



BIRCHMONT
PEELINGS



Volume LVII Issue 2

Exciting things to come...

- 7/29 Picture Day 2nd Session Campers
- 7/30-7/31/- 8/1 SSR's Boston Trip
- 8/2 World Cup
- 8/4—8/8 FOCUS
- 8/10 Bagel Sunday Camp Show
- 8/12-13-14-15 COLOR WAR! Booth Carnival Water Carnival Field Competitions Song Fest
- 8/18 Banquet
- 8/19 Candle Light

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A few words from Greg & Laura...

Dear Parents, Friends and Alumnus

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we welcome you to our 57th 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 will follow along with our daily schedule and join in the fun; any Birchmonter will tell you, playing beats sitting

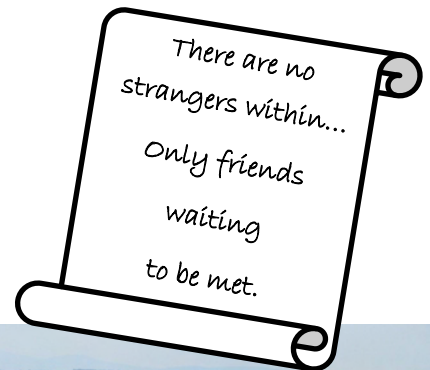
around...

If you have more than one child, may we suggest following the younger siblings schedule more closely as they are more likely to rely on group activities.

We hope you enjoy your stay and rest assured that we've got a great second half all lined up filled with FUN, FRIENDS and PERSONAL GROWTH!!!

We'll see you around camp,

Greg & Laura



The explorer boys go kayaking with Greg

And the 2008 Hall of Fame winners are...

Olivia Y.

&

Tom W.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Whose Got Talent? By: Laura P.

The question was answered on Saturday night as Birchmont campers took the stage and displayed a variety of talent. Amidst all the fantastic singing, dancing, and piano playing, perhaps the most surprising stand-out act was Trailblazer girl, **Ashley L.** **Ashley** did by all accounts an amazing hoola hoop act which was perfectly executed. Hers was a performance reminiscent of a throw-back to the 50's and yet refreshingly modern. That little girl has it going on! **Trailblazer Girls** proved that they all had talent when they took the stage en masse and sang "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" with piano and saxophone accompaniment. Trail blazer girls **Emily W.**, and **Sonia E.** were a very cute act, singing "Leave it All To Me".

Jason B. gave a virtuosos rendition of Five for Fighting's "100 Years To Live" on piano, and piano sister act of, **Elexa** and **Sloane** was also lovely listening. Musical numbers from "Legally Blonde" and "Wicked" were beautifully delivered by **Steph H.**, **Rachel S.**, and **Lily G.** **Ariana C.** sang "At The Beginning" from the Disney film "Anastasia", while **Natalie H.** delivered a gorgeous and polished song from the Pop charts entitled "Just the Way I

Am". **Alycia B.** showed a lot of poise singing "For Good", and **Alex O.'s** "Journey Through the Past" practically took the house down. There is obviously lots of talent in the family as both **Bailey** and her big sister **Elana** had solos which were short and sweet, and really neat.

The dancers were out in force on talent night as well., dazzling us with their fierce moves and choreography. **Parker S.-S.**, **Julia F.**, **Andi S.**, **Chloe F.**, **Nicki S.**, **Danielle R.**, and **Sophia W.**, **Morgan M.**, **Nicole E.-V.**, **Miki T.**, **Rocky S.**, and **Sophie F.**, all busted moves on the stage in a variety of performances. The Inter Boys "Rest-Hour Rejects" performed a hilarious dance routine which left everyone cheering for more. **Natasha V.**, Russian kitchen worker got into the act with a beautifully creative dance routine worthy of "You Think You Can Dance". Speaking of talented staff, **Alex G.** on guitar, and Explorer counselor **Jesse S.**, and Super Senior counselor **Eric B.** played rousing renditions of pop songs complete with Exp. boy **Alex B.** keeping rhythm on acoustic guitar.

Courtney K. had a fun take on Freddie Mercury's "Bohemian Rhapsody" with a wacky costume and lovely voice which drew applause from her group of Senior Girls. Three other singing acts of note were deftly delivered by **Perri K.**, **Leigh K.**, **Emma L.** and **Kailey P.** signing "Love

Song", "Everything's Gonna Be Alright" and "Heart". But the grand finale, was the very best part of the show, as the entire Super Senior Girls Group took the stage arm in arm swaying to a cover of "The Best Days" which they made completely their own in true concert fashion...and as we all know, these are the best days. Thanks to Claudette and Katrina and the tech crew for putting together a very entertaining evening at camp. There should be more than enough talent to go around for the end of summer musical production "Best of Rogers and Hammerstein". We encourage everyone to come audition. See you in the Lodge!



