



YOU OTTER KNOW

April 2011



NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR...It is the middle of April and the snow is finally starting to melt, which means that camp is rapidly approaching. This week **Frank Kenneally**, **Ryan Middlemiss**, and I plan on heading up to camp to do a Spring assessment, and at the end of the month I plan on moving up to Captain's Pond to begin getting ready for the summer. We will be doing some painting and clean-up projects. **Andy Brien**, our Association Maintenance Director, will be also working on our water system. The Camp Otter Staff will be arriving on June 13th for a staff training week, where they will also help get camp ready to go for opening day.

Throughout the winter I have heard from many of our staff, new and old. I am happy to report that our Senior Staff Team is just about complete. **Ryan Middlemiss** will be the Assistant Director and also responsible for our Sports Program. **Allen Becotte** will return as our Head Counselor; this will be Allen's third year in this role. In March the three of us went to the American Camp Association Conference, where we learned new activities and games to bring to camp this summer.

Our Waterfront Director and CIT Director this year is **Jim Holmes**. Jim comes from the Lawrence

YMCA, where he is currently the Assistant Teen Director. He was also the acting Aquatics Director when I was at camp and on maternity leave for the past two years. Jim has a camping background, as he has previously worked at an overnight camp in Maine. Jim is eager to get up to camp, and he and I have already started some curriculum planning for the CIT and Junior Counselor programs. **Christine Kuchar** will round out our Senior Staff team. Many of you remember Christine as our Adventure Director. This year she will assume new responsibilities as our Program Director. Christine plans on utilizing her creativity and energy to make camp programming the best it can be.

Shannon Delany and **Jeff Cardoso** are returning as our Road Ranger Coordinators. This year we have added weeks, as well as expanded some weeks. We have increased our capacity of both Surf Camp and Watermania. We added a Cooking Camp, a Sampler Week, Sports Camp, and an Adventure Camp. The Adventure Camp will feature an two night stay at Camp Lawrence on Lake Winnepesaukee. Lastly Saddle Up Camp will continue to be held at Ironstone Farms in Andover, and Golf Camp will set up home base at Garrison's Golf Course in Haverhill.

Our activity heads are as follows: **Jenn Johnston** will be our Arts and Crafts Director and **Greg Agrofotis** is returning as our Targets Director. **Bryan Golden** will once again lead the Boating program with **Brandon Hannon** as his Assistant. **Meaghan "Spony" O'Donnell** will be our Adventure Director, and **Joshua Berrigan** will be our High Ropes Course Director. **Michelle Bibeau** will return as our Head Lifeguard and the rest of the lifeguard crew thus far includes **Brandon Ackroyd**, **Carissa Ackroyd**, and **Diana Vasquez**. **David Alaimo**, **Ryan Burke**, **Sara Cahalane**, **Keith Erickson**, **Dave Holloway**, **Amanda Spinale**, **Erika Spinale**, and **Kaylie Sweet** are all return cabin counselors. While **Christopher Begonis**, **Joshua Dick**, **Andrew Keleher**, **Rebecca Mastropiero**, **Sarah Mosby**, **Jenna McDermott**, **Matthew Restivo**, **Miah Sheridan**, and **Megan Zuliani** are all rounding out the cabin counselor team.

Last but certainly not least there are 15 Junior Counselors and 20 Counselors in Training this year. **Susan Dinsmore**, **Alex Bourassa**, **Thomas Cahalane**, **Michael Caron**, **Breanna Dragon**, **Joseph Fitzpatrick**, **Ryan Kotowski**, **Nicholas Lachapelle**, **Elizabeth Libro**, **Rachel Marinelli**, **Courtney Plati**, **Fouad Samara**, **Louise Schafer**, and **Danielle Zuliani** are your 2011 Junior Counselors. I am happy to announce that **Adam St. Onge**, **Amari Spears**, **Bradley Bettencourt**, **Savannah Bynum**, **Kaylin Caron**, **Kristi Coutu**, **Xiara DeLeon**, **Caitlin Durkin**, **Kyle Erickson**, **Bianca Fernandes**, **Christian Golden**, **Jared Hannon**, **Mat MacDonald**, **Matthew Mears**, **Peter Menzies**, **Jordanne Miller**, **Samantha Riel**, **Tyler Rodriguez**, **Austin Venegas**, and **Ainslie Wood** will be the CITs of 2011.

Clearly Camp Otter is going to be in good hands this summer. If you have not registered yet, please do so before it is too late and all the weeks fill up. Due to the large number of winter school cancelations, I realize that some of you may be going to school into Week 1. Therefore, we are offering a Pay by the Day rate for Week 1 only. After school lets out, come to camp for \$45 a day June 20th to June 24th. Call our registration office at 978-975-1330 for more information.

That is it for now. I look forward to seeing you in less than two months. Until then study hard, enjoy your extracurricular activities, and root for the Bruins, Celtics, and Red Sox.

With Otter Cheer,

Claudia Jim Bartho

REGISTRATION
is still OPEN!
Call to enroll for this
summer before the
week you want to
attend is FULL!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lawrence, MA
Permit No. 23

Merrimack Valley YMCA
Camping Services Branch
101 Amesbury Street
4th Floor
Lawrence, MA 01840



Check our website for newsletters at www.mvymcacamps.org



You know how great Camp Otter is, but
have you told *your friends*?

SHOW THEM CAMP

Join us for Open Houses:

Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 6 pm
Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 12:30 pm
Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 6 pm
Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 10 am

