

There's
NO PLACE
like **CAMP**
2011



Saturday August 20, 2010

Evening Program: Classic Camp Fire

Welcome to the 54th week of camp!

On Saturday August 20, 2011 the Braintree High School parking lot was flooded with 420 eager campers and 77 staff. Sleeping bags and tuff boxes filled with clothes, costumes, and candy were loaded in the moving trucks. When the buses pulled up campers dashed and competed with each other to take over a particular bus. George Raymond even managed to show up and get onto one of the buses. Loaded and ready to go, Camp Cody became the destination. Upon arrival all of the staff and campers gathered together in the council ring. Little did we know, the next 7 days were going to be etched into camp history as possibly the best week ever.

The theme for camp 2011 was "There's No Place Like Camp." Using *The Wizard of Oz* as a guide, morning group discussions and programs throughout the week dealt with the topics of home, knowledge, love, courage, and faith.

Camp favorites this year: Major Look Boston, Threat Level Midnight, camp water bottles, chapel, and Jesse!!!

Sunday August 21, 2010

Afternoon Program: Witch House Rules

Evening Program: Aunt Em and Uncle Henry's Ho Down

It was like Kansas this afternoon - a perfect setting for our *Wizard of Oz* week. We were all on the field for the afternoon program when we heard thunder and saw flashes of lightening. Everyone was sent back to their cabins before a

terrific storm of wind & rain swept across the lake in our direction. The rain came down in buckets for about an hour, but by dinner time it was beautiful and clear on the lake and the clouds framed the mountains and the sun worked its way through to peak out from behind them. We thank God for refreshing rains and refreshing smiles – both are great blessings.

Monday August 22, 2010

Morning/ Afternoon Program: If I Only Had a Camera/ Color group Olympics

Evening Program: Morning Group at Night

The Olympics are in full swing here at camp with eight color teams competing in: floor hockey, basketball, soccer, track, trivia, homerun derby, ultimate Frisbee, Catch Phrase, and more. The teams seemed evenly matched, except maybe in hockey where the royal blue team ended up with about 6 members of the WHS JV hockey team. At the end of the day, the Olympic Gold Medal went to ROYAL BLUE... the silver to ORANGE... and the bronze to FOREST GREEN.

Tuesday August 23, 2010

Afternoon Program: Good vs. Evil

Evening Program: Threat Level Midnight

Today was SENIOR DAY at camp with the large and talented senior class leading the way for all our campers. Seniors took over Junior High morning groups, helped with lunch room duty, got their group picture taken, and spent time together thanking each other for a great camp experience while also choosing speakers for the final camp fire.

Threat Level Midnight and thoughts from Terry Martinson

I want to share with you how absolutely **amazing** tonight was at camp... I cannot remember a more incredible night!

"This was the best program ever," one camper commented as he walked towards the council ring for vespers... I think he voiced the opinion of the entire camp... others said, "This game was amazing!"

The game was similar to MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, it was created by Cole Burton and Colleen MacNeil with technical assistance from Mike MacNeil and the full cooperation of the staff. The program started with a short video by *Admiral Akbar* (aka: John Fiander) describing the mission just as they used to on television, but with a bit more humor. Camp Cody was armed with bombs set to go off in 90 minutes if the campers could not find the code to disarm the bombs... a huge clock on a screen ticked off the minutes and seconds. The campers were each given a glow-in-the-dark necklace and it looked INCREDIBLE to see them moving around camp in the dark as they tried to solve puzzles, win games, and complete challenges in order to get money to buy clues, everyone was fully engaged! The game was created so that no one team (Morning Group) could disarm the bomb the teams had to work together to accomplish their mission, but they didn't figure that out until the clock ticked down to under ten minutes. With about 90 seconds left the camp gathered around the computer as the 5 digits that would disarm the bombs were successfully entered... what a cheer went up from the campers! You would have thought it was for real!!!

The lesson to be learned - working together you can do things that you could never do alone.

