

Summer Spotlight

Mini Camp Newsletter

Our 31st fun-filled year of Mini Camp began with our Open House on Saturday, June 19th. It was a wonderful opportunity for all of our campers and their families to get a sneak preview of the summer's fun. Campers had a chance to see their camp room, meet their counselors, and get acquainted with new and old camp friends. We ended the morning festivities with a family-style sing along with Bill and the promise of an exciting camp experience!

The first two weeks of camp were filled with the excitement of Mini Camp's first ever Carnival, and the anticipation of celebrating Uncle Sam's birthday on the 4th of July.

The Mini Camp Carnival!

For the very first week of camp our staff collaborated on a brand new theme: *THE MINI CAMP CARNIVAL!* And of course our campers responded with great enthusiasm! They couldn't wait to try out all of our nifty games such as egg



on the spoon walk, knock down the cans, skee-ball, hula hooping, ring toss, reel-in-the-ducks, tattoos, art doodling with crazy pens and so much more. And to top off our event we had Mini Camp's first bouncing ball pit! Our Carnival Barkers, Bill and Donna, along with all the camp counselors, set the stage by preparing the campers throughout our first week for this special event. So as soon as Friday arrived, our campers were ready to fully participate and join in to make it a very wonderful Carnival Day!!



Helpful Mini Camp Reminders

~Please pack a swim shirt for your child.

This provides added protection from the sun (especially for our boys!).

~Please have your children wear sneakers and socks every day to camp. This will make it easier for them to comfortably navigate the outdoor play areas. (FYI: Velcro sneakers help greatly to promote independence when dressing and undressing.)

~Please print your camper's name on all items sent to camp (lunch bags, towels, backpacks etc.) to help avoid any confusion and mix-ups!

~If your child will be absent, please call Paula at 973-568-3645.

Thank you for your continued cooperation packing nut-free lunches for your camper!

Fourth of July

This week was spent preparing for our 4th of July celebration that took place today. To celebrate Uncle Sam's 234th birthday, the campers sang songs such as "You're a Grand Old Flag," "This Land is Your Land" and "We're So Glad We're Living in the U.S.A." During our annual Mini Camp Parade, campers displayed the patriotic headbands and bow ties that they made earlier in the week. The parade was led by Uncle Sam (Bill), Betsy Ross (Paula), the Statue of Liberty (Tori), Benjamin Franklin (Chris), and Yankee Doodle (Gracie).



Favorite Song

You're a Grand Old Flag

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
the land I love,
the home of the free and the brave.
Every heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
keep your eye on the grand old flag!

Favorite Books

Grand Old Flag by George M. Cohan,
Edited by Barbie H. Shwaeber & Ben
Nussbaum
Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion

Science!

Our resident scientist, Alan Levin, has returned for another fun-filled summer of science! On Thursday, June 24th, he brought his "Museum of Sound" to Mini Camp. Campers explored sound through a variety of exciting hands-on activities. They played with tuning forks, telephones made from cups and strings, wind chimes, water bottle flutes, and a long whisper tube. On Wednesday, June 30th, Alan returned to talk about solids, liquids, and gases. Campers delighted in the "magic" of turning liquid (milk and half and half) into a solid - **ICE CREAM!** Campers particularly liked tasting this delicious science experiment. Try it at home with the recipe below!

Mini Camp's Make-Your-Own Ice Cream Recipe

Ingredients:

Ice cream mixture: 1 cup milk; 1 cup half and half; $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar; 1 tablespoon vanilla

Also needed: ice; salt; 2 clean coffee cans (1 small & 1 large)

Directions:

- 1: Place the ice cream mixture in the smaller coffee can and seal with the lid on tightly.
- 2: Place the smaller can in the larger can. Pour the ice and salt around the smaller can making sure it is more or less in the center.
- 3: Seal the larger can's lid tightly and roll it around for about a half hour. (We rolled ours up and down a hill; you can also have children sit on the floor and roll the can back and forth between them.) When it's done you'll have a nice container to keep the ice cream in!