



# BIRCHMONT PEELINGS

Volume LVIII Issue 2

Exciting things to come...

- 7/27 Picture Day  
2nd Session Campers
- 7/31 World Cup
- 8/1 Bagel Sunday
- 8/3 - 8/4 - 8/5  
SSR's Boston Trip
- 8/6 Camp Show
- 8/8-9-10-11-12

C\*O\*L\*O\*R WAR!

- Booth Carnival
- Water Carnival
- Field Competitions
- Song Fest

- 8/13 Banquet
- 8/14 Candle Light

## A few words from Greg & Laura...



Dear Parents, Friends  
and Alumni,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we welcome you to our 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Parents Day!

All of us are excited to see you, introduce you to our friends and counselors and

show you around our

### "Home Away From Home"!

We recommend that you follow along with our daily schedule and join in the fun; any Birchmonter will tell you, playing beats sitting around...

If you have more than one child, we strongly suggest following the younger siblings schedule more closely as they are more likely to rely on group activities. There will be an opportunity to catch up with children at rest hour which takes place after lunch until 2:00PM.

We hope you enjoy your stay and rest assured that we've got a great second half all lined up. Starting with a magician at day's end and tomorrow's **Mid-Summer Event** the second session will be filled with FUN, FRIENDS and PERSONAL GROWTH!!!

Stay healthy and have fun —

We'll see you around camp,

*Greg & Laura*

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**2011 Dates**

Full Session

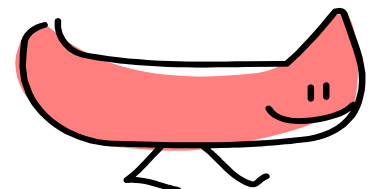
Opening Day, Sunday June 26  
 Visiting Day, Saturday July 23  
 Closing Day, Sunday August 14

First Session

Opening Day, Sunday June 26  
 Closing Day, Friday July 22  
 Visiting Day Optional, Saturday July 23

Second Session

Opening Day, Sunday July 24  
 NO Visiting Day  
 Closing Day, Sunday August 14



# Super & Upper Senior Boys Win Lakes Region Softball Tournament

For the 3rd TIME!

By: Gary Miller

3-peat



THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN

ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET

Coaches Chris T. and Gary M.

On Tuesday July 13 the 15 and under boys softball team left camp early in the morning to defend their back to back Lakes Region Softball titles. Winning for the third time in a row against very tough competition would be a very difficult feat.

The first game did not start well for the Braves as they fell behind 4-0 to one of two Winaukee teams. Then last years star pitcher, SSRB Justin S. settled down and allowed just one run the rest of the game. Finally the Brave's bats woke up, led by SSRB Josh K. monster 2 run homer and SSRB Grant P. bases loaded pinch hit double that drove in three runs, to a 12-5 victory. The next game was against Young Judea, a previous tournament winner. Birchmont took an early 2-0 lead and then the hitting of SSRB Justin S., SSRB Mike T., SSRB Cooper S.-S. and an RBI pinch hit single by SSRB Russell K. led the Braves to an easy 10-3 victory.

Finally Birchmont got to play the top teams in the tournament. First came the very strong hosting team,

Kenwood. A bad omen from the start, the first out. The next batter hit a long SSRB Jeremy T. lost the coin flip for home field advantage, after going undefeated for two years in tournament play. The Kenwood fight song had to be changed to, "Here we go Birchmont", due to the hitting of SSRB Jeremy T. 3 doubles, SSRB Josh K. 2 long doubles, a scorching homer by SSRB Mike C. and the smashing hits by SSRB Jason G. The powerful hitting combined with the strong fielding of SSRB Justin S., SSRB Cooper S.-S. and SSRB Jackson T. carried Birchmont to the finals.

The Championship Round started well for Birchmont as SSRB Jeremy T. won the coin flip. The Braves would be the home team against a powerful Winaukee Gold team. The Birchmont bats were hot early and although the defending champs took a 7-1 lead, Winaukee fought back and closed the gap 7-6. Going into the last inning it looked like Birchmont would have a tough time hanging on. Winaukee tried to get the tying run on with a bunt but SSRB Justin S. and SSRB Jamie P. combined for a brilliant play to get

the first out. The next batter hit a long fly to center and SSRB Jason G. made a fine catch. Finally, SSRB Jackson T. made a sparkling play on a hard ground and his throw nipped the runner at first for the final out and the championship! This was a great team victory and everyone played an important role. SSRB Matt J. at short, SSRB Kalin O. in right field and pinch hitters SSRB Adam M., USRB Mike M., USRB Zach G., USRB Jamie G. and SSRB Chris "Crispy" P.. (who lost the victory race after the game ~ we are unable to say who beat him because it would be too embarrassing).

Special Thanks to SSRB Jake S., who was injured and could not play but cheered hard for his friends and kept score.



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## Birchmont Tennis Aces ~ show their SPIRIT!

By: Billy K.

It was another hot and sunny day as the dynamic coaching duo of T. & T. set up for our Birchmont Invitational. Battling opponents from Robindel, Evergreen, Forest Acres and Robin Hood, the PCB girls had an extremely victorious day, with the 13's emerging as Champions, and the 15's in second place.

