



Welcome to the newsletter!

Welcome to the first issue of the new, monthly Akeela newsletter! We wanted to be able to keep you up to date regularly with all the exciting news from camp... please do feel free to send us any news that you would like included!

01 Highlights from the Akeela Blog

02 Upcoming Events Good News!

AKEELA NEWS

October
2020

Bringing you all the Akeela News throughout the year!

Highlights from the Akeela Blog

Want to read more? Click [here!](#)

Reflections on Summer 2020

I'm pretty sure we can all say that this summer did not go as planned. Everyone was scrambling to shift gears and make alternate plans. I know that we felt a huge loss when we made the decision to cancel our planned camp sessions. Because we were so busy planning for our alternate summer, we did not have time to process those sad feelings. We have heard from many campers who told us that, at different times during the summer, they realized how much they missed their friends, counselors and the sense of community they feel at Akeela. While we feel terribly that we played a part in the sadness of our campers and their families, it does remind us how lucky we are to be a part of such a special place. Perhaps 2020 will be the year that helps us appreciate everything we have.

(Keep reading by clicking [here.](#))

Helping Our Children (And Ourselves) Feel More In Control

It's hard to believe that summer has come and gone. When we started hearing about the coronavirus, we were confident that "they" would have it all figured out well before camp was scheduled to start. It seems like ages ago we were on bi-weekly calls with our colleagues discussing PPE and testing. In reality, it's been about six months. Our two daughters started school virtually and we're working remotely with our year-round team. Managing work and school plus all of our other responsibilities like grocery shopping, meal prep, cleaning the house, commitments to organizations has been challenging. While this was all novel in the spring, it's now become tedious, tiresome and

frightening.

For our campers (many of whom have a diagnosis of ASD or NVLD), knowing what to expect ahead of time is very helpful and



2020 Family campers meeting up in September!

often an important tool in managing their anxiety. So much about today's world makes it impossible to have that security of knowing what to expect. I often think about what I can do to help our daughters (and ourselves, frankly) feel

safer. What can we do to help our children feel more in control and have more agency during these uncertain times? Here are some suggestions:

(Click [here](#) to keep reading this blog and see Debbie's list of suggestions!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

VIRTUAL EVENTS



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**End of Summer Zoom
catch-ups**

Junior Campers (Grades 4-6)
(7:45pm EST - 8:05pm EST)

Middle Campers (Grade 7)
(8:15pm EST - 8:35pm EST)



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**End of Summer Zoom
catch-ups**

Upper Campers (Grade 8)
(7:45pm EST - 8:05pm EST)

Senior Campers (Grades 9 & 10)
(8:15pm EST - 8:35pm EST)

IN-PERSON EVENTS



03

Play in the Park with Ben!

Newton, MA

For more information, email Ben:
ben@campakeela.com



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Play in the Park with Ben!

Central Park, NYC

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GOOD NEWS!



Ben (our assistant director) and Nicole (our 2019 senior camp head counselor) got engaged this June at camp! As you can see in the photos, their dog, Juniper, played an important role in the big event. We are so happy for them and can't wait to celebrate with them in the future. They are our 12th Akeela couple to get engaged!



Congratulations to Celia (2019 junior camp head counselor) and Lily (2019 assistant head counselor) on getting married! Although they had a very large wedding planned for this August, COVID forced them to change plans. Instead, they had a VERY small wedding ceremony (just the two of them) in early June on the porch of Bunk 15 ... the very same cabin where they first met in 2015!



Most of us are spending a lot of time at home these days! Show your Akeela pride and send us a photo of you in your Akeela gear so that we can see what you're up to! Baking? Virtual School? Playing an instrument? Do it in your Akeela swag and take a pic!



Do you have some good news to share with our community? Let us know! Please send it to us at rob@campakeela.com