

THE TOWANDA TIMES

OUR 86th YEAR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAMP TOWANDA, HONESDALE PA



For Boys & Girls - Established 1923
Nestled in Northeastern Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains
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"Shh, shh... We're saving our voices for camp"

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GETTING "IT" AT CAMP

Each week during the summer, either an older camper or counselor gives a sermon at our Friday evening service. These are inspirational and reassuring heartfelt words from Max Gold, who will be returning for his 7th summer this year as a Leader-In-Training (LIT)....

The world that we live in revolves around maturation. Everyone goes through different events and with each event, growth occurs. The new experiences that we have help to facilitate this growth. Personally, camp, more than anything else, has allowed me to go through these stages and not only learn more about the world but also learn more about myself.

I remember my first day at Towanda like it was yesterday. Butterflies racing in my stomach: not having a clue in the world what was about to come. I walked off my bus that day as an extremely shy and timid kid unknowingly entering into a very important part of my life.

As the first night arrived, many troubling questions came along with it. "What am I doing here? What have I gotten myself into?" These questions raced around my head furiously throughout the entire opening staff show and camp fire. On that night, I felt these problems would torture me the whole summer. Fortunately, this was the only night of camp I was ever homesick but being able to deal with these problems gave me a sense of independence and freedom. I was able to live away from home, without my parents for two months and solve predicaments on my own.

Throughout my next years at camp even more changes occurred. At the start of my Middie summer I was one of the most frightened and apprehensive people that I have ever known. However, the welcoming environment that I received here helped me break away from those feelings of fear. It was not only that though, the challenges Towanda set before me allowed me to push myself and venture out into the unknown. Now I am up for any new challenge like going on a roller coaster I have never been on and trying the hard side of the climbing wall. Best of all, I can do these things without the panic that was so evident in me when I was younger. Also, I gradually became more outgoing as the summers went on. Camp helped me realize that sometimes it's okay to look like an idiot and laugh at yourself for it.

Not only did Towanda change my personality but it very much altered my value system. This camp is based on togetherness and making it to The Club with my 24 brothers gives me a sense of compan-

ionship. The fact that our Club is so close forces me to realize how important friendship truly is. Unity has become extremely important to me as well. I have seen how much better our Club and every other age group works when they do things as a group and work together. The experience of camp has illuminated these values and now companionship and unity are two things I will hold close to me forever.

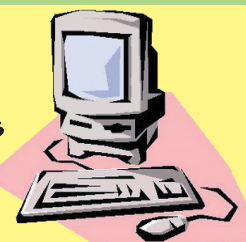
Towanda has been my summer home ever since I arrived on the first day of Middie year. On every day of camp since that one, I have been molded into the person standing before you. As I got off the bus this year, there stood an outgoing and confident kid looking forward to the best summer of his life. That timid kid that once walked off the bus 6 years ago is now merely a memory. Towanda has shaped me into a more sociable and congenial person who will now take advantage of a new opportunity instead of cringing away.

I want to leave you with the most important lesson I have learned at Towanda. For all the people that know me, they know I am sort of a Latin nerd, so the most important thing I have learned is a famous Latin phrase; "Carpe Diem" or "seize the day." This means take every moment and live it to the fullest. It is unbelievable that something like Towanda that influenced my life so much feels like it has happened in less than a second. My years here have flown by, so my advice is to make the best out of each situation and to live every moment to the fullest at Towanda because your time here passes in the blink of an eye.

In this issue ...

Reviews of:

Senior Sleepovers
Florida Reunion
Chat Room



Don't forget to Check the Check Lists!!

What We Hear From The Mansion Porch!