In the 13's draw, Birchmonts A team took home gold in second singles, played by LSRG **Cas S.** and first doubles played by LSRG's **Amanda S.** and **Hannah D.**. Our second doubles team had an all Birchmont sister match-up in the finals, as **Katie W.** and **Danielle R.**, both USRG's lost in the finals in a tough match to Birchmonts B Team INTG's **Melanie N.** and **Emily W.**, who really turned up the heat. Also playing for 13's A team were first singles LSRG **Emily Q.**, who played hard but couldn't pull through for the win and third singles LSRG **Lana Z.**, experienced a similar situation, playing a hard-fought match.

On the 13's B team LSRG **Olivia G.**, took the silver medal playing first singles, despite heat exhaustion that landed her in the infirmary for a quick recovery. Surprise of the tournament had to have been ten year old **Parker S.-S.**, a feisty finalist who took a silver in the second singles position. INTG's **Ashley L.** and **Holly W.** also performed exceptionally well, but unfortunately did not place.

It was an extremely tough day for Birchmont's 15 A team. Robindel's first singles player went down with asthma and heat exhaustion unable to finish the 7-7 tie-breaker and had to forfeit the match to Birchmont. **Annie R.**, took home the silver in her final match which disappointingly had some controversial calls. SSRG **Brooke S.** lost her first round match in a tie breaker but stuck with it and made it to the consolation finals. Third singles players USRG **Chloe F.** played incredibly well and won her division, taking home gold in her final match. Also, playing beautifully for Birchmont A were USRG's **Rebecca R.** and **Astrid P.** who took silver in a tough final match. Birchmonts 15 A second doubles team of SSRG's **Ali C.** and **Jamie K.** won the consolation round in an easy 6-0 victory.

On the 15's B team, many players worked hard but unfortunately could receive little to show for it. Difficult matches were played by a tenacious SSRG **Hayley K.** playing first singles and **Morgan M.** playing a fierce match in the second singles position. First doubles for the B team, USRG's **Alex O.** and **Nikki S.** won the consolation round and SSRG's **Scout Z.** and **Samantha K.** played hard in the second doubles spot. Once again swim and ice cream were both welcome to the players and coaches alike. Next year we hope for another Birchmont Invitational as successful and exciting as it was this year, perhaps a little less heat...

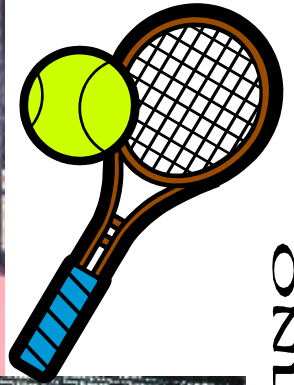


## Robindel hosts their own Invitational but Birchmont Takes It!

July 20<sup>th</sup> Robindel Invitational was a complete success for Birchmont, who won the entire competition beating nine other teams. Individual winners included the 15's # 2 doubles team of USRG **Astrid P.** and SSRG **Ali C.**. 15's #1 singles (thirteen year old) USRG **Annie R.**; LSRG #1 singles **Emily Q.**. Second place trophies were awarded to 13's singles LSRG **Cas S.** and 11's first singles **Parker S.-S.**. Tough and often unfair matches were played by 15's second doubles LSRG **Rebecca R.** and SSRG **Brooke S.** as well as 13's first doubles LSRG **Amanda S.** and LSRG **Hannah D.** and Second Doubles LSRG **Lana Z.** and USRG **Paloma A.**. USRG **Chloe F.** played a tough first round match at 15's second singles and then lost in a close consolation match in the 11's draw the first doubles team of INTG's **Melanie N.** and **Ashley L.** lost in the semi's after playing a seemingly confusing match against girls who were serving underhand. Second doubles in the 11's lost in the closest match of the tournament but the team of INTG **Emily W.** and PIOG **Lauren P.** put in heart. The girls worked extremely hard and definitely deserved the ice cream that **Greg H.** promised!

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## Birchmont Tennis – 2010

HPI is a supplemental "High Performance" instruction program exclusively taught by Birchmonts' own Head Tennis Professional, Curt T.. This program targets those children that have the drive, ability and work ethic to become a more competitive tennis player. Due to Coach Curt's extensive professional teaching and playing background, Birchmont is able to offer programs like "HPI" that you won't find at other summer camps. "HPI" was implemented six summers ago with 24 students enrolled. This program has become so popular that there is now a waiting list. Early registration is highly recommended. The 2010 Inters are eligible summer 2011! HPI is open to 7th—9th graders attending camp for 8 weeks . Take your game to the next level!





# BLUE & WHITE



## Day 2010

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By: *Greg H.*

On Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>, for the first time ever, all campers and counselors were split into two teams for an all day sports festival known as Blue and White Day! Honorary captains for the event were **Greg** and **Laura P.**, with **Greg** the leader of the Blue and **Laura** commanding the White team. Five events were held for each group on the day, to include Soccer, Basketball / Volleyball, Softball, Dodgeball and either Kickball (girls) or Stingball (boys), with maximum participation, sportsmanship and enthusiasm the goal for all.

