



BIRCHMONT
PEELINGS



Volume LVII Issue 1

A few words from Greg & Laura...

Exciting things to come...

- 7/12 Spirit Day
- 7/13 Breakfast in Bed
- 7/15 Hoe Down
- 7/16 -17-18 USR & SSR To Quebec, Canada
- 7/16-17-18 LSR White Water Rafting
- 7/19 Variety Show



What a great start we've had! As we walk around camp, it seems as if we've been in full swing from the very first night! We celebrated the 4th of July with many exciting events. All of the Trailblazer, Pioneer, Explorer & Intermediate boys and girls had a blast at the annual 4th of July Races and Tug Of War! Of course we ended the evening with the always delicious and quite messy "make your own" sundaes! All of our seniors have boarded the buses for the ever popular Wolfeboro fireworks high over Lake Winnepesaukee and Wolfeboro Bay!

Well more than half the campers have already passed their laps and treading water and this afternoon every sailboat & kayak were in use, splayed out across the

beautiful blue waters of Lake Wentworth. The ski boats were busy pulling skiers in what seemed like endless loops!

We're very proud of our inter-camp competition teams as we have taken almost nothing but 1st place trophies home in the Lake Region Athletic Association Tournaments with great sportsmanship. Today we had a solid showing in our Birchmont Invitational Tennis Tournament and we're ALL getting psyched up for our annual Spirit Day against our arch rival Robinhood. This Saturday every camper will take part in a day long competition ranging from tennis to dodge ball. Of course we're hoping that once again we'll prove victorious keeping the coveted "Golden Cup" on our fireplace for yet another year.

Tonight our Trailblazer & Pioneer boys are sleeping out (on grounds) under the stars in six person tents around the glow of a perfect campfire with s'mores for all. Tomorrow Liz, Scott, Brian, Laura and I will be cooking them a

hearty barbeque breakfast and teaching them the art of grilling eggs in a basket! Well, we could go on for another few pages but that would mean missing the s'mores at the campfire so we've got to go.

All the best,

Greg & Laura



Inside this issue:

- ICC ~ News 2
- ICC ~ News & Photos 3
- May I quote you? 4
- Best Counselor Contest 4/5
- Birchmont Invitational 6
- Smiling Faces 7
- Cabins, Games & Hilltop Oh My! 8



11 and Under Softball ICC: Big Win for Birchmont by Marissa K.

July 3-- In the first softball ICC of the 2008 season, Birchmont's Explorer and Pioneer girls defeated visitors from Camp Robinhood in the 11 and Under Softball game. The ending score was 5-4. Birchmont's team consisted of **Bailey G., Jacqueline L., Sloane S., Sarah T., Jamie W., Hanna Z., Frankie A., Alycia B., Leigh K., Alison L., Emily Q., Amanda**

S., Sam S., Andi S., Castine S., and Miki T. Birchmont held a solid lead throughout the game, giving up a few runs toward the fifth inning. This game was the first ICC appearance for many of the younger girls, and they showed up full of enthusiasm. Star catcher, **Emily Q.**, did a great job behind the plate. Two big hits in the second inning by **Castine S.** and **Frankie A.** brought the team to a cushioned

lead. Defensive plays by first-baseman **Sam S.** and pitcher **Amanda S.** also helped Birchmont secure their victory.

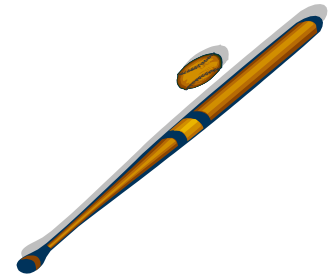


13 and Under Softball ICC: Team Wins Double Header by Marissa K.