Camp Out & Breakfast Cookout By Greg P.

Every year I look forward to my breakfast cookout with our Trail-blazer and Pioneer campers. This summer was no exception. A good hour before revile we have to start the coals so that by 8AM sharp the grills are ready for our hungry campers after their on grounds sleep out under the stars. This year I was ably assisted by Jose and Tom . As I welcome the girls I begin to hear stories of how they "roughed it" in their tents during the sleep out; "I slept on top of a rock" "Oh yeah, I slept on top of three rocks!"; "I woke up sooo early"; "the birds woke me up". I quickly turn the conversation to breakfast. Not their usual breakfast fare of quiche slices, sliced fruits, pancakes, yogurt or cereal but rather; eggs in a basket otherwise

known as Bird in the Nest. Of course we have other mundane choices like cereal, but I do my best to show them the challenges of cooking on a not so level grill and sell my BBQ style eggs. First I tell them the challenges of cooking an egg on the grill so as I handout slices of bread I ask them to fold the bread in half and bite the middle out so I have a nice round hole in the center of the bread. This is always done amidst giggles and questions as to the necessity of such a process. Next up we place the center - less pieces onto the coal black griddle. That's when the fun begins, we start cracking eggs into the specially prepared slices and the girls begin to see why it was important to prepare the bread just so. As the yoke tries in vain to escape and obey the laws of gravity. Once the eggs begin to sizzle there are

decisions to be made! "Who wants cheese or Canadian bacon? Who wants plain or just cheese? Soon, Tom, Jose and I are flipping our eggs as fast as we can! Meanwhile Laura and the staff are pouring milk, chocolate milk & orange juice as fast as they can. Although many of the girls were skeptical at first; most all of them came back for seconds. As their bellies fill and the orders stop coming in, I start cooking my breakfast with the works. I always enjoy our cookouts and for me there is always the extra bonus; all day long I smell like "Eggs in a Basket"!



THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN

ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET



SUNDAY PANIC

By: Jamie

Some people might say Sundays are boring, but in the Pio / Exp girls group there is something to look forward to. Which is what we call "SUNDAY PANIC!" What's panic you ask? Panic is a game when you have two or more groups. Our groups were divided into 3 different teams by bunk, Redhill, Sugarloaf & Paugus. A counselor comes up with questions and skits for all of us to do. For instance one thing we all had to do was make a skit of what we think the boy group leaders Dan and Brad talk about. We had to dress like them and it was so funny. **Jacqueline L.** was Dan and **Hannah Z.** was Brad, they were hysterical. They also have us try to be a rainbow & dress backwards. We have played on two Sundays so far and hopefully will play on a few more. Currently Paugus are double—winning defending champions.

Spirit Day

By: Zack S.

In 2002 Spirit Day was started between Birchmont and Robinhood. It was meant as a day of friendly competition. Robinhood has named it "the quest for the cup"; we have even heard that they burn a Birchmont Jersey their one rival camp.

Spirit Day of 2008 on July 12th Spirit Day was a great day of competition, fun and sports. The boys went to Robinhood and the girls stayed at Birchmont. Although the boys ran into some pretty tough competition against Robinhood, the Birchmont girls "rocked" the Robinhood girls at Birchmont. The boys' record for the friendly day of competition was 13 wins & 22 loses, the girls was 22 wins & 13 loses. The winner is announced at the Birchmont BBQ. This year's announcement of the champion was a.... tie! Since Birchmont won the cup last year in 2007, we got to keep the cup!

Whether you are from Birchmont or Robinhood, Spirit Day or The Quest for the Cup, it is a GREAT day! A day of fun, games, friendly rivalry, competition and sportsmanship. We look forward to keeping "the cup" at HOME!