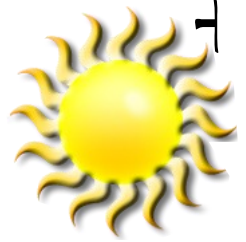
Once the campers finished their competitions in each sport, their staff then faced off for an extra bonus point in that same activity, much to the delight of their campers who cheered on their respective staff teammates with great excitement!

With temperatures near 90 degrees, everyone got a nice rest and then swim period early in the afternoon prior to last two periods of activity. It seemed to really refresh everyone as only beautiful Lake Wentworth can on a hot day, and the days' events finished off as strong as they had started.

At the closing ceremony, there was one final event, a staff Tug O' War with first the female staff and then the male competing amidst roars of encouragement from their respective Blue and White laden campers. There was a split decision as the White team took the girls' event and the Blue team the boys'.

When the points were finally totaled and the winners announced, it was **Greg P.** and the Blue team that reigned victorious, though through the slightest of margins with a 69 to 67 final tally. The close final score demonstrated what an amazing job all campers and staff did in trying their best and enjoying some good, friendly competition among friends.

This Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> will be Blue Day around camp with all campers and staff wearing blue shirts in honor of the 2010 victors. A new tradition born, we look forward to many more Blue and White Days in the future and would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all that made this day a huge success!



# HORSE SHOW AT ROBINDEL July 16 2010

We had a beautiful sunny day that wasn't too hot for the annual horse show at Robindel. Coaches **Martine** and **Emily** travelled over to Robindel with nine girls for the day and other than a brief rain shower the day and the weather was great.

The first class was "beginner rider"! INTG **Parker S.-S.** took second place and INTG **Grace J.** took fifth place out of eight riders. INTG **Allison E.** and INTG **Emma L.** rode in the "Novice Rider" class and **Emma** took third place out of ten riders and **Allison** rode very well for her first time showing. In the "Intermediate Rider" class INTG **Rachel S.** and INTG **Andi S.** making their coaches very proud. **Andi** took a sixth place ribbon out of ten riders. INTG **Holly W.** and INTG **Claudia G.** also rode very nicely in the "Advanced Rider" class up against girls much older than them.

After fueling up on a BBQ lunch the relay races began. Through the years Camp Birchmont has always placed well and this year was no exception! **Parker, Grace, Allison, Julia, Rachel, Emma, Claudia** and **Holly** all participated in the "Weaving Race" and the "Ride and Lead". We took first place in the "Weaving Race" and second place in the "Ride and Lead". **Parker** also received the "Spirit Award" for the day, with her positive attitude and cheering her friends on during a long day.

We would like to thank all nine girls for representing Camp Birchmonts' Horseback Riding Program so well. We enjoy teaching you every day and loved watching you shine at Robindel. ~ **Martine, Emily & Jordan**

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## “Tradition, Tradition”



*This section of the paper is devoted to Camp Birchmont Traditions; and as most of you know, we have many of them. The following is a re-telling of how our beloved Bagel Sunday came to be. Bagel Sunday falls the Sunday before Color War begins. The account has been given to us by PCB Alum Jessi W., grandmother of two Birchmont Campers*

Jessi was a young counselor at camp at a time when we had waiters and waitresses in the Dining Hall (not as glamorous as it sounds). She tells this story...

"In our jobs as waiters/waitresses in the summer of 1960, my co-counselor Mike and I befriended the sales rep for Sexton Foods, the company the camp kitchen used at the time. We asked him on a whim if he could get real bagels for camp. He was from Boston, and we thought he was our only hope since



you couldn't get bagels in New Hampshire. He said he would look into it and get back to us. The following week, when he came to camp he said although he had never filled a bagel order that large, he would try. The amount of lox needed would also be very expensive. We went to the camp director **Fosty P.** and begged. Being generous of heart and a lover of good food himself, **Fosty** thought this would be a great surprise for the campers. Once **Fosty** said yes, it was a "go". The rest is history, as **Greg** and **Laura** continue the tradition. So I suppose we have **Emily & Michael B.'s** grandmother to thank for our delicious Bagel and lox tradition. When you are enjoying your scrumptious bagels and lox on Bagel Sunday 8/9, you can thank **Helen**, the kitchen staff, and PIOG **Emily** & INTB **Michael B.**

*And the 2010 Hall of Fame winners are...*

**Jamie S. SSRG**

&

**Jason G. SSRB**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



A long standing tradition here at camp and the only peer based contest, Hall of Fame. Candidates have been selected by their group mates as the most outstanding friend to all. The Hall of Fame award is a necessary component of Birchmont's most coveted award, the Triple Crown. The Triple Crown winner must have won Hall of Fame, Birchmont "B" and not only be chosen as a Color War Captain, but must be the winning team's Captain. A most difficult combination to achieve indeed. Past Triple Crown winners have been spread out over many years, most recently Sara P. and Olivia Y. have been recipients of this special award. Hall of Fame winners SSR's **Jamie S.** and **Jason G.** each have a chance to be immortalized on the plaque which hangs in the dining room since 1951. So good luck to our 2010 Super Seniors in that quest. Congratulations to all Hall of Fame group winners and their runners up.