What about the Blue Eli's vs Red Peyton's (you never know)...Okay, this is true: a young polar bear comes home from school, asks his mom, am I really a polar bear? His dad overhears and asks why....young polar bear says "Because I am freezing"!... Josh "Booger" Goodman has been seen in NYC with Michelle Gordon.... Matt "Lil Penz", David "Liebs" Lieberman and the Brothers Schulman (Durf & Schultzy) plan another season of golf trips to Red Maples... Boston Sean is now a High School Varsity Baseball Coach...Susu & Marcos Mendez are living in Boulder, Colorado... Mary Martin is graduating with a doctorate in physical therapy & returning to camp... Marc Cormier has been travelling down under and has caught up with Jarrod Troutbeck, Lisa Danne, Angie James, Siobhan McCormack, Keri McNeil and Mike Wilson.... Michael Maze is a proud dad of daughter Madison... Kevin & Tanya (Rhynold) are expecting their baby soon.... Morissa Falk & Mark Edridge met up for a great evening with many of the Club 2002 boys... Georgia greetings from Stacey Steinglass Kaye... December Israel meetings: Lital Goldberg, Honey Hani, Rachael & Lauren Cohen, Russell and Ali Dullman, Kobe Schwartz (see picture), Julia Bernstein, Jason Unger, Ben and Aliza Sabin, Adam and Ally Friedman, Jake and Braham Wieseneck... Simon and Amy Hash Bates will be travelling the world this year... Crazy Dave Johnston is a grandfather... Brad Levine's son Andrew met Lauren Weiner Baker's daughter Amanda and Amy Schwartzwald Weissman's son Zach in a Westchester, NY gym class... Stacy Veloric is keeping the Towanda/Syracuse/Kit-Kat flame lit... Greetings from Tony



Victory's family & Rode... Jacquie "TJ" Smith is teaching in Maine... Kristin Yates is engaged.. Camp Towanda was listed in the Playbill at University of Texas' production of The Hedi Chronicles for supplying the words and lyrics to Friends, Friends, Friends... Hank Azaria is starring on Broadway in *The Farnsworth Invention*...

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Staff Recruiting



The "Z-Man" continues to make his way around the country and world, catching up with our staff and interviewing our newcomers, it is always a great comfort and contribution when former staff show up.

Former and returning staff add to the insight and excitement when explaining Camp Towanda to potential new staff. Many staff organize their own presentations at their colleges and universities. It is one of the many attributes that sets Camp Towanda above others.... we greet and meet.... We like to see live and in person who will be joining our unique camp family.

This is a special thank you to all those Towanda-ers, past and present, that help. As of press time, we want to acknowledge: *Jen Chisholm, Karen Gormley, Tiffany Jewer, Mark MacDonald, Aimee Smith, Cheeks, Christine Roy, Emma Anderson, Jenn Gardner, Amanda Keay, Donald Everson & Sara Dyer*



Casper and Jay having fun on the snowmobile!



Check out more Senior Sleepover fun on Page 5!



YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

APRIL: 1:Jordan Jones; 2:Allie Chaikin, Matt Labarre; 3:Jordan Krawitz; 4:Shelby Feigenbaum, Jenna Kravitz, Brittany Seitzman; 5:Julianne Rucker; 6:Jenny Winkler; 7:Tyler Dean, Jeremy Steinman, Macey Bernstein; 8:Harrison Goldstein; 9:Amanda Ryman; 10:Ryan Goldwasser, Jordan Zgodny; 11:Holly Gruskay, Dana Kisberg; 12:Gabby Abramowitz, Sydney Agona, Sydney Brown; 13:Carly Schwartz, Parker Weber, Stacey Zander; 14:Olivia Cohen, Dusty Fox; 15:Joey Levine; 16:Troy Pilla; 17:Andrew Tepper; 18:Tyler Fein, Mason Gruber; 19:Ali Dulman, Carly Glenn; 20:Carl Gold, Dan Rosenthal, Lance Steiner, Jonesy; 21:Logan Kornfeld; 23:Jesse Luftig, Jack Schwartz; 24:Ashley Stern; 25:Brandon Rosenblum; 26:Samantha Denberg, Kimi Rose, Darren Schweibel; 27:Sydney Sachs; 29:Ryan Goldberg, David Golkow; 30:Avi Grossman, Sam Kirsch, Stefanie Lugassy, Jake Miller

