

SHALOM SCHMOOZE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAMP SHALOM

THE FINAL STRETCH

Wow, we can't believe just how quickly this summer has flown by! It's cliché, but it feels like only yesterday that we were welcoming campers back to the beautiful grounds of Camp Shalom. As we wrap up this memorable journey, let's take a look at some of the incredible programs we've had over the week that really made this the BEST SUMMER EVER!



ALIEN INVADERS

Oh no! Aliens have invaded Camp Shalom! This week, campers faced intergalactic drama as aliens took over camp. Campers banded together to defend their beloved camp from staff members- playing the roles of mischievous extraterrestrials bent on taking over the camp. The evening was filled with excitement and competition as campers worked together to outsmart the "aliens" and save Camp Shalom from the cosmic threat.



DANCING WITH THE STAFF

Another standout moment this week was Dancing with the Staff, where campers teamed up with staff members to learn and perform themed dances. The event featured a variety of dance styles, including disco, hip hop, belly dancing, and ballet. Campers eagerly embraced the opportunity to express themselves through dance, showcasing their creativity and teamwork.

YOM OLYMPICS

Sound the alarm and start your engines! This week, Camp Shalom raced into action with Yom Olympics, where the Police (Blue Team) and Firefighters (Red Team) battled it out as they participated in a variety of events that tested their skills, endurance, and creativity. Events included a swim relay, soccer dribble, the floor is lava, and many more. The atmosphere was electric as campers cheered on their teammates and demonstrated their skills in each challenge.

Throughout all this, we were honored to have Heidi Lorenz, the Mayor of Gravenhurst visit us during the Yom Olympics. The Mayor's presence added a special touch to the event, as campers proudly showcased their spirit and enthusiasm. The Yom Olympics not only promoted healthy competition but also strengthened the sense of community and camaraderie among campers.



SURVIVOR

One of the most anticipated programs for the Seniors this week was: Survivor! Inspired by the hit reality TV show, this two-day event challenged campers' abilities to outwit, outplay, and outlast each other. Campers were divided into tribes and competed in immunity challenges that required strategic thinking and teamwork. From obstacle courses to puzzle-solving tasks, each challenge pushed campers to work collaboratively to earn the coveted immunity idol.

As the competition progressed, campers formed alliances and strategized to navigate the game. The social aspect of Survivor came to life as campers learned to decide who to trust and when to make bold moves.

The event culminated in a Final Tribal Council, where the remaining contestants faced the jury of previously voted-off campers. Each finalist highlighted their strategic moves to convince the jury they deserved to be the Sole Survivor. Ultimately, a Sole Survivor was crowned, celebrated for their resilience, leadership, and strategic prowess throughout the competition. Stay tuned for the premiere of the filmed and edited version of "Shalom Survivor," capturing all the excitement and drama of this unforgettable event!



LAST SHABBAT

Our last Shabbat was a touching and beautiful farewell. A time to reflect on the incredible two months we've shared. As the setting sun illuminated Camp Shalom with a magical glow, we gathered by the waterfront to celebrate our final Shabbat. Filled with songs, prayers, and heartfelt goodbyes; bittersweet is the best word to describe this night.

For some of our Seniors, this final Shabbat marks not just the end of a session, but the closing of their chapter at Camp Shalom before embarking on their next adventure at Solelim. For the Freshys, Juniors, Lowers, and Uppers, while they will be back next summer, saying goodbye is still a challenge. The friendships they've made and the times they've shared make parting difficult, yet they look forward to reuniting and creating even more memories next year.

While some of us bid farewell and carry these memories home, others will continue their journey at Camp Shalom, finding new experiences and forging new friendships, keeping the spirit of camp alive in our hearts until we meet again. Here's to the memories we've made and the ones yet to come!



FINAL THOUGHTS

As we conclude another wonderful summer at camp and prepare for the upcoming school year, we wanted to take a moment to share a story with a special message that we recently came across. We believe it carries an important message for our children as they transition to this new chapter in their lives.

With new clothes and backpacks ready for the first day of school, it's easy to focus on the tangible preparations. However, the story we'd like to share goes beyond the physical - it highlights the profound impact of our words.

In this story, a parent handed their child a tube of toothpaste and asked them to squeeze it out onto a plate. Once the toothpaste was out, the parent calmly asked the child to put it back into the tube. The child, understandably frustrated, exclaimed, "But I can't!" and "It won't be like it was before!"

This powerful moment serves as a reminder of how our words function in our lives. Just like the toothpaste, once words are spoken, they cannot be taken back. As your children prepare to enter school, they will encounter countless opportunities to use their words - for good or for harm.

We encourage you to remind your child that their words hold immense power. They can uplift, inspire, and heal, or they can hurt and demean. It's essential to choose wisely. Mistakes will happen, and we all have moments where we may use our words carelessly. The key is to learn from those experiences and strive to be a source of kindness and encouragement.

As your children step into this new chapter, let's inspire them to be life-givers. Each day is a chance to decide how they will use their words. Encourage them to be known for their gentleness and compassion, contributing positively to their school community.

Together, let's motivate our children to embrace kindness and make a difference in the lives of others. They will never regret choosing to uplift those around them.

Thank you,

Camp Shalom Family