PIOB **Ryan F. & Ethan D.**, PIOG **Randi S. & Julia H.** INTB **Daniel C. & Tom L.**, INTG **Julia F. & Caitlin C.** LSRG **Emily O. & Charlotte L.**, LSRB **Matthew F. & Michael Y.**, USRG **Stefanie H. & Danielle R.**, USRB **Sam W. & Jonah F.**, SSRG **Jamie S. & Nicole V.**, SSRB **Jason G. & Lance O.**

*It is a great honor to be nominated by one's peers to the Birchmont Hall of Fame*

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# "Tea for Two" & "Tea for Twenty-One Super Senior Girls!"

**Ginny P.** and **Virginia S.** were the hostesses along with **Liz, Polly** and **Ricki.** **Ginny** and **Virginia** have been hosting the Tea Party for over fifteen years!

Cucumber sandwiches, scones with jam and sweets were enjoyed by all. The queen of England would have been proud!

History of camp and friendly chatter echoed in **Ginny's** cabin! The girls were enthralled with stories of past teas and the origin of the

event. Rumor has it that the Finchley's Finishing School was the start of this festive tea.

Applause was heard when the girls performed the Super Senior Girls' Song. A tear or two appeared in many an eye!

**Ginny** and **Virginia's** collection of tea cups have been packed away for another year. Memories will linger until next year!



## Getting to know you...

By: *SSRG's Samantha K. and Jamie S.*

Most new campers probably don't know **Ginny P.**, who is one of the most important and interesting woman at Pierce Camp Birchmont. It is impossible to comprehend how much she truly means to this camp and all that she has contributed over the years. Each year the Super Senior Girls are honored with an invitation to have tea with **Ginny P.** at her cabin. We had the unique opportunity to spend time with **Ginny** and hear all of her amazing stories and memories from over the years.

One of the most unique traditions of Pierce Camp Birchmont is the Super Senior Girl Tea Party hosted by **Ginny P. & Virginia S.** in **Ginny's** cabin, Copple Crown. The oldest group of girls on camp gets all dressed up for an evening filled with tea, cucumber sandwiches, scones, wonderful desserts, and the most amazing stories and company. This tradition started about 15 years ago with Robin S..

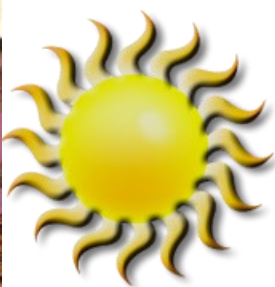
Some of the memories that **Ginny P.** shared with us were from the very beginning when she and her husband **Fosty** came to Birchmont in 1952. The family had owned a day camp and always dreamed of owning a sleep away camp and in 1952 their dream came true. From the first year until present day she has always worked in the office doing payroll. She and **Fosty** came to Birchmont to visit during the winter and enjoyed snow shoeing. One of her favorite memories and one of her scariest was when she came to Birchmont in the winter time with **Fosty** and they had to drive thru a snow tunnel that formed by the gate house just to get into camp. She has seen the camp grow and change. The dining hall was for the girls only, most of the activities are the same although yoga, golf, ropes and lacrosse are new. They played a lot of tennis in the early years. There are a lot more cabins now then when they first opened and the office has moved three times. The trail to boys camp was all dirt and now it has pavement.

**Ginny** has been at Camp Birchmont all 59 years and she has watched this camp grow and become the amazing place that it is today. Birchmont is very near and dear to her heart and she will always be in ours.

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# CAMP BIRCHMONT

By: *Ginny S.*

Driving from Long Island to New Hampshire in the early years was a tedious long journey. No super highway, no bypassing large or small towns, just follow Route 1. Arriving at Birchmont was a welcome relief but my feelings changed rapidly. I was assigned with 3 other group leaders to ride with **Pop** and **Nevin** plus 2 counselors and a nurse to return to Grand Central Station on the night sleeper out of Rochester, New Hampshire. We were to pick up 105 campers none of whom I have ever seen. Grand Central Station must have had 10,000 campers depart on that day. I think almost every camp had a sign with "Birch" on it. Believe it or not we found all 105 of our campers. I remember only one child. She was about 9 or 10 and she looked me in the eye and stated "I intend to be bad the entire summer" I was taken aback! The summer progressed and she turned out to be a delight in all ways... bright, positive attitude, and very creative. Years later I read about a poetry contest and the winner had the same name as my camper. I read about her several times and was convinced that it had to be that special child. Years passed and my hunch came to fruition. In 2004 the Poet Laureate of the United States was announced and it was that "Special Name". My husband found her telephone # and gave it to me with this pronouncement—"I am tired of hearing this story, now do something about it!" I called and left this message "Did you go to Camp Birchmont?, Did you live in Forest Hills? Did you have a younger brother? Were you my camper?" Several days later she answered with this message—"Indeed I am". This camper left me with wonderful memories of her for 50 years and she turned out to be everything I thought she was when she was a first year camper ~ bright, positive, and very creative.