July 5-- Birchmont's 13 and Under softball team won both games of a double header against Camp Robindel. Upper Senior girls **Claudia R., Rebecca S., Carly S., Colby L., and Ari Z.** led the team as the senior members. The majority of the team consisted of the Lower Senior girls including **Lindsay B., Brooke S., Hayley K., Corey B., Sam K., and Nicole E.-V.** Many of these Lower Seniors have experience

playing together in a league at home, and the team chemistry carried over into this double header. Intermediate girls **Rebecca R. and Lucy N.** were also called up and played an important role in the infield. The girls won the morning game 6-4 and came back after lunch with an even bigger win of 8-2. **Nicole E.-V.** pitched the entire first game, and struck out five Robindel batters. **Sam K.** stepped up in the second game as a very accurate

pitcher and held Robindel to only six hits. **Hayley K.** performed exceptionally as the shortstop, making consistent plays throughout both games. **Brooke S.** at catcher and **Lindsay B.** at second base significantly contributed to the team both offensively and



13 and Under Baseball ICC

By **Sam G.**

We recently traveled to Winaukee on July 2nd, 2008 for a 13 and Under baseball tournament. Although the team tried hard, they came up short losing to Winaukee's A team 2-0 and ending in a 1-1 tie in the second game to Winaukee's B team. This was the first time many of these players had played on the 90-foot bases. The Birchmont team consisted of **Jesse C., Mike C., Jason G., Matt J., Josh K., Adam M., Malcolm N., Justin S., Will S., Cooper S.-S., Jeremy T., Jeremy T., Jackson T., David E., and Jared R.**

11 and Under Boys Softball ICC: Tourney Champs

By **Marissa K./ John S.**

In a recent six-team all-day softball tournament, Birchmont Team 1 became ICC champions. The most impressive stat is that Team 1 allowed zero runs, showing how consistent their defense was. The infield was anchored by **Matt L.** who made play after play at shortstop as well as **Jack K.** at third base, **Justin L.** at second base, and **Jordan S.** as pitcher. **Adam G.** showed his power hitting abilities in the finals with a huge triple for Birchmont. Other teammates included **Matt I., Nicholas L., Mike Y., Jeremy K., David R., Andres M, Grant**

N., Mike M., and Ian F. Birchmont Team 2 also had a strong showing in this tournament, and the team consisted of many Pioneer boys who were called up to play with the eleven-year-olds. Players on this team were **Mike B., Will B., Dan C., Colin M., Ethan B., Ian F., Davy W., Mikey W., Zack S., Matt R., Grant P., Peter L., Jack B. and Devon T.**





ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET



12 and Under Baseball ICC: Round 1 Victory By Marissa K. / John S.

Birchmont's 12 and Under Baseball team won the first round game of the Lakes Region Athletic Association tournament, defeating Camp Robinhood with a score of 6-2. Although this was a good matchup, something clicked with the Braves that day as they held Robinhood to a two-hitter. The Lakes Region Athletic Association tournament continues throughout the summer, and Birchmont will move on to play Camp Winaukee in the next round. **Jesse C.** and **Jackson**

T. pitched for the Braves and sent down one batter after the other, performing efficiently without high pitch counts. **C.** pitched the first three innings, and **T.** stepped in for innings four through six, working together to allow only two runs. Following **C.** and **T.**'s lead were fellow teammates **Jeremy T. Cooper S.-S., Will S., Jason G., David E., Alex D., Taylor B., Sam F., Jamie G., Jordan S., Matt L., Matt I.,** and **Nicholas L.** News on the round two game versus Winaukee is soon to come.



THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN



May I quote you?

“Summer memories end for all kinds of reasons. But, when all is said and done, they have one thing in common—they are shooting stars, a spectacular moment of light in the heavens, a fleeting glimpse of eternity and in a flash they are gone..
~ from the movie “The Notebook”;

Submitted by Ryan C. SSRG GL

“You can’t shake hands with a clenched fist” ~ Ghandi

Submitted by Laura P., Camp Director

“After everything I still believe in paradise, but I know now to stop looking for it, because it is not somewhere you can go. It is how you feel for a moment when you’re a part of something and if you find that moment it lasts forever.”

