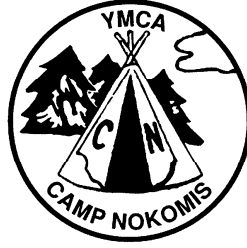


CAMP NOKOMIS CHATTER



February 2009

Dear Camp Nokomis Friends,

A year ago I was writing triumphantly about the Red Sox (baseball) and the Giants (football), but not so much this year! At the moment I ward off the winter doldrums by hunting down the UConn basketball teams – both the men and the women. “#1, Baby!!” It’s pretty exciting to live in Connecticut right now and to be able to enjoy the prowess of two well-prepared teams who demonstrate that teamwork triumphs over the pursuit of personal glory. Stay tuned to see how it all shakes out in “March Madness.”

Since I last wrote, the holiday season has come and gone, filled with lots of merriment in our household, courtesy of my children, grandchildren, and great granddaughter, and additional joy and laughter at the annual Camp Nokomis Staff Christmas Party, this year at Allie Burdeau’s. How lucky I am each year to see and hear from both of my families, the biological one and our Camp Nokomis one. . Allie’s house was the perfect venue for the staff gathering. We had room to spread out, room to gather together, time to visit, fabulous food, and lots of the right people in attendance. Those present this year included Meredith and Jessie Baker, Kara Bularzik, Allie Burdeau, Becky DeMott, Nicole Hamblet, Helena Hay, Kate Holby, Kelsey LaFreniere, Alice Lee, Talia Livneh, Sarah McGuire, Jaimie Merrell, Hillary Nadworny, Liz Minton, Emma Notis McConarty, Jessica Parker, Karen Parker, Kelsey Perkins, Molly Prudden, Julia Reedy, Emma and Maggie Reilly, Gretchen Seifert, Emily Selwyn, Faryn Shiro, Sarah Simmons, Spalding, Stonev, Laura Styles, Chelsea and Audrey Taylor, Cheryl Titone, Bill and me. We watched a camp video that Faryn had put together, enjoyed photo albums, and shared our news. Much of that will appear below.

Given the ups and downs of the economic news we hear these days, our registration process has gone amazingly well. Right now we still have about a dozen opens for Juniors in the First Period and three more, also for Juniors, in the Fourth. Camp Lawrence has a number of openings as well. I urge you to spread the word to your friends. This could be the year they can actually get in to our camps. Even if they have to start out on our waiting list, they might well get in before summer. All who have been at our camps know what a wonderful, life-changing experience this can be, and there is scholarship money available in accordance with need. One great way for potential campers to discover our camps is to attend our Open House at the Andover/North Andover YMCA on Sunday, March 29, from 2-5 P.M. with slide show presentations at 2:20 and 4:00. If you live within easy traveling distance, why not bring your friends who might be interested in attending our camps? They can learn more about camp, and discover when and how to register. Remember, we have two great island camps, and two great traditions to share!

In December I provided the lists of Aides 2009. I now have signed contracts from most of last year’s Aides who will be this year’s C.I.T.s, and letters of intent to return from a lot of last year’s staff and the nurses, meaning that once again we will have a reasonably small staff turnover this summer. Support services should be in good hands as well with Marty handling our facilities, hope for the return of Charlie, Ben and Kyle to handle Transportation, and two of our three cooks coming back, along with Murat and Cem from Turkey. The complete staff list will be in our April Chatter edition.

Predictably, a lot of the reunion conversation was about college acceptances or college life. Most people seem pleased with the college they are attending. Some who have been accepted want to hear from the other schools to which they applied before they make a commitment. The people who sounded excited to say, “Yes” to an acceptance already received are these: Melissa Getz, going to Muhlenberg, Talia Livneh, headed to Carnegie Mellon School of Engineering, and Emily Selwyn, off to SUNY in Binghamton. Helena Hay was leaning towards Washington University of St. Louis, one of thee acceptances she has received.. Other news follows: Erin Armstrong has found a home away from home at Worcester Polytechnic Institute where she is majoring in Biology and Bio-technology and participating in both the Concert Band and the Marching Band. Her new passion is ballroom dancing. Robin Armstrong, a Junior in high school, completed a 15-5 season in Volleyball and was elected Co-Captain of the team for next year. The team went to the second round in the playoffs. Currently she is playing Varsity Basketball. Emily Baker is one of two sophomores playing Varsity Field

