

## Parent newsletter 6/2/10

One more email before the boys arrive for the first session, June 27. Second session folks, please read this one also, since there is some info here for all and I try to answer all **FAQs!**

1. **Bus pick-up**, Sunday, June 27, 7:30 a.m. at Chestnut Hill Academy, 500 W. Willow Grove Ave. in Phila. The bus will be on Willow Grove Ave opposite the new science building. You may throw any extra stuff on the bus in the way of lax sticks, etc. you couldn't fit in his trunk or duffel. Pack him a brown bag lunch. There will be two stops, but we won't stop for a meal – it takes too long and we want those boys here! Counselor Matt Scavitto will be checking the boys in. You may give them any medical forms, spending money, tuition checks, notes for me that you have not already sent up.

**As of today, June 2, I have 11 boys interested in the second session bus. If I get 15 by Saturday, June 5 I will schedule a bus; I can't wait any longer because folks will want to make plane reservations or other plans to get to camp. Please email if you are interested in a second session bus and you haven't already let me know.**

2. **Airport pick-up:** Deb Smith will be picking boys up on June 27 in Manchester. Your son should wait in the baggage area for Deb to come there. She will identify herself with CT gear on! There are flights arriving at different times, so the boys will all be collected and brought back together. She will make sure everyone gets something to eat and they all will be with her while waiting for others to arrive. **For those flying into Boston, I will get you the name of the driver the week of June 20.**
3. **Forms:** Please make sure I have **all three med. forms**, signed and with insurance info. Ellie and John Smith will be checking your boys in and we cannot allow your son to participate in activities without insurance. Tuition is due also before he arrives. I also need to know how your son is getting to camp so please use the **transportation form** for me to track all arrivals. The camp fax # has always been: 603-253-4806. Use that # for faxes unless I give you a new one. Spending \$ should arrive at camp prior to his arrival as well.
4. **Huddle groups** – your son's Huddle Leader will call your home Friday or Saturday, June 25 and 26 for session one campers to introduce himself and give your son his cabin assignment. He will leave a voice mail if no one answers, so please check your voice mail. Huddle leaders will call **session two** campers a few days prior to July 21.
5. **Communication** – I will give Bunk 1 **email** instructions to you the week of June 20. You will need a code #.to get emails to camp and you will need his cabin

assignment. Emails are delivered once a day and will be given to the boys along with regular mail each day. The email service costs you \$1 for each one a you get to send us one a day. The boys will write you letters or postcards, but they may not call home unless it is a special occasion (birthday, emergency, etc.). The sound of Mom's voice makes everyone homesick! If your son is traveling with a **cell phone**, make sure he checks it in with us upon arrival and we will give it back when he leaves for home. If he calls (or texts) you on a cell phone, pay phone, etc. tell him not to do so and let us know. Homesickness can really take away from his experience here and, while everyone has some, the sooner he gets over it, the better! If the first letter is sad, don't be alarmed – that's pretty normal! You can always email me to see how your son is doing and I will be sending weekly emails to all of you. We will try to post photos weekly along with these parent newsletters. I will also email upon arrival of campers so you will know he's with us safe and sound. I will send out a list of all campers, addresses, email addresses etc. a week or so prior to camp opening.

6. **Trunks:** I get lots of questions about these. **First** of all, do acquire a hard cover, medium sized one with a combo lock. **Second:** get them to camp by either: UPS (send at least one week prior to arrival – we will store any that come early, including session 2 trunks); **or** put them on the trunk truck June 19 at CHA in Phila.; **or**, bring them with you. If we do have a second bus, it will **not** have space to store a trunk. **Duffels** :are better than a suitcase for anything you can't fit in his trunk. A **small backpack** is needed for day hikes, etc. Lax sticks, backpacks, tennis rackets, etc. can go in the overhead bin on a bus; if you're flying you may not be able to take a lax stick and may have to UPS it. Check the **What to Bring** list on the web site for everything else and remember that list is a suggestion for all 7 weeks.
7. Please do **not** send any food to camp! We have the Creamery open several days a week for snacks. Food in the cabins attracts critters! Remember the Creamery purchases supports our Blue Gray scholarship Fund! We bake birthday cakes for your son if he has one while at camp!
8. **Car arrivals** – Please come anytime after lunch time (**between 2-5 p.m.** is optimum) and pull into the main area by the office. We will unload your car, check your son in, and give you a tour if you would like one. The medical staff will be available for consultation if you need it and I will be, too! Please do not drive to cabins or to the beach – safety for all! If you have a pet, keep it leashed and walk it up the barn and the farmhouse – lots of running room up there. We recommend that you not stay too long after drop-off. Spend time with us when you come back to pick him up! **On July 21**, Session 2 arrivals should do so between 2-5 p.m. and departures from Session 1 should be on the way home by noon, at the latest.
9. **Departures:** there is no bus scheduled to take boys home so cars or planes are the norm. If your son is flying make sure we have his flight info and we will get him

to the airport. We will UPS any trunks or duffels home if you tell us to and we will charge a “market price” for that service.

10. **The Staff looks terrific this year!** They arrive June 20 for a week of training and will be ready to greet your sons and take good care of them. I will publish a staff on the web site in a week or so. We also have several **Visiting Coaches** scheduled to come at various times during the summer in soccer, tennis, basketball and lacrosse. We are planning to take a lacrosse team to Boston to play before a Cannons game and the Cannons coach (the Boston pro lax team) is planning to visit camp in August!

Our mainstay staff is virtually intact from last summer: Mike Doc, Kathy Marshall, Meg and Matt Birch, Mike and Tiffany Borsch, Deb Smith, Pete Shaifer, Pete Gillin, Bill Aronson, Matt Scavitto, Drew Erickson, Wes Ballentine, Dan Ruggieri, Drew Mellor, Josh Benn, Sibby (the last 3 weeks), Tommy Heppard, Rob Waters, Phil Thomas. In addition we welcome back Paul Poiesz – for Track and Field and his son, Matt. And, of course The Luff Bros., Bob Glascott and Jim Fraser. It really wouldn't be Camp Tecumseh without those last four gents.

We also have a host of new counselors who bring new skills and lots of energy with them! Ricky Flesher will be guiding canoe trips and we have the Redpath boys, Bo and Woody to beef up our lax and soccer staffs. Bo is heading for Bryant College on a full lax scholarship and Woody was a division 3 All-American at Wesleyan last year.

**Visiting:** allow at least 2 ½ weeks before you visit and then call us prior to your visit. We recommend you come pick your son up and use that time to visit camp. We don't have an official “visiting day” and Pemi Day (July 30) is really not a day we recommend for parents – it is a camper's day! We will have a ceremony the evening of July 20 for session campers and any parents who might like to attend. We have a final Assembly on Sunday, August 15 for session 2 and full summer campers and families. More on closing weekend later on!

Let's hope for good weather and another wonderful experience for your boys in 2010! Thanks for entrusting them to our care. We will keep them safe and return them to you in great shape! We truly believe in Tecumseh's motto: “**Making good boys better.**”

Camp's tel # 603-253-4010 from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Director's cottage for emergencies: 603-253-3882

Camp fax: 603-253-4806

Best to all!! We will arrive in NH July 11!

Jim and Nina