~ Alex Garland

Submitted by Lorna S., EXPG GL

“To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.” ~ Steve Prefontaine

Submitted by Brad G., TRB GL

It’s nice to be important, but it’s more important to be nice.” ~ Unknown

Submitted by Dina A., Office Staff

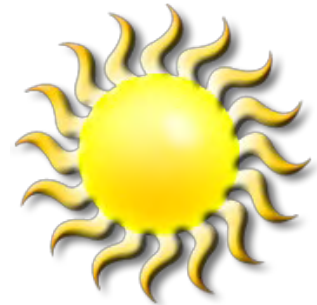
“There is nothing worse then wasted talent!” ~ from the movie The Bronx Tale

Submitted by Chris T., USBR GL

“Don’t give up. Don’t ever give up!” ~ Jim Valvano championship coach of North Carolina State University.

Submitted by Greg H., Camp Director

This section will be devoted to counselors who have a quote which is meaningful to them that they would like to share. Submissions accepted in the office.



My counselor is the BEST because...

By **Perri K.** ~ EXP G

If you were at camp and you had what you thought were to be the best group of counselors on campus, wouldn’t it be hard for you to pick your favorite? That’s exactly how I feel! But above all great qualities of the staff **Natalie** stands out to me in my mind. She is the best because she is comforting when you need a friend and encouraging when you’re feeling insecure. She makes you feel good about yourself and that you can do anything if you set your mind to it.

Whenever you are feeling scared, alone, or just need a shoulder to cry on Natalie is right by your side. She makes silly jokes that you can’t help but laugh at (even when you are in the worst of moods!)She can get very stern and strict to the point where you don’t want anything to do with her, but then you realize that she is just watching your back and making sure that you won’t get hurt, as long as she’s around! I have only been here, and known her for one week and I already feel like I can talk to her about anything! She always has a positive attitude toward things and for some reason it seems

to be contagious! What I mean by that is when she is having fun or feeling great everyone else around her is having a blast! She reminds you of things you forget and makes you feel better. You can feel comfortable around Natalie and know that your thoughts and feelings and secrets are safe with her. She takes pride in your accomplishments and is having a ball as a first year counselor! Thank you so much Natalie! I love you like a sister!

My counselor is the BEST because...



By Alison L. EXP G

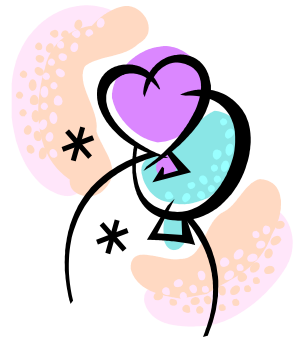
My favorite counselor always helps me find the light in the darkness and helps me look at the glass half full when I'm feeling it is half empty. She brings joy to me when I'm sad and I see I'm not the only one who favors her.

One night when I was feeling down because someone wasn't nice, I quickly went to her. It's great to have someone you trust and feel comfortable talking to. She's like a mother away from home.

The counselor I am talking about is the Explorer group leader Lorna. When I walk around the camp people always say things like "you're so lucky" or "I loved Lorna" and that makes me appreciate her even more. Thank you Lorna!

By Emily Q. EXP G

If you had to choose a counselor that was the best, who would it be? And why? Because they help you? Because they are generous? Because they are funny or loving? Well to me, Lorna has all of those traits. She is not just a counselor to me, she is more like a big sister and a best friend because she likes to do activities with us instead of just watching us! One time this year we were at soccer and it was very hot and we played around with the hose for the entire period! It was tons of fun. Lorna is definitely the best counselor by far! I love you LORNA! And I thank you for all you do!



My counselor is the BEST because...

