



MOSQUITO EXPRESS



MANITOU SUMMER NEWS FOR OUR MANITOU FAMILIES

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THE DIRECTORS' CLIPBOARD

Ok so lets be honest. We had one of the most challenging weeks of cold weather in history. But for some reason we only had two rained out activities all week. The reason why this job is so motivating and inspiring is because camp brings out the best in people. The energy level is actually higher than ever and it's all about creating a culture where campers partake in activities they would never think they would enjoy. And its not just the staff! It may start with them, but the kids have this attitude that nothing stops them from having fun.



It's the precious little moments of every week that make the best memories. It's cabin nights and seeing a cabin of Sophomore girls playing games, laughing so hard while watching out our window while the counselors and kids convince the homesick camper to join the group and see her smile. It's the senior leaders leading the most creative carnival booths in quite some time. It's the CITs ending the Talent show with an innovative dance and song combining humour, skill and displaying to the entire camp what it means to unify as one group. It's the most clever evening programs we have seen in years, with Senior guys swimming on a cold night with smiles on their faces or Junior Girls cheering on their handball teams with a competition that would make most guys envious. It's hearing about an entire intercamp team introducing themselves to the bus driver, asking his name and then personally thanking him for his hard work. It's the Freshkids constantly asking for golf cart rides on our cart or bringing us snack attack to our office since they know we are busy working. It's the look of a camper when he gets to be one on one with the Argos doing drills and then getting an autograph. It's the new garden and looking at the proud faces of campers as they bring vegetables to lunch for us all to enjoy. It's the launch of rock 'n roll with rocket laughing at flagpole with everyone laughing and proud of the creative buzz from all of the Activity Heads.

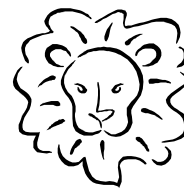
Now we have to admit the Directors don't get out as much as we'd like so we don't know everything going on. However, just walking out of the office or peering out our window we can always know that each day at camp is another day of special moments.

- Mark & Jeff

WILLABY WALLABY CARNIVAL

The animals were back in a big way this year as the traditional Manitou Carnival took over Main Field on Tuesday. From pony rides to the petting zoo, campers made friends with all kinds of new animals including a camel, llama and a pair of cuddly kangaroos. But the stars of the show were the baby wallabies that were floating around with staff in small pouches for petting. Of course there were other stars too, including circus performers doing incredible juggling tricks and making special balloon hats for campers. Chris' Playhouse also made its 2009 debut with a colourful cast of special guests. But what would a Manitou Carnival be without food? Popcorn, candy floss and specially brought in TINY TOM DOUGHNUTS were a huge hit and than Serge brought out a very special Carnival meal including corndogs and chicken breasts. We were also fortunate to welcome the team from Jet Entertainment that arrived on the scene for a special camp wide dance.

PRIDE OF PRIDE ROCK



Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of the Freshkid and Sophomore production of The Lion King that hit the stage this Wednesday. The sets were undoubtedly the finest we have seen in our recent Manitou history, including a majestic Pride Rock jutting up from the stage and a creepy Shaddowlands set lit with black lights. But the stars of course were the campers out on stage. They were clearly having a ball on stage singing some of their favourite Disney tunes whether it was the leads or the many voices of the fabulous chorus. It was a great way to finish off the session for the eight Freshkids heading home after their 2-week session.

THE SPORTS REPORT



The highlight of the sports week was going to be an intercamp competition on Monday at Camp Winnebago. Sadly, the weather again threw a wrench into the works and we cut down the program, winning boys softball and soccer and losing girls softball and volleyball. The campers remained in good spirits however, especially after we arranged a special pizza delivery to the site for lunch.

Back in camp, activities have been going at full speed despite the weather. Programs like Junior MHL and MFL are going strong, but lacrosse has also really taken off this year and our girls hockey period continues to be a huge success. Aerobics has been moving forward with step classes and circuit training while Freshkids at basketball are putting a beating on Steph and her staff playing "21". Baseball has started into their World Series Championship featuring campers of all skills and sizes looking to capture the WSC trophy. Soccer has not only been prepping for their annual World Cup Tournament, but have also been mixing in a little soccer-baseball for some of the younger campers as a new form of kicking drills.

On the water, the weather has meant some smooth skiing and has helped lots of campers learn to drop skies and slalom for the first time. The sailing team is most excited about the launching of their new Hobie boat, while kids are still swinging from the Tarzan rope at swim, bouncing on the water trampoline and floating away in our colourful inner tubes.

ARGONAUT INVASION

Again this summer, we were fortunate this past Friday to welcome into camp a group of players from the Toronto Argonauts Football team, as well as a pair from their Cheerleading team, fresh off a win over the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

The visiting Argos were #19 WR James Robinson, #12 QB/WR Reggie McNeal, #47 LB Nick Carriere and #26 CB Jordan Younger. The players led a group of almost 80 campers through a series of drills and training games focusing on both offensive and defensive skills. The cheerleaders took our own dance team up to the Dance Studio for a special workshop. The whole crew came back together for a particularly rowdy music lunch followed by a Q & A and autograph session with campers in the theatre. We will all be wishing the Argos the best of luck in their next game and thank them for a great day!



