



Camp Nokomis Chatter

October 2017



NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR... Hello Ladies! I hope you are all doing well and your school year is off to a great start. I can't believe it is already October! Coming home was made a little easier by our staff visitors, **Hannah, Amberly** and **Aneta**. They delighted us with their travel stories and adventures before heading home, or in Amberly's case, the next phase of her around the world tour! She spent many days exploring New York City while she stayed with us, and then was headed off to Iceland to travel with Hannah. It's amazing how we make life long friendships after only a few weeks at camp.

At the end of camp, the Wilmington High School band came. It was their 40th year having band camp at Nokomis! The season ended with the Women's Wellness weekend. The women came to do yoga, relax, have camp fires and enjoy our beautiful camp setting. Many commented on how much they wished they could go to camp! It doesn't take long to feel the magic of Bear Island. **Brian** has been working hard to close down camp. The lodge, dining hall and office floors have all been sealed and closed down for the winter. Everything has been put away and we just hope that winter is kind to us.

We recently had a board meeting, where we watched our final video. If you haven't had a chance to watch it, take a moment to check it out. Every time I watch it, I think about how blessed we are to spend our summers together at Nokomis. I am eternally grateful to the staff who work so hard to put these videos together. It is a true gift to all of us. A big thank you also goes out to **Spalding** for being our camp photographer and Twitter guru!

We gave away 35 five year pins, 4 ten year watches and 1 fifteen year necklace this summer. I was awe struck when I discovered that we had 86 second generation and beyond campers and staff this summer. We continued many of the camp traditions that we know and love, while adding new programs as well. I know many of you are looking forward to more paddle board trips in the future!

We had four special days, a Maroon and White Day, a Pirates Day, a Harry Potter Day, and our annual Olympics. Each day was unique and had a balance of activities. We had a Luau themed banquet first month and a Blast From the Past themed banquet second month. The plays and musicals this year were unbelievable. The campers and staff did a phenomenal job with both the acting and the set design. The two plays were "Doc Doc Goose" and "Little Red and the Riding Hoods" and the musicals were "Into the Woods Junior" and "Singing in the Rain Junior." We performed "Get On Board Children" at St. John's Chapel in the middle of the island. The staff skit was "Beauty and the Beast" and CIT Fair was "SpongeBob." At each banquet campers voted for the spirits and there really is no honor better than those that come from your peer group. This year's first month spirits were **Sydney Zarlengo** for Thoughtfulness, **Caroline Huntress** for Cooperation, **Claire McDonald** for Enthusiasm, and **Josie Cort** for Princess. Second month spirits were **Morgan O'Grady** for Thoughtfulness, **Sophie Keeler** for Cooperation, **Erin Einzig** for Enthusiasm, and **Maddie Warendorf** for Princess. We gave out a Sky Waterskier Award to **Josie Cort**. It was the first time in Camp Nokomis history that we have a mother and a daughter's name on that award. Her mom is Kathy Dugan Cort who was in my Aide group. A long time ago, I know... At the end of each summer we give out awards that go to campers, Aides, or CITs who are full season campers. This year's Summer Crafter Award went to **Fiona Geary**. Our final awards were Best Camper and Leadership. The *Best Camper Award* goes to the person who has a wide range of activity skills and a love of camp. She is a true princess and embodies the Nokomis spirit. That person this year was **Charlotte Bedford**. The *Leadership Award* goes to someone who uses her leadership skills in a positive way. She is a role model and leads by example. This year's Leadership Award went to **Leah Scheidemantel**. And even though it poured rain almost the whole banquet day, it didn't stop us from enjoying our time together. As **Kim Manning** says in the final video, "At camp, nothing goes as planned and yet everything happens exactly as it should." (Continued on the back...)



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(...continued from front) I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of my first summer as camp director. I am filled with gratitude. You inspire me and give me hope for the future. All of our individual gifts come together at camp to create the perfect picture. You are all a part of the puzzle. Remember that kindness matters, and that you are strong, smart young women. And most importantly, Be Happy!

In the next Chatter, I will be providing more camper and staff news, so if you have anything you'd like to share, please email me at gseifert@mvymca.org. For now, I'll leave you with a quote by Desmond Tutu "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Love,

Gretta

DON'T FORGET:

Priority Registration for the 2018 summer began on September 6, 2017. Registration for all began on October 2, 2017. Sessions are filling up fast. Call the Camp Office at 978-975-1330 before it's too late!

Help spread Camp Nokomis spirit. Encourage your friends and family to register for the 2018 season.