Following the game, without any prompting from staff, the campers started creating a colorful neon rope out of their individual glow-in-the-dark necklaces as they took their places in the council ring. That, too, was an amazing effect! Then, without prompting, they started to sing *He's Got The Whole World In His Hands* followed by *This Little Light of Mine*... I need to tell you, the whole thing sent chills down my spine and the spines of so many of the staff.

The Spirit does amazing things when you allow it to work.



Wednesday August 24, 2010

Afternoon Program: The Yellow Brick Road

Evening Program: The Yellow Brick Road Show

Thoughts on the Rain-Tom Flanagan

On Sunday afternoon, we saw our afternoon program cut short by a lightning storm. The rain kept everyone penned up in the cabins for a few hours, soaked the camp and left our dirt roads a maze of mud puddles. By most people's standards, the storm put a big damper on the

first full day at camp. But when Terry said Grace at our next meal, he thanked God for the rain. He said that the rain refreshes us. He asked us all to be honestly grateful for the rain, the same rain that had just ended our afternoon and sent us all running for cover.

Just a week after camp, it poured for four straight days in Massachusetts and we plunged from summer sunshine into rain. My commute went from 40 minutes to over an hour. As I sat on 93, watching an endless line of brake lights and listening to the squeak of my streaky windshield wipers, I found myself muttering a colorful monologue that was something like the exact opposite of Terry's Grace.

I think that we have a tendency to handle storms better at camp than we do during the rest of the year. I think back now on that rainy day at camp, and I can't even think of long lines of traffic. I think of Adam Fiander setting up shop on the Cheyenne porch, excited to watch the lightning show and maybe even get struck. I think of our boys in the cabin, debating the likelihood of being electrocuted while showering. (They concluded that electrocution was pretty much guaranteed, and then someone promptly called first shower)

Most of all I think of Terry's Grace. I like the idea that rain refreshes us. That sounds to me like it leaves us somehow a little bit better off than it found us. I like the idea that we, as a group of nearly 500, are the kind of people who say thanks for the rain. In my mind, the kind of people who say thanks for the rain don't do a whole lot of complaining. They're doers who can go with the flow and make the best of any situation. They're the type of people who see beauty in a lightning-filled sky. They see a storm-shortened program as an opportunity to spend extra free time with their cabin. They're

the type of people who see a soaked field or a muddy road as a slip-and-slide (or a rave, even?) waiting to happen.

You will spend the vast majority of your life in some place other than camp, and at many points you will find yourself sitting frustrated in a traffic jam, literally or otherwise. Keep being refreshed. Keep saying thanks for the rain.

Thursday August 25, 2010

Afternoon Program: Cabin Competition

Evening Program: Emerald City Ball

The words that best describe the "Cabin Wars" are: *fierce* competition and *incredible* creativity... first the creativity: the campers chose amazing costumes: A Box of Crayons, The letters of a Bingo game, Christmas Elves (Billy Parlee could be an elf,) Mimes, Life Guards, Geisha Girls, Apes, M & Ms, Bees, etc. The older cabins, based on their experience, really go all out even though there are no awards or prizes for costumes... now the competition: just as it is in Youth Group, you would think we awarded winning with gold medals... the competition is good, but it is keen... today's final playoff was between the Cheyenne boys of Senior High and the Cabin 8 boys of Junior High... the Cheyenne boys won by a whisker, maybe because most junior high boys don't have whiskers yet...

Quotes from the Week of Morning Group

Sunday- "The most important things in your home are people."

Monday- "It's better to know some of the questions, than all of the answers."

Tuesday- "God measures how much we love him by how much we love others."

Wednesday- "Courage is grace under power."

Thursday- "Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true."

Friday August 26, 2010

Afternoon Program: Hug Line

Evening Program: Consecration Service

This years Consecration Services were well received. It was wonderful to have Rev. Leeann Walt lead the communion at the Senior High Consecration Service. Leeann has been a solid addition to our camp staff this summer. At the Senior High Consecration Service, Jesse sang again for us in Chinese. Rev. Bill Harding led the Junior High Consecration service.

The Senior High campers adjourned from the Consecration Service to a final campfire at which several of the seniors chosen by their peers, spoke. We heard powerful messages from Caiti Bickel, Billy Norkus, Jake Greenwood, Brian Holton, Pat Deegan, Evan MacLeod and Taylor Norve.