After several years of coming up short, the 12 and Under boys baseball team defeated Camp Tecumseh 6-5 to win the Lakes Region Athletic Association tournament. Tecumseh took an early 1-0 lead in the second inning, but Birchmont quickly responded with one run in the bottom of the second and one run in the bottom of the third. The game was

a defensive battle until Tecumseh scored four runs in the top of the fifth inning to take a 5-2 lead. Birchmont again responded with four runs of their own in the bottom of the fifth to make it a 6-5 win. Key hitters in the game were **Sam F.**, **Jason G.**, and **Alex D.**. **Jesse C.** pitched four innings and **Will S.** closed the game, sealing the win. It was a total team effort. The team included **Jeremy T.**, **Jesse C.**, **Cooper S.-S.**, **Will S.**, **Jason**

G., **David E.**, **Alex D.**, **Taylor B.**, **Nicholas L.**, **Jamie G.**, **Jordan S.**, **Matt L.**, **Matt I.**, and **Sam F.**.



WHITE WATER RAFTING

By: Jamie S.

The trip was totally different from what I expected, Lower Senior Girl. I thought it was going to be some small waves but it was really rocking with rapids. There were Class 5 and 6 rapids, and it was so much fun.

We ran the rapid called "Big Mama" which was the fastest whitewater I have ever seen, we all got soaked. My raft had **Shelly G.**, **Erica H.**, **Kayla A.**, **Lindsay B.**, and **Caroline K.**, and Birchmont waterfront staffer **Polly G.** and the best guide ever, Kathy who had 24 years of experience. She sat in the back calling out commands, some of which she actually sang out, which was hilarious.

We were allowed to go swimming in some of the milder white water, which was a great sense of freedom, as you got pulled along, seeing the rocks flying by in the crystal clear water. We stopped mid-river to have lunch with a choice of chicken, fish, or steak cooked before our eyes. It was a fantastic meal served on a little sliver of beach. The chocolate chip cookies were delicious. The tents were platform and canvas with a door and wooden bunk beds, everyone slept pretty well. When we weren't on the river, there was still a lot to do. We played on the basketball courts, swam in the pool, and watched movies on the TV in the lodge. I would say and I think a lot of my group would agree, this was my favorite trip ever at camp. Our whole group passed their laps so no one was left behind. It was an amazing time, with memories that will last forever.

Super & Upper Senior Boys Win Lakes Region Softball Tournament

By: Gary M.

On Tuesday July 15th, The Super & Upper Senior Boys were up early at 6:45 AM to get ready to make the trip to Proctor Academy for the biggest camp softball tournament in New Hampshire. The bus rolled out of camp at 7:45 AM with Coach Gary, whose teams have won many tournament games but have never finished. The opening game against Kenwood, Birchmont got off to a fast start with great hitting by **Steven A.**, **William N.**, **Luke G.**, **David C.** and **Erik P.**. Outstanding defensive play by **Alec B.**, **Andrew B.**, **Alex K.** and **Jacob E.** kept Birchmont on top. On the

mound **Jesse C.** won the game in relief 14 – 9. In game two the Braves fell behind to one of two Winaukee teams but the hitting of **Jeremy K.**, **Ben M.**, **Malcolm N.** and the hustle of **Julian D.** and **Alex S.** brought the Braves back to victory. Birchmont cruised to the semi-finals to play 2007 champions Young Judea and the scouting of Birchmont Coaches Chris and Jeff, a big Met fan, paid off! The Braves crushed the ex-champions 10 – 3. This win brought the Braves to the finals to face the powerful Winaukee Gold team. The bats of **Nick R.**, **Alejandro R.** and the superb pitching of **Alex W.**

with excellent fielding by all led the Braves to a 4 – 0 victory and the 2008 Lakes Region Championship. Special mention to pitcher **Alex W.** who was 3 – 0 and was almost unhit-table. **Luke G.** who hit 800, **Jeremy K.** whose fielding and two monster home runs helped Birchmont go undefeated, the clutch hitting and fielding of **Nick R.** and **Alejandro R.** made all the difference.



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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. The account has been given to us by PCB Alum **Jessi W.**, grandmother of Pio boy **Michael B.**

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 Bos-



ton, 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 Fosty Pierce 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 **Michael's** grandmother to thank for our delicious Bagel and lox tradition. When you are enjoying your scrumptious bagels and lox on Bagel Sunday 8/10, you can thank Helen, the kitchen staff, and PIO boy **Michael B.**



Wild Life Exhibit

By: **Michelle N. & Jordan S.**

Hey! Did you go to the Wild Life Exhibit?

