



Camp Akeela Circular



A Letter from Debbie and Eric

Dear Campers,

After an absolutely beautiful month of weather here in Philadelphia, the days are getting shorter and we're feeling nostalgic for the camp season. It's been a very exciting time for us, with the arrival of baby Julia on September 15. Only two weeks later, Kevin Trimble arrived for his first official day of work as Akeela's new Assistant Director. So lots of transitions, which are always hard in some ways, but in this case we couldn't feel more lucky about the two additions to our family!

Speaking of transitions, we hope that the start of the new school year has gone smoothly for you. As we mentioned at our closing campfires, we hope that you are keeping your memories of Akeela close by, so that when you have a not so good day, you can think about all of the great things you did this summer and all that you achieved. You should be proud of yourself and feel good about the friendships you made at camp.

As our time together at Akeela gets further in the past, we thought it might be helpful to remind you of some of the things that you did on a regular basis at camp:

- ✓ You made your own bed and helped clean your bunk every day!
- ✓ You helped set up and clean the dining hall for the entire camp.
- ✓ You participated in meal-time discussions with your bunkmates and counselors.
- ✓ You joined in all kinds of activities, even new things that made you uncomfortable.
- ✓ You considered the feelings & needs of the rest of the community.
- ✓ You survived without electronics or internet access for three and a half weeks!
- ✓ You made connections with other campers.
- ✓ You spoke and/or were recognized at an Evening Meeting.
- ✓ You swam in a lake, tackled a ropes course and conquered mountains!
- ✓ You left the comfort of your home and your family to be at Akeela.

We hope that remembering your success at camp will give you the courage do some of these things at home or at school too. Maybe you will meet a new friend or try a new club. Maybe you'll take more responsibility at home by making your bed and helping with chores. Perhaps you will spend more time outside or with friends and less time at your computer. All of these things will be great practice for you ... and you know you can do them because you did so well at camp!

We hope you have a great fall! Know that we are always thinking of you and would love to hear from you in an email if you have any news or just want to say hello!

Love,

Debbie Eric

WHAT'S INSIDE

Camper Updates	2
Fundraiser Results	3
The Results are in	3
Our First Akeela Wedding.....	3
Camp's New Website.....	4
Kevin Trimble	4
On our Nightstand and TIVO List.....	4
Staff News.....	5
Mo Bros and Mo Sistas	5
Upcoming Birthdays.....	6

IMPORTANT 2014 DATES

First Session:
June 28 - July 21

Second Session:
July 24 - August 16

Visiting Days:
July 21 and August 16

Family Camp:
August 18 – August 24

CAMPER UPDATES

Jake H (Bunk 16, 2nd) was elected student council president of his elementary school ... **Matthew L, Justin R, and Ezra H** (Bunk 17, 2nd) had a sleep over and saw Despicable Me 2 together ... **Henry W** (Bunk 7, 1st) took a songwriting class and a song he wrote was played on a local radio station. He's keeping up with the songwriting in school as well and will be performing in his school's original play, PG-13 ... **Bret C** (Bunk 5, 2nd) started working at his local grocery store and went on family trip to Virginia which was very fun ... **Noah F** (Bunk 2, 2nd) will be performing in his school play, The Little Mermaid Jr, and has been taking voice lessons on the weekends ... **Spencer K** (Bunk 16, 2nd) is playing soccer and his team is undefeated and best in their division. He also just completed reading the entire Harry Potter series that he started in mid June ... **Sabrina S** (Bunk 13, 2nd) is playing JV soccer this fall and traveled to the Bahamas and San Diego after camp.