Vespers Recap 2011- Tom Flanagan

For many campers and staff, vespers is a favorite program during the week. We conclude each day sitting around the campfire, looking at the stars and listening to a message from a member of our veteran staff. The messages are often powerful and thought provoking, and this year was no exception.

On Saturday night, Terry kicked off the vespers program. He told a great story about an outstanding cab driver named Wally, who turned himself into one of the most successful cab drivers in the city when he decided to put forth the extra effort to make himself stand out from the crowd. He dressed well, kept his cab spotless, and even offered beverages and reading material for his passengers. His efforts were rewarded with great success, while the other cab drivers kept doing the bare minimum and complaining that things never got better. Terry explained how Wally's story shows the choice we all have to make in life: we can be ducks, splashing around quacking and complaining, or eagles, who soar above the crowd.

On Sunday, Kevin and Cori Worth shared a message about home that was part story and part song. Kevin has lived in many different places, ranging from California to Georgia to New Jersey, and so he's had the opportunity to call a number of different places home. In that experience, though, he found that the physical structures and the furniture and TVs don't define a place as our home. He said that home is a feeling that exists because of the love of the people around us. He closed by reminding us that we share that same close relationship with God, and that we all have a home waiting for us with him. He and Cori concluded their vespers by leading us in a great old Tom Waits song, "Come on up to the House."

I shared a vespers message on Monday night, and I explained that while every camper is probably a good kid, I think it's very difficult to be a truly great kid. I'm impressed whenever I hear Terry call someone a great kid, because it means that they've chosen to resist constant opportunities and invitations to do the wrong thing. But acknowledging how hard it is to be a great kid is not an excuse to settle for less... as JFK said, "Don't pray for easy lives, pray to be stronger men." You shouldn't hope that life will become easier for you, or that your parents and teachers will lessen their expectations. Unlike other skills like music or sports, we are all capable of greatness in the quality of our character. We just have to decide if we are strong enough to be great.

On Tuesday, Carissa shared a powerful message about courage. She told us about the shocking day this spring where she lost her best friend April to a car accident, and her message focused on the courage displayed by those that April left behind. There was courage to console each other, courage to be strong for April's family, courage to pick themselves up and carry on living with heavy hearts. Carissa told us that everything we do in life requires courage – every step we take, every decision we make takes courage. She told us to embrace and extend that courage, challenging us to push ourselves each day to try something new and foster the courage we all possess.

Wednesday's theme was love, and Ashley shared some important ideas about the importance of love in our lives. She explained that the greatest thing in life is to love, and be loved in return. Also, while there are many different types of love, and it can be shown in many ways, Ashley taught us that love is truly limitless – no matter how much love we give to

one person, it will never limit how much love we can give to the other people in our lives, or someone new. She ended her message by assuring us that we all deserve love, and we should expect to receive love, but first we need to be open to love.

Greg gave our last vespers message of the week on Thursday night, and he focused on the day's theme: faith. He compared our time at camp to our individual faith, saying that both are like a canvas that we fill in and add to over time. During Greg's 37 years at camp, he has added a lot of new colors to his camp canvas: making the transition from camper to staff, leading the chapel music program, leading a vespers service. He explained that we can view our faith as a similar work-in-progress, adding new pieces and watching it evolve and become stronger with time.

Each of our staff members delivered a terrific message this year, so we felt that a brief summary in the newspaper would help remind us of these messages, stories and challenges during the year to come. Thanks to all the staff speakers for a job well done!

Saturday August 27, 2010

Things that made the 2011 camp week an awesome and amazing experience (partial list)

- No behavioral issues... not a single one...
- No hospital runs - that has to be a record! (No twisted ankles, broken bones, lacerations, or strep throat)
- Amazing campers who truly connected one another...
- A very solid staff who worked hard together all week long and for many months before camp...
- The hard work of the CODY staff that provided for all our needs and wants...
- Genuine tears shed during the "hug line" - the

words, "I love you," were repeated often...

