. When we speak about teaching your children life long skills, resilience, and how our aim is to inculcate core values of appreciation and respect for every single child you know we really mean it. Thanks to those that already have sent off e-mails and notes about their first month experience; its always nice to hear that your child has come home a little more grown up, mature and compassionate.



No doubt the strength of this past month has been a very nurturing staff. All 198 of us have been working hard and the end result has been as good as it could get with staff telling us numerous stories about the campers and how much they will miss them. Whether it be the nurses telling our homesick campers that they have homesick medicine that will help them, or our activity heads who all planned this year incredible special events, our CIT's who have a spirit that is almost out of control, our intercamp tournaments, or artistic events, or the counselors doing zany cabin activities, whatever it was, the energy and enthusiasm have been non-stop. For those campers that are staying all summer we can already say that the transition has been seamless and the cabins are already functioning well and we have very few homesick campers. It seems the energy and the weather just won't slow down.

- Mark & Jeff

After a great day with our visitors, I was time to really get down to the good stuff. Campers wait all session long with excitement for our epic all day program, this summer, the day would be known as Trivial Games. Campers were called down to the Hangar late in the evening on Saturday and seated by unit. We were all introduced to an elderly toy maker (actually named Toymaker—first name "The") getting prepared to retire. We met his two sons, the happy Lanny, and the grumpy Badface one of which would take over the company. Well, with a name like Badface, you knew we were in for trouble. And sure enough, the grumpy son had sabotaged the toy company. Something had to be done. Coming to life were four board games and their characters ready to save the day. Rich Uncle Pennybags and a group of Monopoly icons including the dog, racecar and even a dice represented the black team. An eccentric king and queen along with their knight, bishop and rook came off the Chess board to represent the red team. A pair of brainy spellers brought letters to life for the white teams rendition of Scrabble. Finally the gingerbread man introduced us to characters made of molasses, licorice, and gumdrops for the blue team and the game Candyland.



Throughout the day on Sunday, these four teams competed with one another for the chance to save The Toymaker. Much of the morning was focused on dramatic and artistic events as campers prepared for presentations of songs, dances and plaques that would go into the dining hall. Other campers competed in various athletic events. In the afternoon, there was a rotation of silly activities that all campers participated in, followed by a camp-wide strategy game that was similar to capture the flag, but involved over 100 golf balls instead of flags. In the evening campers made their presentations from the morning before the CITs competed in one last event, the final rope burn. In the end, team Monopoly took the victory, but it was the spirited campers and staff cheering their heads off throughout the games that really won the day.

WHAT THE UNITS ARE SAYING...

While most of the action this week involved the whole camp, there was still some unit action to wrap up first session and kick off the second. The final night of evening programs of first session were this past Thursday. Seniors had spent the afternoon at Waubuno Beach in Parry Sound with a special pizza delivery courtesy of Jeff Wilson. When they got back to camp they split up. The boys finally got in their first session Dodgeball Tournament while the girls curled up for a movie night. The Juniors hosted an evening of Olympic Games on Main Field with a whole range of athletic competition and medals presented at the end of each. Sophomores completed their Gratitude with Attitude program by planting a tree near the Soccer Pitch, creating a new "Soph Sanctuary" for future generations to enjoy. Finally the Freshkids were trying to catch their counsellors in a lie during their game of Liar's Club. Final cabin activities during first session included Freshkid salsa dancing with Jose, a photo shoot with CITs, an Alice in Wonderland Tea Party, Basketball competitions, slip 'n slide and everyone's Thursday favourite: cooking with Dory.

The new session started off on Wednesday as Freshkids hosted their Welcome to Manitou campfire. Seniors got their campers started with a round of silly presentations in the form of Infomercials. Juniors were decorating cakes in what became a bit of a messy (though very tasty) evening program. But the buzz around camp were the secret agents and international spies that came into camp abducting Activities Director Chris. Fortunately, we had Sophomores standing by and ready to be trained to deal with just such encounters. They C.I.T.s were M.I.A. on Wednesday though. They had all escaped to Huntsville for the day to enjoy a bit of hard earned time off with a picnic by the river and a screening of the movie Inception.

HULA! HULA!

A big thanks to all of our Senior Leaders who not only worked hard on projects during the session, but who helped us celebrate in style at the end of first month with a special Hawaiian themed banquet. Campers had the dining Hall decked out with decorations as we enjoyed a wonderful dinner. It was just the start of a great final night however. We went on to an awards ceremony led by Chris and the Activity Heads and a sentimental slide show put on by the photo staff. After singing the camp song all together, campers went with their units to a campfire to enjoy some final memories of first session.

VISITOR'S DAY REPORT

Campers get excited about a lot of things at camp, but the morning of Visitors Day you can usually cut that excitement with a knife it's so tangible. As the campers gather on Main Field for the start of the day, they yell, scream and cheer as we run the countdown so that they can make the mad dash up to the gate to welcome their visitors. While this year's event didn't have the same kind of sun we seem to be getting on every other day, there was still plenty of cheer as the visitors walked the grounds, met counsellors and activity staff and generally enjoyed the day. Serge had his usual Visitors Day spread out in an incredible lunch buffet, including some special grilled cheese sandwiches this year. But we all know that no matter how good the lunch was, the desert table was the hit of the day. We wrapped things off with a Rock show and some words from Mark and Jeff. But that of course wasn't the end of the day. There's no better cure for the homesick blues that sometimes set in after visitors go than a monster Slip 'n Slide. So campers were scooped up by their counsellors and went off for even more fun to wrap up a great day.

IT'S SHOWTIME!



The first session wrapped up with many great presentations, but none were any finer than the final stage shows of the session. A cast led by Junior campers took the stage on Friday for a production of Damn Yankees, the show in which a young man makes a deal with the devil to play for his favourite baseball team. The play followed a tremendous Dance Show that really got the crowd cheering as well. The next night the show was Oliver! The cast and crew did such a great job, the whole audience was asking "Please sir, can we have some more?" For that though, we're going to have to wait until second session.

CHANGEOVER

Finally this week, we're pleased to report on what was a very smooth changeover day with our new campers arriving safe and sound. It's always a mixed emotional day, with old friends leaving and new ones arriving. But the campers staying on had some quiet time as well as a movie and free swim in the afternoon and by dinner time the energy was ramped right back up again for our second Activity Fair. It looks like this session is going to have no trouble matching the great first session we wrapped up.