



# Camp Akeela<sup>SM</sup> Circular



## A Letter from Debbie and Eric

### *It's Not Too Soon to Start Planning for Camp!*

We know it's still winter; for those on the East Coast, it's cold and snowy and summer seems very far away. But the next few months will pass quickly and before we know it, we'll be back together with our friends on Miller Pond! As we gear up for camp here in the office, we thought that it might be helpful for you to start preparing at home too. Here are some suggestions of things you might do between now and summer to get ready for an amazing experience at Akeela:

#### 4 Months Before Camp:

- If you are a returning camper, email or call an old Akeela friend. Get back in touch and see how he/she's doing. Talk about what you're looking forward to doing this summer at camp. Maybe set up a time to get together (if not in person, then online!)
- If you are a new camper, explore the "current families" page on our website and start getting a sense for the daily schedule. Make a list of any questions you'd like to ask us or your pen-pal (whose contact information you'll get in May).
- Talk to other people you know who have been to camp and find out what they loved about their experience.

#### 3 Months Before Camp:

- Make a list of all of the things you're excited to try at Akeela this summer.
- Review the camp video so you can really try to picture what camp might be like.
- Plan a sleepover outside of your home to get used to sleeping in a different bed.
- Order any Camp Akeela "gear" you want for camp.

#### 2 Months Before Camp:

- Start gathering a list of family and friends you might want to write to while you're at camp.
- Address envelopes to those people with your parents and put stamps on now ... It's one less thing to do when you're busy at camp!
- Practice doing more things on your own like making your bed, picking out your clothes, etc.
- Make sure your parents sent all of your camp forms in!



#### In the Month Before Camp:

- Get in touch with your pen-pal. Ask him/her questions about him/herself. Talk about the things you're excited about trying at camp!
- Make sure you and your parents have everything you'll need to pack – look at the list and check things off.
- Practice the camp daily schedule (wake-up, meal times, showering every day, bedtime routines)
- Start limiting your "screen time" (TV, video games, etc.) so that you're feeling ready to jump right into your fun-filled, electronics-free camp life!

We'll see you soon!

*Debbie Eric*

# REUNION RECAP

On Saturday afternoon, February 2, approximately 40 Akeela campers gathered at the Mandell JCC in West Hartford, CT for the second Camp Akeela Reunion. While distance prevented many campers from attending (as a community, we do represent approximately 30 US states and several countries, after all!), we were very impressed with the turnout. Some cabin groups had as many as 6 out of 8 total bunkmates present! We are thankful for the chance to see everyone who was there, and especially grateful to those who traveled from as far as Philadelphia and Maine!

Campers and their families enjoyed a catered lunch while re-connecting with old friends and meeting new ones. We then had a short "Evening Meeting", beginning with Debbie's presentation of some snowy photos of Akeela in the winter. Eric gave a sneak preview of some projects that Blayne is working on this off-season, as well as some exciting new programs for 2013 (see below). To everyone's

delight, Jaynie shared the impressive list of counselors and staff returning to camp next summer (see below for that too). We then got to hear some staff and camper announcements – it was great to learn about a few of the wonderful things going on in campers' lives since the end of last summer.

As was the case last year, we found the reunion to be such an inspirational and energizing event. We've dedicated our lives to camp because we love seeing young people smile, feel great about themselves, form close friendships and experience a sense of belonging to a larger community. That's exactly how Akeela feels to us every day of the camp sessions. Sometimes, when January rolls around and we're 5 months removed from the previous summer and the next, it's hard to bring those feelings to the surface. Seeing the community of campers and parents gather at the reunion helped brighten our winter days and remind us of all we have to look forward to at camp!



# WELCOME BACK CAMPERS!

Returning campers are the heart and soul of the Akeela community. They represent the bonds of friendship that are forged between campers and the connection we all feel to the greater community. What makes us most proud of them is the way in which they enthusiastically and openly welcome new campers into Akeela. We hope you use this list of returning campers to reach out to old friends and bunkmates as the summer months approach...