MAY: 1:Adam Belizzzone, Jillian & Leah Jaffe, Pavlina Zbrojova; 2:Margo Fleishman; 3:Ben Lebowitz; 4:Jana Zhorova; 5:Lindsay Altman, Garrett Joch nau, Hannah Kriftcher, Zach Realberg; 6:Max Boruchov, Chloe Glenn, Spiz; 7:Adam Abrams, Jake Laudenbach, Eric Roth; 8:Kelsey Austin, Matt Feigenbaum, Jessica Hauer; 9:Andrew Parnes; 11:Kailen Krame; 14:Sara Friedman, Emily Hoffman; 15:Jeremy Steppe; 16:Lizzy Parnes; 17:Jackie Harris, Eliot MacDougall, Dan Schwartz, Casey Schwartz, Jen Steiner; 18:Spencer Seligson; 19:Halle Feuerman, Debbie Piercy; 20:Skyler Brandfon, Sam Gellert, Jackie Steiner; 22:Jen Chisholm; 24:Erica Gulliver; 25:Cole Berke, Robert Kayton; 26: Sofie Halpern, Jake Wieseneck; 27:Vit Senk, Aimee Smith; 29:Ashley Haber, Brandon Jonas, Hannah Zebersky; 30:Zach Breit, Harrison Kugler, Alanna Ross, Kayla Schorr, Cathy Anderson, Laura Goldwasser

Towanda; I Step Off The Bus
A poem by Ryan Goldberg

I step off the bus-
Immediately swarmed by people-
Each containing a smile on their face.
Walking up the grassy knoll
With backpacks
Sport bags
And sleeping bags
All in hands and on shoulders.
Happiness vibrating through the area
The area
Also known as
My summer home.

CHECKLISTS



PARENT CHECKLIST

SHOULD HAVE DONE ALREADY:

- Visiting Day Hotel +/- Dinner Reservations
- CLOZ uniform and packing list order
- OPTIONS CHECKLIST completed online
- Confirmed and double checked personal data online (This beats filling out a hard copy application)
- Complete/Review/Update MEDICAL FORM (formally referred to as the HEALTH FORM)
- Last call to send in any clothing item you would like us to embroider for free.
- Register MEDS AT CAMP (for vitamins and medications) with the new KidsMedsPacks
- Submit your website to the camp office for "Links We Like" for parent networking
- ANYTIME: Contact Mitch & Stphanie with any questions or concerns!

STAFF CHECKLIST

- Returned Your Contract
- Complete the Travel Survey & other online forms
- Send us a digital picture of yourself
- Review the online checklist

CAMPER CHECKLIST

- Do your homework.
- Get psyched for camp!
- If you haven't, check out "The Meaning of American Pie" on YouTube

ALUMNI CHECKLIST

- Update your information in the online Alumni Directory
- PASS THE WORD: Tell your alumni friends to update their email address...we have a lot of old em that bounce back (probably old school addresses).
- Plan ahead to June 13-14, 2009 for the 87th Year Reunion, celebrating Mitch & Stephanie's 20th year at camp (more details after this summer).

Boca Beach Party!

December 26th was an awesome beautiful, warm, sunny Florida beach day! Always a great excuse to go to the beach and be with camp friends.... Over 150 people; Campers, staff, parents, friends and alumni attended the annual Boca Beach Party.

Those that signed in.....

Jesse Wolff, Adam Krause, Robert & Gabby Kayton, Sarah Gomez, Henry & Jennie Russnow, Carl Gold, Tylar & Former President Hayley Trichon, Danit Kargman, Shelby, Alec & Matt Feigenbaum, Stacy, Ava & Liza Goldstone, Toby Eichas, Jordan & Jamie Hammer, Marlee Kay, Karen, Michelle & Lucas Feigenbaum, Doug, Darren & Drew Schweibel, Aly & Jason Wolpov, Adam & Brett Spivack, Sammi Kravietz, Andrew "Bocky", Melissa, Sam & Jake Bockstein, Olivia & Ben Sackler, Carly & Evan Lapidus, Casey & Noah Schwartz, Karen Sher- Balsamo with Ethan & Max Balsamo, Mitch, Stephanie, Jared & Brandon Reiter, Spiz, Mollie & Ali Spiesman, Randi Morgenstern, Mackenzie Weilheimer, Corey "NJ" Singer, Michael & Meredith Buzin, Zac & Jonah Gelfand, Adam, Jessica & Rachel Luftig, Dr. Ken, Kelsey & Mikey Austin, Former President Dani, Current President Callie and Potential Nominee Alana "Pinesty" Pines, Jackie Frank, Sam & Spencer Kirsch, Sydney & Jillian Agona, Sammi & Jessica Frankel, Skyler Brandfon & Max Zimberg. While in Florida, we also saw Ben Levine at The Delano in South Beach, Chef Andrew "Tadpole" & Ali "Minnow" Balick at Azul in Miami at the Mandarin Oriental, Amy & Suzi Bloom for brunch and had a great dinner at The Feigenbaum's with the Wolpovs, Gold's, Dinner's, Pines and Danit Kargman! We owe a shout out to Jasmine "Jazzy" Riviere who messed up the reunion date but still tracked down some of her girls!