Hockey on her school's team, and **Meredith Baker** has been accepted into Cincinnati Medical School. Meredith is waiting to hear from several other places, but ultimately plans to have a career in pediatrics. (Maybe she can be a camp physician one day!) **Beth Benham** took a family trip to the Boston Museum of Science recently and saw **Alyssa Dalton** there. **Valerie Bradley** and her family spent the winter break in Costa Rica. **Allie Burdeau** continues to love Fordham, and going to school in New York City, and has transferred into the Fordham business school so she can major in marketing. She met up with **Ari Cameron, Bri Markoff, Amanda Hunt,** and **Kara Bularzik** in the city and they had a rocking time. Allie also ran into **Emily Acuna** on the streets of New York. **Molly Cannon** reports that a number of the Aides of 2009 gathered in December and engaged in "an adventure" at a local thrift shop. I have a suspicion that I might be glad I wasn't there! **Becky DeMott** is having fun at Gettysburg, majoring in Math and minoring in Education. She is involved in a Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and really enjoys her little brother. Becky reports that **Ben DeMott** is working as a substitute teacher and applying to Graduate Schools so he can earn a Masters Degree in Education. **Helena Hay** is very active in the Lexington High School Cancer Awareness Club and has been promoting Daffodil Days, a program to raise money for cancer research, education, and advocacy. **Julia Howard** went to Montreal during the holidays and recently saw "Slumdog Millionaire" – which she recommends. She had planned to participate in a polar bear swim but had to suspend that plan because of some back problems. Maybe next year. Meanwhile she is about to get her driver's license. **Grindle** is busy and thriving at Ferry Beach Ecology School. She's enjoying married life – including cooking with Dr. Peter and teaching him to cross country ski. **Emily Kent** definitely continues to thrive at Phillips Academy.

Sarah McGuire (Spam) loves her teaching job at Duxbury Middle Schoolteacher. **Hillary Nadworny** really likes Franklin Pierce College but notes that a lot of her fellow classmates would have survived the big ice storm more readily if they had been to camp. She really used her survival skills! She also donated 10" of her hair, presumably to Locks for Love, an organization to which **Maggie Zarlengo** also contributed 10" of hers. **Sica**'s boys, **Jacob, Eban,** and **Joshua Parker** have been flying high since their Steelers won the Super Bowl. The always energetic **Prudden** sisters spend a lot of time babysitting. **Morgan** is earning money for her semester abroad in Costa Rica. **Molly** is about to do some substitute teaching in Andover, her hometown. **Julia Reedy** is "wicked excited" to go to Germany and Prague in the spring. She's been accepted at UConn, but is waiting to hear from her other choices. Her newest passion is Guitar Hero. She has progressed to the Med. Level. **Katie Savard** has given up gymnastics and is now on a basketball team. **Emily Selwyn** loves teaching a special needs class in swimming at the Andover YMCA. She sees Angie Lionetta at the Y from time to time. **Sarah Simmons** has found her niche as a European History major at the University of Vermont. She is exploring possibilities for doing volunteer work in the Dominican Republic this summer. **Martha Smith** and her family are non-stop busy. **Corey** has been surfing in Costa Rica and Panama and **Ellen** is still in Nursing School. During the ice storm they were without power for many days, so Martha sat by the fireside and wrote her Christmas cards by lantern light. **Meghan Styles** went to California to see **Marina Plesons** during the winter break. (Go, Aides of 2009) **Monica Thapa** has been in two school productions and takes acting classes at George Mason University. **Steff Young** has moved into an apartment in Lowell, working part time and taking classes at community college. Her favorite to date is World Literature. She spent New Year's at home in England. **Maggie Zarlengo** is thriving in Middle School and exploring her new fascination with the Kennedy Space Center and our space program. She runs cross country with the school team, participates in a peer support group, studies piano, and sings in the school chorus. Her grandfather, **Bill Lange** (a former Nokomis boat pilot and kitchen staff member) visited us on his way from DC to Rhode Island to hear Maggie sing in a concert.

That's it for now. I'm headed to Orlando soon to attend the National ACA conference and visit with "Mickey." I'll think of you all from Fantasyland! In the meantime – in the spirit of hope that seems to be in the air these days I want to share a message sent to me by one of our July nurses, Beth Benham:

When a healing touch is given or received, there is peace in the heart.
When there is peace in the heart, there is harmony at home.
When there is harmony at home, there is order in the nation.
When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world.

Wherever you touch another life, spread peace, and you will contribute to hope for the whole world. Thanks! Love to you and a belated Happy Valentine's Day.

Love,