## 2013 BEYOND AKEELA (WITH 2012 BUNK)

### FIRST SESSION:

Sheila D (Bunk 16)  
Rachael R (Bunk 16)  
Alex P (Second Session,  
Bunk 16)  
David B-G (Bunk 8)  
Kevin K (Bunk 8)  
Christian S (Bunk 8)

### SECOND SESSION:

Connor C (Bunk 8)  
Brendan C (Bunk 8)  
Andrew S (Bunk 8)  
Alexander S (Bunk 8)

## 2013 FIRST SESSION (WITH 2012 BUNK)

Luke P (Second Session,  
Bunk 11)  
Peter S (Returning from  
2010)  
Matthew D (Bunk 1)  
John R (Bunk 1)  
Aiden S (Bunk 1)  
Jonah S (Bunk 1)  
Zachary T (Bunk 1)  
David F (Bunk 11)  
Ethan G (Bunk 11)  
William H (Bunk 11)  
Charlie W (Bunk 11)  
Sammy P (Bunk 12)  
Spencer K (Bunk 12 &  
Family Camp)  
Sophie P (Bunk 13)  
Emma T (Bunk 13)  
Emma B (Bunk 16)  
Victoria H (Bunk 16)  
Anastasia R (Bunk 16)

Elizabeth T (Bunk 16)  
Sarah L (Bunk 17)  
Ariana M (Bunk 17)  
Brooke M (Bunk 17)  
Rachel P (Bunk 17 &  
Family Camp)  
Allegra C (Bunk 18)  
Jasmine J (Bunk 18)  
Gabby S (Bunk 18)  
Hannah S (Bunk 18)  
Chace Y (Bunk 18)  
Nathan K (Bunk 2)  
Chase S (Bunk 2)  
Jeremy W (Bunk 2)  
Daniel W (Bunk 2)  
Isaac W (Bunk 2)  
Zeke C (Bunk 3)  
Richard G (Bunk 3)  
Ben T (Bunk 3)  
Mitchell C (Bunk 4)  
Jack D (Bunk 4)  
Jordan G (Bunk 4)  
Harrison J (Bunk 4)  
Jesse R (Bunk 4)  
Jared S (Bunk 4)  
Jonah K (Bunk 5)  
Jake N (Bunk 5)  
Ethan R (Bunk 5)  
Rex R (Bunk 5)  
Connor S (Bunk 5)  
Joshua A (Bunk 6)  
Samuel C (Bunk 6)  
Austin G (Bunk 6)  
Jacob G-E (Bunk 6)  
John Erik K (Bunk 6)  
Bradley M (Bunk 6)  
Matthew S (Bunk 6)  
Zach D (Bunk 7)  
Adam G (Bunk 7)  
Noah K (Bunk 7)  
Ethan S (Bunk 7)

Matthew B (Bunk 8)  
Andrew K (Bunk 8)  
Walter M (Bunk 8)

## 2013 SECOND SESSION (WITH 2012 BUNK)

Ben S (Family Camp)  
Yonatan F-N (Family Camp)  
Max B (First Session,  
Bunk 11)  
Joshua K (First Session,  
Bunk 12)  
Jonah W (First Session,  
Bunk 12)  
Ally N-P (First Session,  
Bunk 17)  
Nicholas L (First Session,  
Bunk 3)  
Daniel S (First Session,  
Bunk 4)  
Matthew S (First Session,  
Bunk 6)  
Eric C (Bunk 1)  
Spencer F (Bunk 1)  
Neil M (Bunk 1)  
William P (Bunk 1)  
Kyle S (Bunk 1)  
Jacob G (Bunk 11)  
Noah G (Bunk 11)  
Gavin M (Bunk 11)  
Ezra S-F (Bunk 11)  
Ethan B (Bunk 13)  
John H (Bunk 13)  
Gideon L (Bunk 13)  
Joseph T (Bunk 13)  
Madison W (Bunk 16)  
Emily B (Bunk 17)  
Anik B (Bunk 17)  
Kate G (Bunk 17)  
Brooke M (Bunk 17)  
Polly P (Bunk 17)