Matthew L, Justin R, and Ezra H

She hopes to travel to Philadelphia to meet up with camp friends this year ... **Gavin C** (Bunk 7, 2nd) started high school and is learning crew hoping to be on the team in the spring ... **Greg C** (Bunk 5, 2nd) got together with **Matt S** and **Cameron T** (Bunk 1, 2nd) as well as **Emily B** (Bunk 15, 2nd) to play a round of mini golf. He also navigated a night time corn-maze with **Matt S** ... **Michael F** (Bunk 12, 1st) got together with **Ethan S** (Bunk 12, 1st) after camp and had a lot of fun together. He also went to Nantucket for four days with his family ... **Matthew G** (Bunk 4, 1st) is enjoying his new school and can't wait to come back to Akeela next summer ... **Marley M** (Bunk 11, 2nd) is taking guitar, piano and singing lessons, and also writing her own original songs. She's also at school with **Lydia D** and **Bess L** (Bunk 11, 2nd) ... **Max T** (Bunk 4, 2nd) is having a great year in school, and has been keeping in touch with **Brian S, Liam T** and **Evan G** (Bunk 4, 2nd) ... **Samantha R** (Bunk 11, 2nd) is loving middle school and taking jazz and gymnastics classes, which she really likes ... **Spencer K** (Bunk 12, 1st) has been taking tennis lessons and can't wait to show off his skills next summer at camp ... **Lucia F** (Bunk 16, 1st) was featured in a blog on Trisomy 18, themiracle18blog.tumblr.com ... **Liam T** (Bunk 4, 2nd) went on family vacation to the French Alps and did a ropes course and lots of hiking, had a 13th birthday bowling party, and started at a new school that he takes the train to every schoolday ... **Ben N** (Bunk 18, 2nd) is having a great start to the school year. He is getting really into rock music, he auditioned for and made the Rockit Kids rock band program and will perform a show in December. He is also in a School of Rock program that is helping him learn the drums and bass guitar ... **Christian S** (BA, 1st) has been accepted to the Culinary Institute of America and will work to fulfill his dream of becoming a chef ... **Austin G** (Bunk 5, 1st) is in his first year of high school and having a great time making new friends. He's also very excited to travel during winter break to Key West ... **Ethan B** (Bunk 17, 2nd) joined his city's 5th grade choir and he sings the alto in the choir. They practice every Monday, and he'll be making his singing debut in December ... **Sam C** (BA, 1st) competed and placed in the HITS horseback riding competition and spend a lot of his time with his horse, Parker. He's also been visiting lots of colleges during his Senior year of school ... **Hailey K** (Bunk 13, 1st) and family visited **Haley G** (Bunk 13, 1st) and her family in Maine. They spent the day in Fun Town and Splash Town. They recently got together again in New York and went to a pumpkin farm, walked in a corn maze, and watched a trebuchet throw a pumpkin ... **Andrew S** (BA, 2nd) has been helping video tape for his high school football team, and is looking forward to being the team manager for his basketball team again ... **Jake N** (Bunk 4, 1st) has started high school and is doing really well, getting all As and Bs ... **Ben S** (Bunk 18, 2nd) has moved on to secondary school and has settled in well at a school which was founded in 1551 ... **Grant R** (Bunk 7, 1st) is happy at his new school and is going to New York City on a school trip. He's also enjoying keeping in contact with all his camp friends ... **Peter O** (Bunk 1, 2nd) is on a teen council for a community service group called Excel that works on various community service projects. He's also started to teach younger kids at his martial arts class.

FUNDRAISER RESULTS



POISE

We are proud to announce that through their participation in our POISE-a-thon community service events, Akeela campers raised over \$12,000 for charity this summer. All of these donations will go directly to camper scholarships at Akeela, MGH Aspire or other similar camp programs. Thank you all for your participation and generosity.

(If your child participated in the POISE-a-thon and you have not yet had an opportunity to send your corresponding donation, it's not too late! Just let us know if you need another copy of your pledge sheet. Thanks!)

The Parent & Camper Survey Results are in!

To those who were able to complete the post-camp parent and camper surveys: Thank you so much! We really appreciate all of the time and effort that you gave. Most importantly, you offered some wonderful constructive feedback for how to make Akeela better. We take all of your ideas very seriously and promise to work hard to improve camp and to exceed expectations!



We were particularly touched by the comments we received from campers. Here are just a few highlights to remind us all why we love camp!

"Akeela makes me feel at home. It is the best place to be and I like seeing my old friends who I already know and meeting new friends. The more friends I make, the happier my life gets."

"I never had this much fun at a summer camp in my whole life."

"I loved Camp Akeela and how it felt like a family and a community."

"I made really good friends with them and they made me laugh a lot and I have great memories with them."

"I really had a lot of fun with the specialists of my favorite activities. They were all so nice, helpful and fun to learn from."

And finally, Daniel S from First Session's Bunk 11 sent this reflection on friendship and Akeela:

"I think of friendship as either a bridge between two friends or a bunch of boats floating in the endless sea of loneliness.

To make a bridge, you need to have the right materials, the right tools and plenty of time. Without help (from your friends) it takes a very long time to build a well-functioning bridge. Akeela is basically a work crew (complete with great material and construction vehicles). They make the work a lot easier and faster.

[As for] a boat in the sea: In most scenarios, people learn to either swim or float on the water by themselves. Those who don't learn to swim sink and drown. However, if two people meet each other swimming or floating, they will either start fighting and cannot swim, or meet, greet and make what I call a "friend boat". Friend boats can meet and combine into bigger friend boats and even pull some people right out of the water. In this case, Akeela would be an island (complete with intelligent, friendly natives, shelter and fire). Many people may dock their boats here or leave their boats to go to the island."



Our First Akeela Wedding!