Our Awesome Counselors

By Emma W. & Jamie S. INT G's

In Birchmont, everyone aims to have fun with their friends, but camp wouldn't be nearly as fun without our counselors. Being inter girls we feel the inter girl counselors are the best on camp. Lorna J., our group leader, is always understanding, nice, and always there for us. She is also very careful that none of us get sunburned. For this we are very thankful, because we get sunburned very easily. Alicia, our head counselor is fun, spirited and knows how to have an amazing time. She will definitely contribute to all the inter girls having a great summer. Molly S. is our general counselor. She is an all around wonderful person. She is really nice and helpful in every activity she comes to with our group. Molly J. is the yoga instructor. Most of the time our group goes to Hilltop, We go to yoga for two reasons. One, yoga is very relaxing, the other reason is Molly. Molly is a pleasure to be around. Annie works at basketball. She's very good at sports and fun to be with because she's so nice. Jamie works at special events. We all love her because she is amazing and funny. Kat works at the waterfront. She's is definitely cool and we appreciate that she's there to save our lives. She's completely awesome. Finally, we would like to mention Jade from gymnastics. Though she isn't our counselor anymore, we will always think of her as an inter counselor. She is really nice, understanding and we really miss her as an inter counselor. As you can see the inter girls and our counselors make up one big happy Birchmont family.

Note: We appreciate Jade W. flexibility in moving from the Inters to the Explorers.

She is now lucky enough to be loved and adored by two groups of Birchmont girls.



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The Birchmont Invitational

On Tuesday the eighth, five camps sent teams to Birchmont for our annual tournament. Birchmont was represented by two teams in both the 13 and under and 15 and under age groups. All four teams did very well with our 15 and under team capturing the silver overall and the 13 and under team dominated on all fronts to defend our title.

In the fifteen and under brackets, a strong Winaukee team managed to eke out a victory. There were great matches played in the singles by **Jeremy K.** who made it to the semi-final in his bracket, and **Will R.** lost in a heart breaking finish matchup with Winaukee. Birchmont was also well represented in the doubles proving to be one of the deepest camps at the tournament. **Alec B.** and **Danny L.** proved to be a dominant team winning the 1st doubles bracket while the Cinderella Story of **Erik P.** and **Andrew B.** made it to the finals of the 2nd doubles draw before losing in a very close match. At the end of the day Birchmont brought home the silver!

In the 13 and under tournament, Birchmont was represented in 4 of the 5 final matches with strong showing by both teams. At 1st singles **Cooper S.-S.** dominated his way to the finals before running into a tough match. 3rd singles brought about one of the best matches the Invitational has ever seen between two of our own. Despite the heat of the day, **Russell K.** and **Matt R.** faced off in the third singles finals. After well over an hour of even play. **Russell K.** caught a second wind and pulled away just in time to win his bracket. Similar to the fifteen and under team, Birchmont was dominant in both doubles brackets. **Jeremy T.** and **Jackson T.** cruised through the first doubles bracket while **Jason G.** and **Jorge E.** did the same in the second doubles bracket. All in all it was a great day for Birchmont Tennis!



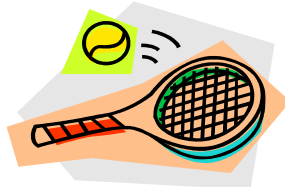
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Tecumseh 11 and Under Tennis Tournament Winaukee 15 and Under Tennis Tournament

The 11 and under boys traveled to Tecumseh and fought hard all day. Our number 1 doubles team **Eli** and **Adam** had a fierce battle in their first match where they were down 7-1 and never put their heads down and came back to tie it but they came up short in the tie breaker. **Jeremy** and **Michael** our number 2 doubles team had intense battles where they won their first three matches, two of them in a tie

breaker. They entered the Semis with the finals on their mind but they ran out of steam in the end. Even though Camp Birchmont didn't win the gold on this day, the sportsmanship in the matches throughout the day was tremendous.



Camp Birchmont traveled to Winaukee last week for the biggest Lakes Region 15 and under tennis tournament. In the early rounds we lost some tough matches but as the tournament continued it was clear that Birchmont would not go away quietly. Our number 1 singles **Jeremy K.** won his first two matches and fought tough in his quarter finals match but eventually lost. Our number 1 & 2 doubles teams steam rolled themselves into the semis where our number 1 seed **Eric** and **Andrew** hit a speed bump in the semis where they lost 8-6. As the doubles finals began, it started to rain. The match was postponed, but, when they made it up, **Will** and **Tyler** took care of business and won 8-2. With that finals win, Birchmont took the Lakes Region Championship victory for 15 and under tennis.