Her name is Louise G. and she currently lives in the Boston Area.



# Who's New?

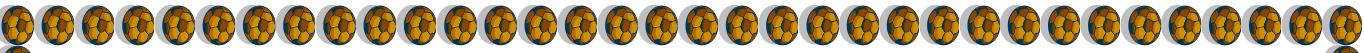


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Not only has Notches been refurbished but we have added pottery. **Lydia G.** is the staff member who is overseeing and teaching pottery. Although she is new to us full time, she is not new to us. Some of our campers got to know **Lydia** through "Clubs" in 2009. She was so wonderful and the club was so popular it became part of our regular camp program. She is hoping to expand the pottery and beading experiences for all of the campers. **Lydia** has had previous experience as a camp counselor, has taught art workshops & arts and crafts. She holds a BA in studio arts and anthropology and a Masters in Education. She will be teaching for the Derry New Hampshire School District in the fall.

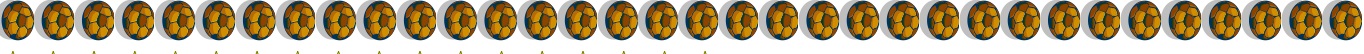
*Welcome to the Birchmont Family Lydia!*



Welcome to **Ed G.**, our new Soccer Head

**Ed** is new to Birchmont this year. He is working with the campers and staff to perfect their soccer skills. Whether it is to strengthen their skills for the fall season or just to learn and enjoy the game. **Ed** is a graduate of Springfield College (Master's in Education and a Bachelors in Physical Education). His love of Soccer began awhile back. His high school team was the New York State Champion team. After high school he went on to play for Springfield College all 4 years (with two other B'monters G.H. & B.M.). During his time at college he was named twice to All New England and All American Selection. Besides being a certified teacher, **Ed** holds certifications from FAI (Football Association of Ireland) and the NSCAA (National Coaching Diploma). He is currently residing and teaching in Connecticut. Although he has played abroad (Dublin, Ireland and Rome, Italy), taught and coached in the United States (TN, MA, CT), his favorite coaching job to date has been in the recreation program in Connecticut for his four beautiful daughters.

*We are very happy to have Ed and his girls join the Birchmont family!*



**Joe V.** was a basketball specialist at Birchmont in 2008, a Group Leader for 8 year old boys at Pierce Country Day Camp in NY in 2009 and has returned to Birchmont this summer as our golf specialist. At Hobart College **Joe** played basketball and was captain of his team. He has coached Boys Basketball for Port Washington and Girls Lacrosse for East Williston. **Joe** has his degrees in Health and Physical Education and is currently looking for a full time teaching position on Long Island.

Lacrosse became part of our camp program in 2010. **Jenna R.**, our newest staff member, coaches both girls and boys lacrosse!. **Jenna** played Tennis and Lacrosse through out high school, 1st team all division tennis and 2nd team all division lacrosse. She has continued to enjoy the challenge of both sports at Emmanuel College where she is 4th singles for tennis and the attack wing for lacrosse.

*Welcome to Birchmont Jenna!*

*~ the first of many summers ~*

*Welcome back — I mean home —Joe!*

**Jesse C.** is a former Birchmont camper. He has been playing lacrosse since the third grade, he has played on local, travel, middle school and high school teams. His high school team made it to the state playoffs in both his Junior and Senior years. **Jesse** enjoys coaching up and coming lacrosse players in clinics in his neighborhood. He has attended multiple lacrosse camps and recruiting opportunities throughout New York State and at Delaware University. **Jesse** has chosen to stay close to his Baldwin home and will be attending either SUNY Farmingdale or Nassau Community College this Fall. We are excited to have **Jesse** share not only his skill and knowledge of Lacrosse but his family's experience at Birchmont. **Jesse** is a third generation camper and a fourth generation employee.

**Jesse's** Birchmont family tree is Nevin, great grandfather ~ Sandy & Rod, grandparents ~ John C., father.

*Welcome back to Birchmont Jesse.*

THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN



# CHECK MATE!

By: Laura P.



ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET

**Matt R.**

## Crowned Chess King of Birchmont

The camp chess winner this summer has a nickname, most campers know INTB **Matt R.** as simply "**Rosie**". A great all round camper on the fields and in the bunk, but who knew "**Rosie**" could play masterful games of chess round after round. There were certainly many fine matches played by several of the 32 participants who managed to play chess and watch a bit of the World Cup Soccer match in the Lodge where our campers from Spain rejoiced in their countries victory over the Dutch.

INTB **Zach F.** and INTB **David L.** had a long first round match which distinguished itself by being the longest single game played, leaving **David** to move on and play PIOB **Deen A.**. This match proved to be an absolutely mind-bending exercise in superior strategic play. **Amanat** made some terrifically assured moves proving that his young age was no deterrent to mental toughness and sportsmanship. Prediction now: **Amanat** will someday reign as chess champion at camp, keep on playing **Deen L.** met his match in **Matt R.** who over took him in just a few deadly opening moves. INTB **Zach P.** also put up a good fight with a few solid wins, only to lose to INTB **Matt R.** in the final round. There were other notable matches, namely INTG's **Sabrina E.** and **Hanna Z.** both of whom played a mighty battle of wits which ultimately ended in a draw. Both girls moved on to play again, but lost to INTB **Jack B.** and INTB **Zach P.** respectively.