- Great messages from our staff at chapel and vespers...
- Excellent Morning Group program that kept ALL the campers engaged...
- So many "teachable moments" and opportunities for learning through sharing...
- No issues with theft... we left camp with only one item missing - a Frisbee, which is probably in a tree...
- **OUTSTANDING**, well planned and produced afternoon and evening programs...
- "Yes! I can go one week without my cell phone in my hand."
- The creativity, talent, and compassion of the campers...
- Raising \$3,400 for a family in need with our "Heads 'n Tails" raffle...
- Turning over 750 pounds of "pop tops" to the Shriners for their good work... the exact value of these pop tops is subject of debate and complicated mathematical formulas...
- **There is so much more and each camper could add to this list...**

Some Thoughts for the road- Brian Hickox

During the hug line I randomly asked people what their favorite part of the week was. Almost all of the people I asked replied, "After mission impossible when we connected the glow sticks." Initially, this threw me off. I expected that dances, talent show, staff, and morning group were going to be the top answers. However, I do believe this moment at camp stood out above all. Seeing everyone's necklace connected and listening to everyone sing *This Little Light of Mine* and *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* was astonishing.

This particular moment was unique and memorable because it was not prompted; it happened in a spontaneous manner.

Essentially, it proves the notion that the seed of the possible is planted in the ground of actuality. By this, I mean that the actuality represents the moments in our everyday lives which are predicted and expected. Physically sitting together in the council ring after the mission impossible program was a moment of actuality. We were going to be there until the start of vespers regardless of what program occurred that night, because it was expected. However that moment of possibility, that moment where everyone linked together and sang, created an experience which is unforgettable.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart." This moment in the council ring became a moment of unutterable fulfillment.



Final Thoughts- Tom Flanagan

In the span of a single week, Jesse, our new friend who joined us at camp this summer having just arrived from China for a school year abroad, went from being our least known camper to maybe our most popular. This was a great result, and credit for Jesse's positive experience can be spread all around. You should credit his host parents, Bill and Carol Harding, for having the faith to send him to camp. You should credit the staff for balancing the need to support Jesse with the need to let him experience camp like a regular camper. You should credit Jesse more than anyone. His self-confidence, courage and warmth were inspiring and contagious.

For the purposes of this piece, though, I'm mostly interested in the credit owed to every other camper. Jesse stepped off a bus as the most unique camper we've ever hosted. For a group that often harps on the divide between Braintree and Weymouth, a student joining us from China is hard to put into proper perspective. China is different from the United States in fundamental areas that go well beyond accents, art and personal style. We have significantly different social and political systems and customs, examples of which show up time and again during camp's endless string of crazy rituals.

Despite these differences, Jesse was welcomed in a way that even our most optimistic counselors couldn't have predicted. Rather than being teased or isolated, Jesse was celebrated and embraced. His cabin mates moved past their obvious differences and focused on their less obvious common ground. As it turns out, Jesse likes a lot of the same music that we do... and he sings it better in his second language than most of us do in our first. He also loves basketball, and he's got a smooth fade away jump shot... a fact that I learned first-hand while trying to cover him on a few occasions. As funny as it was, seeing Jesse, Pat and Ralph posing in USA and China basketball jerseys is a symbolic image from our week at camp that will always stick with me.

Clearly, we can all agree that having Jesse join us at camp this summer was a great experience for him and for all of us. Having spent some time reflecting on all of this after camp, though, I keep coming back to the same fundamental question: Why was there only one Jesse at camp this summer?

Said another way, I want you all to imagine what camp would be like if we offered everyone the same constant warmth that we offered Jesse. How many new acts would we have in the talent show if we wildly supported every reluctant singer? How many surprise talents and friendships would we find if we encouraged the campers hanging out on the outskirts to join our game or conversation?

We made a collective decision this summer to make sure that Jesse had an incredible week, and we succeeded. In my mind, that means that we have the ability to make the same decision for every camper, every year. For all his talents, Jesse's greatest gift to camp was showing us that at our best we're capable of one of the oldest and finest Christian virtues: we have the ability to make a traveling stranger feel at home.

CAMP 2012 DATES ARE AUGUST 18TH THROUGH THE 25TH.