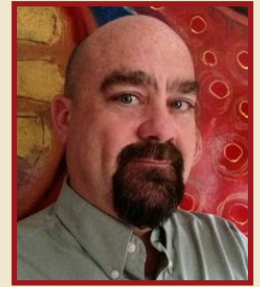
Hailey S (Bunk 17)  
Hope T (Bunk 17)  
Amelia A (Bunk 18 &  
Family Camp)  
Lydia D (Bunk 18)  
Claire H (Bunk 18)  
Lydia K (Bunk 18)  
Sabrina S (Bunk 18)  
Cara W (Bunk 18)  
Daniel H (Bunk 2)  
Noah K (Bunk 2)  
Ross P (Bunk 2)  
Travis R (Bunk 2)  
Philip C (Bunk 3)  
Leo E (Bunk 3)  
Noah F (Bunk 3)  
Elias G (Bunk 3)  
Jake M (Bunk 3)  
Luke B (Bunk 4)  
Graham C (Bunk 4)  
Jordan G (Bunk 4)  
Spencer S (Bunk 4)  
Drew B (Bunk 5)  
Gavin C (Bunk 5)  
Douglas G (Bunk 5)  
Henry L (Bunk 5)  
Gregory C (Bunk 6)  
Bret C (Bunk 6)  
Abe G (Bunk 6)  
Caleb K (Bunk 6)  
Zach S (Bunk 6)  
Tyler K (Bunk 7)  
Jared L (Bunk 7)  
Peter O (Bunk 7)  
David R (Bunk 7)  
Matthew S (Bunk 7)  
Daniel S (Bunk 7)  
Cameron T (Bunk 7)  
Eric W (Bunk 7)  
John G (Bunk 8)  
Stuart L (Bunk 8)



# SENIOR STAFF PROFILE

## PRESTON GILCHRIST: Art Director

Preston Gilchrist lives in Alexandria, Louisiana, which is the geographic center of the state and referred to locally as "Cenla". Preston received his BA in Fine Arts at the University of New Orleans, and finished his Master of Fine Arts at Louisiana Tech. He has over 20 years experience working with children, including 4 years as an art therapist at Central Louisiana State Hospital. He has also directed several day camps and educational programs for various arts organizations in Central Louisiana. Preston revels in the creative energy and unlimited potential for success that accompanies working with children in an artistic environment, and looks forward to sharing his enthusiasm for art at Camp Akeela this summer.



Preston, his wife Karen and their extremely energetic Vizsla puppy, Iggy, were recently given an acre of land as a gift from Karen's parents. They plan to spend the next two years personally building a home and art studio on the property.

**CURRENTLY READING:** *The Vegetable Gardener's Bible*, by Edward C. Smith (Preparing for country life)

**PLACE I'D LIKE TO VISIT:** Bruges, Belgium

**PLACE I'D LIKE TO VISIT AGAIN:** Black Rock City, Nevada

**FAVORITE COLOR:** Plaid

## Staff Update

In the winter office, Eric and Jaynie are working hard on putting together another great staff for 2013. We are thrilled with the new staff members we have hired and we are especially excited about the wonderful counselors and staff who will be joining us once again on Miller Pond!

Here is a list of the staff we know are returning so far:

### CABIN COUNSELORS:

Alley L.            Scott M.  
Amanda B.        Mitch G.  
Jack G.            Chris G. ("Glancy")  
Kaitlyn R.        Josh W.  
Katie D.  
Katie O.  
Mark Y.  
Michael G. ("Galdo")  
Nick W.

### SPECIALISTS:

Kayla S. -- Farm & Garden  
Dave B. -- Golf  
Greg W. -- Drama  
Hannah A. -- Ropes  
Michael F. ("Woody") -- Woodshop  
Matt B. -- Ropes Course  
Anna G.-- Swimming  
Laura G. -- Swimming  
Camron C. -- Boating  
Harry C. -- Sailing

### SENIOR STAFF & SUPPORT STAFF:

John-Robert I. -- Assistant Head Counselor  
Christine B. -- Assistant Head Counselor  
Rachel F. -- Assistant Head Counselor  
Kevin T. (2009 -2011) -- Program Director  
John Halpin -- Aquatics Director  
Terry Halpin -- Office Manager  
Kyle B. -- Assistant Aquatics Director  
Rob G-J. -- Head Counselor  
Grant S. -- Head Chef  
Stefan -- Cook