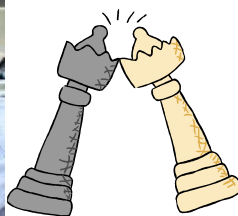
INTB **Michael B.** also played an excellent game, putting in a noble effort but finally succumbed to INTB **Jack B.**

We thank all this year's participants in the chess tournament, and look forward to more great play next sum-

mer. Congrats to "**Rosie**" as the new chess champion. Both finalists were presented with prizes at Sunday's Quiet Hour in the grove.

*Thanks for playing...*

- INTB **Colin M.**
- INTB **Michael B.**
- INTB **Uday K.**
- INTB **Zach P.**
- INTB **Dylan S.**
- INTB **Jacob G.**
- INTB **Jack B.**
- INTG **Hanna Z.**
- INTG **Sabrina E.**
- INTB **Joseph T.**
- INTB **Dylan N.**
- INTB **Zach F.**
- INTB **David L.**
- PIOB **Deen A.**
- PIOB **George S.**
- PIOG **Ryan D.**
- INTB **Aadam A.**
- INTB **Tommy L.**
- INTB **Matt R.**
- INTB **Eric R.**
- SSRB **Justin S.**
- INTB **Casey S.**



## SSR Surprise Kayaking Trip By: SSRG's Samantha L. & Kayla A.



On July 18th the Super Seniors took a Kayaking trip along the scenic route of the Pemigewasset River. The trip was a total of six miles and took about three hours to complete. Canoes, single kayaks and double kayaks were used by both campers and staff. We stopped to swim and to eat lunch along the way. Our day on the river took us under a series of bridges and trees and through some small rapids which were fun to ride. Some of the Supers got stuck along the way in the shallower areas of the river but portaged successfully. Some of us flipped over, some of us on purpose just to cool off. All together everyone had a great time.

## WHITE WATER RAFTING

By: LSRG *Jacqueline W.* ~ *An interview with LSRG Frankie A. & LSRG Matt L.*

On Wednesday July 13th the Lower Seniors left Pierce Camp Birchmont and headed off to Maine. On the Kennebec River the Lower had the chance to experience the thrilling sensation of White Water Rafting. After three days living in the outdoors, here are some thoughts from two of the LSRs. **Frankie A.** and **Matt L.** how the trip went...

*Were you nervous to go White Water Rafting?*

F.A. ~ Yes, I was afraid at first.

M.L. ~ No, I was excited

*How did you feel once hitting the first rapid?*

F.A. ~ I felt excited!

M.L. ~ I was psyched!

*Was the paddling itself hard to manage?*

F.A. ~ Yes, there were many commands to remember such as; "all ahead", "on your right", "drift" and more.

M.L. ~ No, the paddling, I thought was easy, the directions were clear.

*Overall, was it a good trip?*

F.A. ~ Yes, I would love to do it again!

M.L. ~ Overall, it was an excellent trip!



## Nature is super fun!

By: INTG *Molly M.*

Hi! My name is **Molly**! Whenever I go to Notches the first thing I pick is Nature! Nature is so fun! **Ashley** teaches us lots of things about N.H. animals. The little chicks just hatched a couple of days ago! They are so cute! I love to play with the newts. A newt is a little lizard. You sometimes get to look for newts. I caught two frogs a couple of days ago. I named one of them Skipper and the other one Hopper. There are also a lot of other frogs in the pond, one was found by PIO Boys **Jobim S.** and **Ryan F.** It actually was a large brown toad, which was very fat. At Nature you learn many interesting things. I know that might seem boring but it's really fun! Next time you're at Notches—PICK NATURE!

## A HOE DOWN TO REMEMBER?

By: *INTG's Heather B. & Caitlin C.*

On July 13th, we had a Birchmont Tradition called the Hoe Down. As we headed to the games field in our western outfits it started to drizzle. Then it turned into a big down pour and we had to move everything inside the dining hall. Even though we didn't have our usual picnic dinner outside we still had the same delicious food; fried chicken, biscuits and

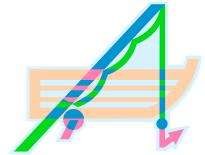
ginormous pickles. The sky started to clear up so we continued the Hoe Down celebration outside. Once we got there we were able to ride the mechanical bull, take a hayride around camp with the tractor driven by Greg, play bean bag toss and ride horses from the stables. The live country western band was great. As the music started to fade the campers headed back to their cabins. We were sad that Hoe Down had ended, but we can't wait for next year.

2010 was a Hoe Down to remember!