We are ecstatic to congratulate Head Counselor Mike D and Nurse Naomi D on their marriage! Mike and Naomi met at Camp during the summer of 2010 and recently married in Blue Hill, ME in August 2013! Kevin T, James D, Dave B, Rob GJ, Christine B, Katie O, Alli P, and Katie F all joined them for the celebration!

CAMP'S NEW WEBSITE



Akeela will soon be revealing an entirely new website. In addition to a fresh new design, it will also be what's known as a "responsive website". This means that it's been built in a way that will make it easy to use (and great looking) on a variety of devices, from large-screen desktop computers to smaller tablets and even mobile phones.

Keep an eye on www.campakeela.com for our big launch day!

KEVIN TRIMBLE... JOINS AKEELA'S YEAR-ROUND STAFF

Kevin lives in Philadelphia and has worked at Akeela for four summers. He started in 2009 as an accounting intern, and spent his other summers as a counselor and Program Director. In October



2013, he joined Akeela's full-time staff as Assistant Director. He is responsible for finding and hiring the amazing counselors who work with your campers. Kevin also helps with camper recruitment, program planning, staff training, communication with camp families, and everything else that goes into making Akeela run smoothly.

Kevin is from Palo Alto, California. He played basketball at Palo Alto High School and was a member of the 2006 State championship team. He then went on to graduate from Wake Forest University with a bachelors and masters degree in Accountancy. After spending a year at Ernst & Young, the call to return to camp was too strong to ignore. He left his young accounting career behind to follow his passion here at Akeela. When he's not working on camp stuff, Kevin enjoys playing basketball and traveling to see friends.

Favorite Book: The Book of Basketball by Bill Simmons

Place I'd Like To Visit: Greece

Favorite Camp Food: Chicken Patties

On Our Nightstand & TiVo "Now Playing" List

Homesick and Happy by Michael Thompson – This was on our list last fall as well but now that Kevin is here, he's reading it too! We highly recommend this to all camp parents.

The Reversal by Michael Connelly – Eric is too tired these days to read books without a lot of action and dialogue. This legal thriller featuring the same lead character as The Lincoln Lawyer fits the bill perfectly.

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes – Even though Debbie has her hands full between camp and baby Julia, she still has time to read here and there. This novel tells the story about a caretaker and a quadriplegic man who change each others lives. Despite the seemingly gloomy plot, the book is very uplifting and highly recommended.

TED Talks – We've started watching selected TED Talks during our lunch breaks here at the office. They've got us thinking about topics like creativity, leadership and positive psychology.

Mad Men – Kevin is of the newer, smarter generation of TV watchers who doesn't actually subscribe to cable. Instead, he streams only the content he's interested in. When not watching pro sports, he's in the early stages of catching up with Mad Men.



STAFF NEWS!

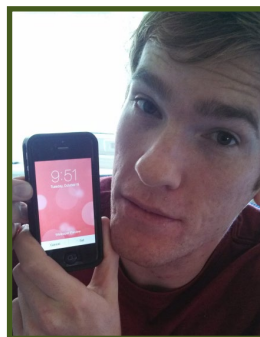
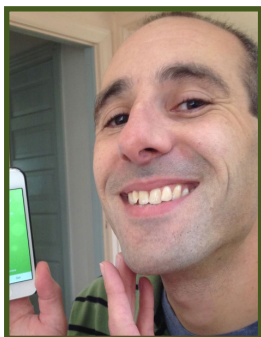


Damon R is working in the public education system for NewsCorp, helping integrate technology into schools' curricula ... **Tom E** is working as a teacher's assistant in a school back in England. He says it's challenging but Akeela has prepared him well ... **Harry C** is a full time lecturer for outdoor education at his local college ... **Luke C** played a round of disc golf with **Mark Y** at school in Oregon ... **John-Robert** is in the last year of his Masters in Counseling program and is counseling individuals and couples at a community center ... **Keith H** is a primary school physical education teacher and is also helping with the Special Olympics. He's also training for a 25K run in November ... **Mark Y** was accepted as an intern for a study abroad program to India where he'll be taking classes and living in a Tibetan Monastic University for seven weeks ... **Dave B** has been student teaching in a fourth grade math classroom and sixth grade language classroom in rural Ohio. He's also accepted a job to work at the Middlebridge School to work as a Resident Assistant after he graduates with his degree in Education ... **Katie O** has enrolled in graduate school for a degree in behavioral analysis. She and **Kayla S** have joined the Middlebridge School full time staff working in the residential halls ... **Duncan M** and **Dave L** are spending the year in Whistler, Canada to learn and work as snowboard and ski instructors ... **Calum E** is working at Aldi training to be an area manager. He and **Amanda M** also visited **Scott M** in Lexington, KY after camp ... **Barry B** traveled around the United States to see friends and visited **Stefan LC** and **Albert A** in Mexico. He is now working in the accounting industry for PwC back home in Ireland ... **Rachel F** has moved back to Melbourne, Australia and is working at a primary school ... **Eric H** is really enjoying his new job working at the Laraway School in Stowe, VT ... **Samantha H** has started a new job as a nurse with the general medicine unit at the University of Virginia Hospital ... **Sean R** is in Maine, where he is studying for a master's degree in Zoology. He is working on migratory bird research and taking ecology classes.