Overall, a fantastic time in the sunshine state for Camp Towanda!



Food Survey

Attention Campers

Look for a camp food survey that will be sent to your email address later this month.

Chat Room Review!

Oh my! Spending a few moments in the Camp Towanda Chat Room is like speaking with 56 people at the same time. The ultimate in a ticker tape impression. Several colorful and "font-ific" conversations going on at the same time. The chat room is another fun, fast and crazy way that we reconnect during the winter. For those that made it in, text me, we'll iChat (lol)!!!!



Mitch, Stephanie, Bob & The Peltons iChat with Linda on the speakerphone.



Senior Sleepovers!

What is white, cold and incredible? The last two weekends in January for the Winter Senior Sleepovers at The Mansion, that's what! What an experience...sleeping in The Mansion, sled riding on the grassy knoll, snowmobile rides and making s'mores in the middle of frozen Sunset Lake, hiking through the snow to the Field House, Casper grabbing your gloves, eating Mitch's famous spaghetti dinner & garlic bread, sitting in front of the fireplace talking about camp, waking up to a special egg breakfast and just seeing camp in the winter. the tradition of our Senior Campers coming to Mitch & Stephanie's home for a winter weekend is a great treat and a wonderful bonding time... we look forward to doing this for the future generations.



Welcome New Campers!

Group Scoop was enhanced by staff, alumni and campers.

The New Camper Group Scoop Orientation session in January was another fun introductory ice-breaker for our rookie group of new campers. Some of Mitch's jokes, imitation Chef Jonesy cookies and loads of good ways on how to puke on the bus ride to camp, makes the Group Scoop worthwhile...and some ice cream, too! Since our last issue, we would like to welcome the following new campers to our camp family. As is our custom, we have offered you a nickname, which can be replaced upon arrival! Welcome to camp!!

Miranda "Rights" Brody, Jessica "Martin Dean (sister of Jenna & Tyler), Lindsey "Kremster" Kremin (sister of Nicole), Maxwell "Marshie" Marsh, Troy "Tipi" Pilla, and Brittany "Sites" Seitzman (dad alum-David). And, we owe these nicknames to these 1st year campers" Taylor "Dells" Haber (sister of Ashley), Jordan "JJ HAM" Hammer (sister of Jamie), Derek "The DH" Hassan (brother of Alana).



Brett Spivack, Ali Sussman, Hannah Lyons, President Shappy, Blake Danzig, Randi Morgenstern, Mollie Spiz, Ethan Riback and Harrison Kugler.



Green

is the new Camp Color!

Jared Reiter is spearheading Camp Towanda's renewed interest in being more environmentally aware. Please be sure to join Jared this summer.



2008, it's a magic number. Yes it is, it's a magic number. Because in 08 camp goes green. And ten plus eight is eighteen. And the eighteenth letter in the alphabet is R. We've got three R's we're going to talk about today. We've got to learn to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

That's right, Camp is the new Green! This year we will have recycling centers at the HC Shacks as well as the Canteen. This will be the first step of many, but we all have to work together to do it right. So here's the game plan: Each group will keep track of how many cans, bottles, batteries and pieces of paper that they collect. At the end of each week, the group with the most contributions will be rewarded after services.

We also want to be aware of unplugging unnecessary items, stopping leaky toilets and sinks and not running water while brushing teeth.

Cans must be empty and no garbage can be thrown into the bins. Only use what you need to use and together we can make a difference. Reduce, reuse, recycle, and of course, don't forget your sunscreen!

Count Down To Camp!!!

Winter Address
4 York Court
New City, NY 10956-4418



CLIP & SAVE

Important Dates to Remember in 2008:

FLYING CAMPER ARRIVAL	JUNE 27, 2008
FIRST DAY OF CAMP	JUNE 28, 2008
VISITING DAY & SIBLING SLEEPOVER	JULY 26, 2008
LAST DAY OF CAMP	AUGUST 15, 2008
LABOR DAY FAMILY WEEKEND	AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2008
FALL FOLIAGE BBQ	SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2008
NJ REUNION	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2008