If you didn't you should have. There were so many great and cool things about the wild life exhibit.. There was a cute Arctic Fox, an Australian Wallaby baby and much more. The animals were very interesting. The handlers were showing and talking about each animal, how it lives and even how it evolved. All of the campers were crazy about touching the snake, which was really a lizard with no legs! Derek Small, the zoologist brought the animals from Australia with a grant he received over the winter. I think the campers, counselors and the group leaders had an awesome time seeing the very amazing animals!!! Maybe Derek will now bring some New Hampshire animals to Australia.



CHESS MATE!

By: Matt R. & Laura P.

THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN

The Birchmont Chess Tournament this year was held inside the Dining Room due to inclement weather. "We'd been dodging the raindrops all day, and we thought it was better to set up indoors rather than have to move in the middle of the tournament", said **Laura P.** It was kind of cozy in front of the fireplace, everyone munching their canteen candy; quite a few spectators stopped by in between visits to the Wildlife Zoo Encounter, and the Bookmobile. The big story of the day was the near complete domination of the Pioneer Boys Group. The entire quarter final round was made up of 10 year old boys with the exception of **Jamie G.** representing the Inter Boy group. The boys who made the quarter-finals of the single elimination tourney were **Zach P., Tommy L., Dylan N., Taylor B., Matthew R., Devon T., Michael B., and Jamie G.** One of the best matches was probably the long hard fought battle between **Matt R.** and **Alejandro F.-D.** The level of concentration was palpable as each made moves to stay alive. **Matt R.** was ultimately defeated by **Devon T.** who also beat **Jamie G.** in another tough well-played match. **Tommy L.** showed his cerebral side as he went up against **Devon** who had all the right moves to take a few key pieces late in the match. Congratulations to **Devon T.** as the new Chess Cham-

pion of Camp Birchmont. The Chess and Checker finalists received prizes and recognition at the Black and White Dinner which was followed by a great DJ Social and send-off to our 4 week campers. Thanks to all the participants of this years tournament.

Devon, Pioneer Boy was challenged by last years chess champion Super Senior Boy **Alex S.** Years of experience prevailed as **Alex** won the match. However, watch out next summer as **Devon** has learned new moves from a champion chess player.



ONLY FRIENDS WAITING TO BE MET

Swimming ICC

By: Daniel W. & Austin K.

It was a bright and sunny day at Camp Winnaukee, when the 2008 swimming ICC took place. There were a number of different camps participating in the 10, 12 and 15 and under divisions. Team Birchmont only participated in the 10 and 12 and under divisions. We did very well, but unfortunately, almost everyone did a little better than us. In the end, our 12 and under group placed last in their division, and our 10 and under group placed second to last in their division. Congratulations to all of the 2008 swimming ICC participants on their effort and we hope that they had fun.



The Pio Exp Summer Collage

By: **Jacqueline L.**

All of the Pioneer and Explorer girls created their own summer collage that represented their summer. We used art supplies, magazine clips and many different textures. We made it into a contest that was judged by Laura, Val and Kika. There were three winners **Emily Q., Peri K.** and myself **Jacqueline L.**



Birchmont Tennis – 2008

They call them Tennis "Hippies" (HPI) because of the peace sign design on the back of the HPI tennis shirts each student receives. To get a better idea of how serious they are; around the peace sign reads, "To a tennis hipi love means nothing".

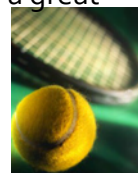
HPI is a supplemental "High Performance" instruction program exclusively taught by Birchmont's own Head Tennis Professional, Curt T.. This program targets those children that have the drive, ability and work ethic to become a more competitive tennis player. Due to Coach Curt's extensive professional teaching and playing background, Birchmont is able to offer programs like "HPI" you won't find at other summer camps. "HPI" was implemented 5 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 2008 Inters are eligible summer 2009!



10 and under Tennis ICC @ Winnaukee

By: **Harris M.**

On Tuesday, July 22 the 10 and under boys traveled to Winnaukee for a tennis ICC. **Ian F.** played very heroically losing only 2 games in 4 matches on his way to the singles finals. The match started off with **Ian** winning the first two games easily but then the Winnaukee #1 player started to play. **Ian** was then down 4 -3 when he found the energy in him that he needed to win the match and bring the team into second place. **Ian** was a big help to the team winning second place overall. 2nd singles player. **Will B.** won his first match 8 -5. The 1st Doubles team of **Jack B.** and **Jack K.** had a bye in the first round and then won the second round 8 -5. The 2nd doubles team of **Justin L.** and **Michael B.** also won their first round match. **Ross G.**; singles, **Zach S.**; singles, **Grant P.** and **Devon T.**; doubles although losing their first round all played well in the consolation round. All of the participants played exceptionally well considering their youth and gave Birchmont a great showing in this tournament.