# TRI-STATE CAMP CONFERENCE



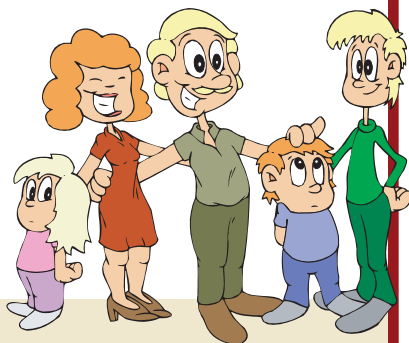
Each year in March, more than 3000 camp professionals gather in Atlantic City for the American Camp Association's (ACA) Tri-State Camp Conference. It's the largest gathering of camp professionals in the world and a community in which Debbie, Eric and Jaynie are very involved. In fact, Debbie serves on the Tri-State program committee, helping to plan a number of the conference workshops. She and Eric have presented many times in past years, although this year they look forward to attending as participants only!

Jaynie has recently completed her training as an ACA Accreditation Visitor; she will be visiting camps during the summer to verify that they are conforming with the ACA's high standards for camper health and safety, program quality, and organizational excellence. This will be a very special Tri-State for us, as we are bringing Rob Glyn-Jones in from England to join us for the week!



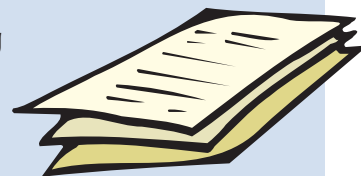
# FAMILY CAMP

Parents ask us all the time: "Can I come to camp, too?" Well, now you can! Join us August 16 – 22 for Akeela Family Camp. It promises to be a one-of-a-kind, unforgettable (and affordable!) family vacation. Imagine a week of fun & excitement, rest & relaxation – all in the same warm and supportive camp community that makes Akeela so special.



*For more information, see [www.campakeela.com/familycamp](http://www.campakeela.com/familycamp)*

# CAMP FORMS 2013



We will be mailing families the Parent Handbook and forms packet next month, so please keep an eye out for those important documents. They are due back to us at our winter office by May 1. In the meantime, the online camp forms are available now for your convenience. In particular, we encourage you to make your camper's doctor's appointment as soon as possible. When you do see your physician, please be sure to bring the required medical forms with you.

## Here's how to access the forms:

1. Go to the camp home page, [www.campakeela.com](http://www.campakeela.com)
2. Near the top right corner, click on "Parent Log In"
3. Click on "Retrieve Password" and enter your email address
4. You will receive an email from CampMinder with instructions for setting your password and logging on
5. Once logged in, look for the Forms Dashboard and click on "Forms and Documents"

The forms that require a doctor's signature are the "As-Needed Medication Form" and the "Physician's Examination Form". You can also bring the "Immunization Form" if you need records from the doctor's office to complete it. The "Health History Form" asks for general medical history and can be completed online by parents.

# Upcoming Birthdays

## CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

Spencer M.....	February 2	Joshua O .....	March 28
Graham C.....	February 4	Zeke C.....	March 30
Michael L.....	February 9	Ezra S-F.....	March 30
Daniel S.....	February 10	Mitchell C.....	March 31
Sophie P.....	February 11	Noah K.....	April 4
David R.....	February 13	Jonah W.....	April 4
Emily B.....	February 19	Noah K.....	April 6
Caleb K.....	February 23	Zachary T.....	April 10
Victoria H.....	February 24	Grace S.....	April 10
Jordan G.....	February 24	Rachael R.....	April 11
Elias G.....	February 24	Hailey S.....	April 13
Daniel W.....	February 28	Stuart L.....	April 14
Allegra C.....	March 1	Ben N.....	April 14
Ben S.....	March 2	David B-G.....	April 17
Matthew B.....	March 3	Zach S.....	April 17
Polly P.....	March 12	Zach D.....	April 20
David F.....	March 18	Justin R.....	April 20
Matthew S.....	March 20	Brendan C.....	April 21
Alex W.....	March 20	Henry L.....	April 21
Helene L.....	March 23	Yonatan F-N.....	April 23
Leo E.....	March 24	Nathan K.....	April 28
John G.....	March 26	Ally N-P.....	April 30
Jasmine J.....	March 28		



## STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Rachel F.....	February 7
Duncan M.....	February 19
Jack G.....	February 22
Harry C.....	March 1
Rebecca F.....	March 17
John-Robert I.....	April 7
Chef Grant S.....	April 30

## THE GREAT AKEELA PHOTO PROJECT!

We are always searching for ways to keep in touch with our Akeela community throughout the year. The reunion was a great start, but not everyone was able to attend. This new project will be a fun way to get to see fellow campers and staff members, returning and new, no matter where they are in the world! Here's how to participate:

Pose for a photograph wearing something that has an Akeela logo on it (T-shirt, hat, backpack). You can take the picture anywhere that you feel represents you in some way. For example, you can stand in front of your school, by a monument in your hometown, in your room, with your favorite pet or even on vacation with your family!