## FISHING CLUB

By: *INTG's Morgan C. & Molly M.*

The other night we went fishing with **Greg P.**, **John S.**, and **Joe V.**. As we boarded the boat **Joe** handed everyone homemade fishing rods on bamboo poles which were really easy to use. Everyone on board was super excited! After a couple of minutes passed we stopped the boat, **Greg** dropped the anchor and we started fishing. **John** put bait on everyone's rods and we were all ready to catch fish! **John**, **Greg** and **Joe** showed us how to catch lake fish. When we had finished about 15 minutes later the girls had caught more fish than the boys. It was a super fun night and everyone had a great time on the lake at



## Blue and White Day

By: *INTG's Caitlin C. and Emily W.*

It was a big bummer when Robinhood cancelled Spirit Day. Instead **Greg**, **Laura** and **Greg H.** came up with Blue and White Day. It was a fun filled day full of Blue and White all the way! We competed in a ton of sports such as dodgeball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, plus many more. The two teams competed to see who would reign supreme by the end of the day. Everyone played so hard and had a great time. But in the end only one team can win! At the end of the day **Greg** announced that "Blue beat White 69 -67".

*Blue won the first annual Blue and White Day! Congratulations to Blue!*

## The Talent Show

By: *INTG's Claudia G. and Ashley L.*

The talent show was loads of fun, with acts from almost everyone. The theme was summer lights and it really did shine bright. Thanks to **Louise** and **Stacia** for pulling off a great production with lots of talent! There were people singing, playing the piano, funny skits, guitar solos, and dances. One of the dances was by our cabin Red Hill. It was lots of fun doing what we love and having people cheering us on. Some of the funny acts are the dancing and singing to "your love is my drug" by Keisha and Birchmont Girls performed by the PIO boys. The talent show was a success and everyone enjoyed it. Thanks for another great talent show at Birchmont!

# Bright Summer Lights & Shining Stars By: Stacia, and Louise of Performing Arts

THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN

On Saturday, July 17 the lodge was alive with talented singers, dancers, and musicians as they entertained the camp in the annual Variety Show. Everyone from the Pioneers to the Super Seniors were represented. A repertoire covering songs of The Beatles to songs from the Broadway shows Jekyll and Hyde, Sound of Music and West Side Story were sung. The campers performed in front of a Modrian inspired backdrop that was conceived and designed by the art director Lu from Notches. The stage was awash with striking neon colors that burst forth from the stage to greet the campers as they entered the Lodge. The center panel was enhanced by the festive lettering and the glittering moon and stars that added vibrancy to the overall theme of Summer Lights.

The art staff of **Emily O'H.**, **Alexa P.** were helped out by **Stacia K.** and **Louise O'H.** of Performing Arts. Campers who gave a helping hand were INTB **Daniel R.**, INTB **Rohan S.**, INTB **Aadam A.**, INTB **Adam L.**, INTB **Jack O'H.**, INTB **Eric R.** and INTB **Ted B.**

There were 19 acts in all and roughly 75 campers participated in the show. The hosts for the evening were SSR's **David E.**, **Jason G.**, **Tashi D.** and **Jamie K.**. The night opened with the girls from Mount Delight dancing to Michael Jackson's "Thriller". The counselors **Emily R.** and **Chelsea D.** had choreographed the number and the girls were fantastic. We saw PIOG's **Phoebe D.**, **Ryan D.**, **Julia H.**, **Rachel S.**, **Courtney A.**, **Raquel G.**, **Alexandra P.**, **Hilda B.**, **Jessica T.**, and **Bridget F.** start the show with a bang. INTG **Julia H.** followed with a beautiful piano solo of "Moonlight", complete with her "Thriller" make-up!

PIOB **Ben T.** entertained the camp with his singing of "Eleanor Rigby" as he accompanied himself on guitar. Next up was a visiting day skit with counselors **Chris T.** and **Rachel L.** and camper USB **Sam W.**. The camp enjoyed the humor. Sugarloaf Cabin gave the crowd something to sing along to with their dance "Replay". The campers who took part were PIOG's **Emily B.**, **Rachel H.**, **Mackenzie M.**, **Lauren P.**, **Sarah R.**, **Randi S.** and **Sofia Y.**

"Monkey on a Stick" was a humorous piece played flawlessly on piano by PIOG **Rachel S.** and was followed by the dance "Like a Prayer" by the PIO Girls. This dance taught by the counselors was one that they themselves had danced to when they were Trailblazers at Birchmont. Again, we had PIOG's **Courtney A.**, **Hilda B.**, **Emily B.**, **Phoebe D.**, **Ryan D.**, **Julia H.**, **Sonia E.**, **Bridget F.**, **Raquel G.**, **Rachel H.**, **Mackenzie M.**, **Taryn M.**, **Lauren P.**, **Sarah R.**, **Randi S.**, **Rachel S.**, **Jessica T.** and **Sofia Y.**

The Beatles continued to be featured when INTB **Alex K.** accompanied himself on guitar while singing "With A Little Help From My Friends". Since this was well known to the campers, many voices could be heard singing along. "OMG", the upbeat song by Usher was chosen by the Inter Girls as they did a dance that included some gymnastics. They were **Morgan C.**, **Ashley L.**, **Holly W.**, **Claudia G.**,