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In This Special Cabin



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In this camp lies a special cabin, that cabin is named Ellacoya. Ellacoya has strength of friends, teamwork and faith. If there is a girl who needs an extra hug the friends of this special cabin will be there for them. Every girl has a different personality but we all get along. The group leader is a very important person. She not only gets us to places on time and makes sure our area is clean, but she also understands us and she cares for every person in the Inters group anytime, anywhere. Even though Lorna is a group leader I still believe that she is like another camper here. This cabin has amazing talents including people falling off beds, and people laughing their heads off. The spirit shines so bright from both Inter

cabins, Ellacoya & Arethusia, we could last a million years. My camp friends are truly 1 in a million. At this camp, people can truly be themselves. Here you could accomplish things you never thought you could achieve. The rest of this poem lies in the faith & spirit of the Birchmont campers, and our story is still being written.

Although this essay was submitted anonymously the author revealed herself to the editors as new camper **Ariana T...**

The editors of the Birch Peelings consider submissions which are attributed or anonymous, though the former is preferred.



ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET

A New Checker King Crowned at Camp Birchmont

On a lovely Sunday afternoon, 22 campers assembled under the pine trees outside the dining hall to compete in Birchmont's annual checkers tournament. There was a nice camaraderie amongst both players and spectators as some friends of the participants watched games progress throughout the afternoon. Congratulations to all players who passed the first single elimination round: **Emily W., Bailey G., Trevor P., Casey S., Sarah T., Hanna Z., Castine S.i, Rebecca R., Dylan N., Elexa S.,**

Devon T., Adam G., Peter L., Alex K., Alison L., & Jack B.

The two longest matches were a battle of wits between **Jack B. & Alison L.** Another interesting game had to be replayed due to misuse of kings on both sides involved **Elexa S. & Dylan N.** The semi final round included plenty of solid strategic moves by **Casey S. vs. Castine S.** and **Devon T. vs. Peter L.** Finally it came down to a fine and fast moving game of checkers played expertly by Explorer Boy **Peter L. & Ex-**

plorer Girl **Castine S.** but the person who displayed all the right moves in this particular contest, on this particular day, was **Peter L.** who emerges as this summer's Birchmont Checker champion. Congratulations to **Peter** and thanks to all for playing.

Snakes, Stilts and Pillows? ~ What's going on at Notches?



By Lu of Studio B



It's a splendid July morning. You check out the schedule and see that your group is slated for Notches. Uh-oh. How do you choose which activity to go to? It's like trying to decide between the Moosetracks and mint chip ice cream at Bailey's. You heard that the cool new guy, Neal, is making stilts ably assisted by the dare-devil, Jose. Wait a minute. Stilts in camp? Cirque Du Birchmont? Oh, wait a minute. You could go to nature with Jeff, one of camp's favorite personalities and take the Cliff Walk and find a snake or a caterpillar or play with one of the twenty-seven adorable chicks. Hey, there's also Studio Birchmont. You could make a bowl on the potter's wheel, a pillow, a neon popsicle stick box or a funky bracelet. Kammi, Kika or Lu will show you how.

How does a camper deal with such a dilemma—a veritable cornucopia of tempting possibilities? Part of you longs to rout and hammer and make something functional and substantial, a working yo-yo, Bamboo wind chimes, or Jacob's Ladder. The curious part of you wants to delve into the mysteries of nature with a true expert. Which mushrooms are poisonous? Was that a hummingbird or a bat? What kind of clouds are those and will we have our campfire tonight as planned or will we be rained out? And the artsy part of you can't wait to bead, paint, design ear-rings and necklaces, sculpt and create new art north (way north) of SoHo.

Frankly, there is no easy answer. Just remember that the summer is long enough to explore all the superlative possibilities. Now, how you'll fit your stilts in your duffel bag is something to consider.