After you've taken the picture, email it to us at [jaynie@campakeela.com](mailto:jaynie@campakeela.com). Please also include a short note with an interesting fact about you or an update with some news!

We will post the pictures on our Facebook page (without using last names) and collect them for the Great Akeela Photo Project! We cannot wait to see the pictures and hear more about each and every one of you!



# New at Akeela for 2013!

Summer 2013 will bring many exciting new programs and facility updates to Akeela:

## **GOLF:**

We are finalizing plans to build a golf driving range at Akeela. In combination with our mini-golf course, this will add a whole new activity area to the bunk schedule and a great new Specialty Period offering as well!



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## **ROPES COURSE:**

Our ropes course designers will be bringing a fantastic new high element to Akeela this year. It's called "The Caterpillar" and we're particularly excited about it because it combines an individual high ropes challenge (like the climbing wall or zip line) with a collaborative teambuilding activity. It's going to be a blast!

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## **LAKEFRONT:**

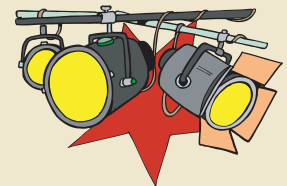
Due to the popularity of the "Iceberg" in Miller Pond, we have decided to bring in an even better inflatable water slide. (The Aquaglide shown in the photo is one item we're looking at, but we may end up with a slightly different slide... In any case, we're sure it'll be a hit with Akeela campers!)



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## **PAVILION:**

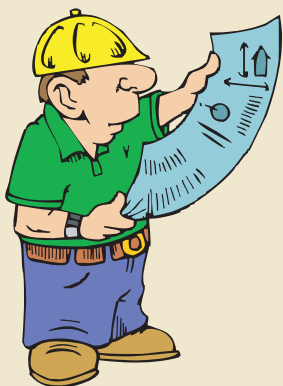
The Pavilion is getting a structural overhaul, as well as an expansion. Specifically, we are improving the stage and theater equipment (to keep up with the excellent productions we've been treated to at camp!) and also adding two large storage closets at the front end of the building.



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## **OTHER IMPROVEMENTS:**

Blayne and his year-round maintenance crew are busy with lots of other projects this winter. The Health Center will be just as warm a place in spirit and TLC as it's always been, but a lot less warm in temperature thanks to new ceilings, insulation and air conditioning. Speaking of appliances that require electricity, we are installing a giant generator that will be capable of running the entire camp if we were to lose power at any point.



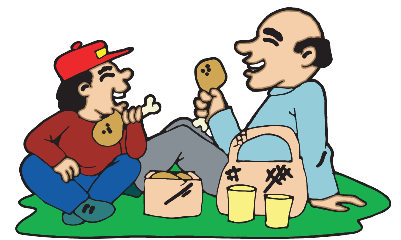
# OPEN HOUSE

## SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, June 2, 2013 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

We hope you will join us for the sixth annual Open House at Camp Akeela:

- ➔ Take a tour of camp: See your bunk and get the "lay of the land"
- ➔ Participate in "work projects" to help get camp ready for opening day!
- ➔ Enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking Miller Pond
- ➔ Meet bunkmates and other Akeela campers & families



## IMPORTANT 2013 DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Tuition Payment Due .....	March 1
Camper Forms & Parent Handbook Mailing .....	March 15 (approx.)
Final Tuition Payment Due .....	May 1
Camper Forms Due to our PA Office .....	May 1
Open House at Camp.....	June 2
First Session.....	June 23 - July 17
Second Session .....	July 20 - August 13
Visiting Days.....	July 17 & August 13
Family Camp .....	August 16 - 22