**Molly M.**, **Emily W.** and **Caitlin C.**. PIOG's **Sonia E.** and **Hilda B.** performed the popular song "Do-Re-Mi" from the Sound of Music and the entire camp sang along. A group of Inter girls including **Lily G.**, **Rachel S.**, **Andi S.**, **Parker S.-S.**, **Allison E.**, **Grace J.**, and **Julia F.** danced their hearts out to the hip hop song, "Shooting Star". **Aidan E.**, an Inter boy, made his stage debut and performed a lovely accomplished piano solo. Inter boys **Andrew W.** and **Tyler C.** left the audience laughing after throwing on wigs and dresses and dancing to Keisha's "Your Love is My Drug". Little **Mackenzie M.** of the PIO girls produced big sound as she dazzled the audience with her show stopping tap dancing. Lower Senior Girl **Kiera F.** sang a heartfelt solo from the beloved musical Jekyll and Hyde. Next, PIO boys **Wyatt K.**, **Christopher S.**, **George S.**, and **Sawyer M.** melted our hearts with a rendition of "Don't Stop Believing". Inter Girl, **Lily G.** provided the piano accompaniment. PIO boys **Liam O'H.**, **Harry P.** and **Matthew C.** wittily sang Katy Perry's "California Girls", changing the words to "Pierce Camp Birchmont Girls." Inter girls **Lily G.**, **Parker S.-S.**, **Andi S.**, and **Rachel S.** jumped on stage to dance with them. Counselors **Greg K.** and **Stacia K.** sang the duet, "Somewhere" from West Side Story, dedicating it to **Greg** and **Laura P.** for making the camp experience possible for everyone. Finally as part of the long standing Birchmont tradition, the SSR girls closed the show with a heart-wrenching song of goodbye to camp. The song "All Those Nights" fit perfectly and the words seemed to have been written about their experiences at Birchmont.

It was indeed a memorable evening for performers and audience alike.



ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET

THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN

ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET

## Step Right Up To Arts and Crafts!

By: Lu

Ladies and Gents, Campers and Counselors, Moms and Dads and Boys and Girls.

Step right up to the incredibly improved Arts and Crafts Room.

Room? No, it's a stupendous, sumptuous studio filled with a plethora of pillows, a largesse of hanging lanterns ~ glittering, painted and undulating gently in the summer breeze, a colorful cornucopia of lanyard string artfully arrayed on the wall.

Once inside, prepare to be mesmerized by **Zack G.'s** bodacious batwings leaning sinisterly against the wall, **Mark E.'s** totally tantalizing totem pole, **LJ V.'s** superlative sign,

**Alex K.'s** masterpiece of a mansion bringing popsicle sticks to a level previously unimagined.

You'll gasp with delight when you see **Christy B.'s** Diorama De Jour of the ropes,

**Courtney A.'s** wonderful wigwam, **David B.'s** philosophical and abstract sculpture,

**Emma L.'s** crafty work in progress of a spider web, **Tommy L.'s** charming dog of wood and whimsy,

**Frankie A.'s** ace tennis court.

Behold campers making soap, hipster duct-tape sun-glasses and wallets, puppets, pigs and porcupines.

Yup. Step right up, sit right down and you too can make something amazing!

*PS: Special thanks to Alexa P.*

Nature has a new look and welcomes some new members!



As you all may have noticed, the Notches area received quite the makeover this winter. With the new addition of pottery, the nature room has relocated to the old gym space. Over the past few weeks, this additional space has allowed us to provide a temporary home for many creatures, most of which have been collected by campers on various nature walks and hikes. These animals have included snakes, toads, frogs, newts, chickens, and even two voles.

On Friday, July 15th, we welcomed a new addition to our Notches family- baby Chukar Partridge chicks! After being incubated for 23 days, hatching began on Friday and continued through to Saturday. Nine baby chicks survived the hatching and will remain in the brooder until the end of camp with 30 more chicks scheduled to join them at the end of the month. These birds will grow to be a rotund 32-35 cm (13-14 in) long, with a light brown back, grey breast, and buff belly.

In the upcoming weeks, nature has a variety of activities in store; from observing and racing hermit crabs, to cooking with solar energy, to geocaching with GPS, we'll explore the surrounding environment that Birchmont shares with New Hampshire's wildlife. So get excited and come visit nature!



## Pottery ~ Enameling ~ Laughter

By: Lydia

Last summer I ran the pottery club in the evenings but this is my first summer working full time up at Notches. I wanted to share with you the glory of our new Notches section. First session flew by in a flurry of misshapen clay pots and inky screens. Campers made cupcake boxes, sports ball banks, piggy banks, turtles, bowls, vases, mugs, picture frames, and much more. We completed our first glazing firing on Wednesday and when we lifted the lid we discovered wonderfully bright colors and shiny shapes. Currently we are wrapping everything up and sending the first session campers home with projects that will hopefully remind campers of sunny days at Birchmont. The enameling kiln is up and running if you couldn't tell by the many campers that are decked out in new jewelry. If you happen to see a camper with enameled jewelry ask them about the colors they used. We have both opaque and transparent colors and combing them has become a challenge which the campers have taken up with great enthusiasm. Come visit us at Notches and immerse yourself in creativity.