ARTISTS' CORNER



Camp is quickly getting flooded with an incredible number of creative projects. Creative Art has been working on origami, pop-ups, mini purses and popsicle stick structures. The woodworkers have been making mini-sticks, tables, cars and even garages. At Crafts the kids participated in 60's day including tie dye, flower headbands and wooden beads. Photography meanwhile has been burning through rolls of film like crazy and preparing for paparazzi and CSI training.

Guitar took over Canoe/Kayak this week for our annual "Canoetared" program. Campers were paddling down the river and strumming their favourite tunes. We've also had Freshkids in the Rock studio hammering out AC/DC, while older campers have been working on Space Oddity and Rocket Man for the official Rockin' Rockets launch party.

The rest of our performers are also keeping busy. Video campers are working on their collective film project, a feature film mixing like action with animation along with an original score. Drama Inc kids are quickly filling the PoeTree while helping to promote special events such as the recent "Swail" (swim/sail) program while Dance and Theater campers continue to work on their upcoming shows.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Canoe Tripping has been working overtime trying to keep up with the demand of all the campers that want to get out on trip. We've already sent dozens of campers out to Algonquin, French River and a new route in Kugugami. Our 5-day eco challenge trip departed this week, as did our 8-day boys trip to Temagami.



In camp, campers at ropes have been repelling down the climbing wall and are gearing up for a Zippity-do-da-day as they start running down the zipline. The theme at Eco Adventure this week has been "Save the Minnows" while Dani has kicked off "Adventure Adventure" for a group of campers up at the park. In the Greenhouse this week, campers have continued to harvest from the garden and watch zucchini and eggplants bloom, but also had the chance to make their own icecream, and have started on a program with Rock'n Roll called Rockin' Rockets. Campers are building their own working rockets and will be launching them next week.

WHAT THE UNITS ARE SAYING...

The Freshkid and Sophomore trip to the beach was rained out last week, but campers weren't too disappointed as their bus took a detour to the Parry Sound movie theatre for a special screening of the new Pixar film UP. Freshkids kicked off their evening program week with a great "Paint Your Counsellor" program followed by a phenomenal campfire on Friday night with several guest performers after the Unit presented their Friday Night Fireside program. With cabins getting across the river for their overnight trips and some great cabin activities from tie dying to treasure hunts to ninja training, the unit had a busy week.

Sophomores were just as packed with their schedule. A series of creative infomercial presentations were followed up the next night with a counsellor hunt forcing campers to search high and low for staff and other special guests. Cabin highlights included making picture frames, cooking with the Trippers, a slam dunk competition and navy marine training.

The Juniors started the week with their Mr. & Mrs. Manitou pageant. While the costumes for their staff were colourful and creative, they had nothing on what the kids came up with the next night for their lemonade stands. The unit split up on Monday night with the boys getting fully into a lightening quick dodgeball tournament while the girls joined with the Senior girls for the most colourful and spirited handball tournament we've ever seen in the Hangar. It was amazing to see the girls so fired up and having a great time with an exciting sporting event. For cabin activities this week we saw a giant unit paint party down on the river, chia pets in the greenhouse, obstacle courses, a battle of the sexes and a garbage bag fashion show.

Seniors this week were focused on the Amazing Race, an epic two night program that ran on Thursday and Friday nights. Cabins had to work together to solve puzzles and clues all over camp, just like on TV. While the girls broke off to play handball with the Juniors on Monday, the boys participated in the Most Extreme Elimination Challenge, a series of creative stunts cooked up by Unit Head Dan Scratch and his team. Cabins participated in an Abercrombie photo shoot, an egg drop competition, spa nights, blind dates with Activity Heads, cabin calendar shoots and making music videos with Karen in the studio.

CANADA VS THE WORLD



It has been a big week for Team Canada at Manitou. After our Canada Day celebrations last week, we had challenges coming from all quarters. The first major challenge came from one of our American Tennis staff. Donning the garb of Captain America, he challenged our Captain Canada to a NASCAR cart race and pie eating contest to kick off festivities on the 4th of July. Of course, the pie quickly ended up in the face of Captain Canada at the start of the cart race. Though the Canadian side won the race, both exchanged flags and celebrated American Independence Day together with all of our American campers. Sunday night, our international staff challenged the Canadian staff to a special baseball game. Jose, our Dominican Head of Tennis, cooked up a whole series of crazy rules, including using a tennis ball and no gloves for the game. With campers singing the national anthem and calling the play-by-play, much of camp brought their BBQ dinner down to the ballpark for this special tailgate event. The international staff took advantage of the weird rules with a big lead in the top of the first inning and it was all the Canadians could do to come back and tie the game in the bottom of the second.

THE STOCK REPORT



Freshkid and Sophomore Campers gathered on Monday night for the annual opening of the Manitou Stock Exchange. Campers were learning to buy low and sell high in order to cash in on prizes for the most successful cabin of tycoons at the end of the evening. Activity Heads opened up a series of companies from Manicure Man to Faces for Radio to the Greenhouse and while the game itself went very well, it wasn't as entertaining as seeing the staff in their crazy costumes.

MANITOU HAS TALENT

Saturday night once again was talent night at Manitou. This time it was the campers' turn to get up on stage and show us their stuff. We had an incredible run of acts from individual campers singing and dancing to full cabin groups that got on stage and performed together. IN what has become a great tradition, the entire CIT unit joined together for the final act of the night that combined singing dancing and some silly comedy just for added entertainment. Many felt that the show surpassed the quality of the staff show last week, so our staff may have to redeem themselves in second session!