Birchmont Tennis Aces ~ Show their SPIRIT!

Whether on their home court at Birchmont or on the away courts at Robinhood, Birchmonters were in high spirits on the tennis courts for "Spirit Day". Congratulations goes to all the players for the great effort and sportsmanship exhibited. The girls camp not losing a single match is of special note... way to go ladies! The girls team consisted of **Annie R., Rebecca R., Chloe F., Alex O., Astrid P., Emily Q., Perri K., Nikki S., Amanda S., Lindsay B., Brooke S., Erica H., Morgan M., Jamie K., Jayne S., Hayley K., Lucia M.—D., Patricia C., Sara G., Emily L., Taylor F., Alison S., Nadia T., Drew F.** and **Chandler J.** The awesome boys teams were made up of **Matt R., Danny F., Sam F., Ian F., Daniel C., Andres M., Michael M., Nicholas L., Adam G., Cooper S.-S., Jackson T., Jeremy T., Jason G., Matt J., Will S., Russ K., Jorge E., Malcolm N., Jeremy K., Will R., Nick R., Alec B., Danny L., Erik P., Andrew B., Steven A., Alex K.** The great success by all of the tennis teams helped the SPIRIT cup at Birchmont for another year!

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May I quote you?

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.

"IF YOU JUDGE PEOPLE YOU HAVE NO TIME TO LOVE THEM."

~ Mother Teresa ~submitted by Dina, office

"GO CONFIDENTLY IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR DREAMS. LIVE THE LIFE YOU IMAGINED."

~Henry David Thoreau ~submitted by Dan, GL EXP B

"FRIENDSHIP WITH ONESELF IS ALL IMPORTANT BECAUSE WITHOUT IT YOU CANNOT BE FRIENDS WITH ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD"

~Eleanor Roosevelt ~submitted by Val, photos

"IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN!"

~unknown ~submitted for Helen, chef extraordinaire

"BEFORE I BUILT A WALL... I'D ASK TO KNOW WHO I WAS WALLING IN OR WALLING OUT."

R. Frost ~submitted by Charlie

LET'S GO METS! ~submitted by Greg

SHALL WE MAKE A NEW RULE OF LIFE FROM TONIGHT? ALWAYS TRY TO BE A LITTLE KINDER THAN IS NECESSARY.

J.M. Barrie, writer (Peter Pan) ~submitted by Laura

I GO FORTH TO MAKE NEW DEMANDS ON LIFE. I WISH TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER WELL; TO DO SOMETHING IN IT WORTHY OF IT AND OF ME; TO TRANSCEND MY DAILY ROUTINE; TO HAVE MY IMMORTALITY NOW.

~Henry David Thoreau ~submitted by Scott

Note from Scott; I scribbled these lines from Thoreau in a notebook my first summer as a Group Leader over thirty years ago and keep a copy pinned up in my cabin at Birchmont to this day—a simple reminder to be mindful of the possibilities each summer holds: The fellowship and community of camp and the beauty of New England summers on Mt. Delight.

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Trick or Treat

By Pio Boys **Grant P.**, **Will B.** & **Jack K.**

On July 11th the Trailblazer and Pioneer boys and girls went "Trick or Treating". These lucky campers collected a handful of sweet treats such as Hershey Kisses, Sour Patch Kids, York Peppermint Patties and

others. All of the campers had a great time going around in the dark. The Pio boys had a trick out dance that won them their candy. I'm sure that all the Trailblazers are looking forward to trick or treating again next year. **Dan P.** the group leader went trick or treating with the Pio Boys. He had a great time calling the shots in such a stealth mode. He also arranged for **Jack K.** to take his nerf gun from his pocket

and shoot the person giving out the candy. All of the Pio Boys ran all over camp to get camp to get candy trying not to be seen. We were diving down at the bottom of hills then running to hide behind the next one. Then the Pios walked back to their cabin and went to bed. When someone came into Washington with a mask on and tried to scare us but it didn't work. We had a great time!



There is no "I" in TEAM! ~ Author Unknown



Birchmont 2009 Dates

Opening Day

Sunday June 28, 2009

Parents Visiting Day

Saturday July 25, 2009

Closing Day

Wednesday August 19, 2009

1st Session Ends

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

2nd Session Begins

Sunday, July 26, 2009