Akeela's Mo Bros and Mo Sistas

The Camp Akeela staff has entered a team in the international charity event known as Movember. This charitable foundation encourages men to grow a "Mo" (slang for moustache) during the month of November to raise awareness for men's health issues.

We've invited all Akeela staff members to participate, either as "growers" or "judges". Just before Thanksgiving, judges will award prizes to growers in a number of categories. Shown here are a few of the BEFORE photos ... Don't forget to check the Camp Akeela Facebook page in late November to see some pretty funny-looking AFTER photographs!



Birthdays



CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

John H (2nd, Bunk 17), Sept. 1
Lisa G (Family Camp), Sept. 1
Jacob A (1st, Bunk 1), Sept. 3
Daniel V-A (1st, Bunk 7), Sept. 7
Jasper R (1st, Bunk 1), Sept. 11
Emily W (2nd, Bunk 13), Sept. 12
Valerie S (2nd, Bunk 15), Sept. 13
Neil M (2nd, Bunk 6), Sept. 14
Ben T (2nd, Bunk 3), Sept. 16
Jacob G-E (1st, Bunk 5), Sept. 16
Daniel S (2nd, Bunk 4), Sept. 22
Carter D (1st, Bunk 11), Sept. 26
Eric C (2nd, Bunk 6), Sept. 26
Sarah L (1st, Bunk 16), Sept. 28
Elizabeth M (1st, Bunk 18), Oct. 4
Kate G (2nd, Bunk 14), Oct. 4
Jonah S (1st, Bunk 6), Oct. 5
Jared S (1st, Bunk 2), Oct. 8
Spencer K (1st, Bunk 11), Oct. 9
Jack D (1st, Bunk 2), Oct. 10
Tyler K (2nd, Bunk 5), Oct. 10
Christopher O (1st, Bunk 6), Oct. 14
Evan G (2nd, Bunk 4), Oct. 15

Sam I (1st, Bunk 11), Oct. 19
Jack B (2nd, Bunk 16), Oct. 21
Haley G (1st, Bunk 13), Oct. 22
Travis R (1st, Bunk 4), Oct. 22
Jake H (2nd, Bunk 16), Oct. 23
Bradley W (2nd, Bunk 5), Oct. 27
Samantha R (2nd, Bunk 11), Oct. 28
Kyle S (2nd, Bunk 6), Nov. 4
Marley M (2nd, Bunk 11), Nov. 5
Claire H (Fam. Camp & 2nd, Bunk 13), Nov. 7
Taylor H (1st, Bunk 16), Nov. 8
Wyatt W (2nd, Bunk 16), Nov. 8
Kamron P (1st, Bunk 5), Nov. 11
Ariana M (1st, Bunk 16), Nov. 12
Rebecca W (1st, Bunk 18), Nov. 14
Maggie M (Family Camp), Nov. 16
Ross P (2nd, Bunk 3), Nov. 19
Andrew S (BA 2nd, Bunk 8), Nov. 21
Hailey K (1st, Bunk 13), Nov. 23
Bret C (2nd, Bunk 5), Nov. 25
Chloe B (Family Camp), Nov. 25
Daniel H (2nd, Bunk 3), Nov. 30
Michael F (1st, Bunk 12), Nov. 30

STAFF BIRTHDAYS



Calum E, Sept. 2
Kevin T, Sept. 2
Stephen R, Sept. 9
MattO, Sept. 10
Alley L, Sept. 11
MaryLynn M, Sept. 12
Tom E, Sept. 15
Kayla S, Sept. 17
Katie O, Sept. 23
Callum G, Sept. 24

Josh W, Sept. 27
Jennelle R, Sept. 30
Preston G, Sept. 30
Joe T, Oct. 5
Anna G, Oct. 6
Laura G, Oct. 6
Stefan C, Oct. 6
Kaitlyn R, Oct. 15
Michelle B, Oct. 16
Amanda B, Oct. 20

Albert A, Oct. 23
Samantha H, Oct. 29
Lukasz B, Nov. 5
Brenda C, Nov. 7
Ahmet D, Nov. 15
Tyler W, Nov. 16
Michal L, Nov. 20
Lauren E, Nov. 27