

This Week at Camp

In the Karmiel Corner (Michelle Bloomfield)

So many terrific things happened in Karmiel this week! Jordan Sampson, Ellen Wells, Logan Carter, Abby Stotler, Maya Earnest Hawkens, Maya Gelman and Chance Handel all got their Minnow pins! Landis Smith, Liam Hennigan and Owen Schnell all got their Tadpole pins and Maya Smith earned her Catfish pin! Karmiel campers might be turning into fish! Maccabi Marathon 2011 was so much fun for us. We made medals and banners for our teams and we cheered our hearts out every day. Congratulations to the Red Pizza Bagels! We are excited for second session to start on Monday and can't wait to make some new friends.

Tracking Tira (Eve Dater)

It was another swimmingly wonderful week in Tira! Mazel Tov to our newest deep water swimmers: Gabe Feinstein, Casey Bloom and Rachel Petro! Tira campers were busy earning points all week long for the 2011 Maccabi Marathon. The Stellar Starfish made pom poms and the Jazzy Jellyfish played Duck, Duck, Splash. The Outrageous Octopi created special cheer rings in Arts & Crafts with Bonnie and the Powerful Piranhas dribbled their way through a basketball game BACKWARDS on Wacky Wednesday with Coach Kelly. The Silly Sharks played hockey with Coach Rich and the Tira Turtles climbed with Bobby on the Ropes Course. Good job Red Pizza Bagels for winning this year's games! We are sad that the first session of camp is already over but we're getting really excited for next week and session two.

Jumping in with Jerusalem (Sarah Glascom)

Jerusalem campers were seen having a blast this week during the 2011 Maccabi Marathon. We did relay races, made pom poms, had paper bag dramatic competitions, and we also did tons and tons of cheering! It was Backwards Day on Wacky Wednesday this week and we did lots of walking around backwards, wore our clothes and backpacks backwards and we even learned how to spell our names backwards! Congratulations to the campers who moved into new swim groups this week. We are so proud of you! Thank you to all of our campers and counselors for a great first session- we can't wait to start again next week!

Shalom Station (Rachael Altoff)

It was a busy, busy week for Shalom campers at J&R. In Arts & Crafts we made bean mosaics. In Hockey Isiah Brown and Toby Bass scored awesome goals. On the Ropes Course we got use the Spider Web and the See Saw for team building games. In Nature we hiked to the creek. We're exhausted! We had another cookout this week but this time we got to have s'mores also! We played Shalom Trivia to earn points for the 2011 Maccabi Marathon and the Chicken Nuggets took the Gold Medal. The Hot Dogs & Pizza Bagels tied for Silver. We're wrapping up session one this week and getting ready to meet some new campers on Monday. The girls in our unit had fun making t-shirts and signing them and they also made friendship bracelets. Shalom is excited for next week to get here!

Tel Aviv Talks (Erin Stoller)

The ladies of Tel Aviv had a marvelous week at J&R! We loved Archery, Sports with Rich, Miniature Golf and Nature with Nemo. We made bracelets with Bonnie and cooked out with Sandy. Wednesday was Wacky with lots of backwards activities during swimming and group time. We cooled off with water relays during the 2011 Maccabi Marathon and we sang our hearts out during Bus Song Competitions. One of our favorite things was filming the music video on the Ropes Course. We can't wait to see how that turns out! Have a great weekend and see you for session two on Monday!

Haifa Hub (Steve Lautman)

Congratulations to Dylan Blum, Benji Himmel and Makoto Tomokiyo for passing to Porpoise, and to Thomas Bowens and Max Applbaum for becoming Bronze Sharks this week at camp. The Haifa Cup winner this session is The Stewies, who narrowly edged out the Thundercats after an intense 10-round shootout, and they get to design the trophy that will be given to winners in all the years to come! Wednesday was Wacky with Backwards Kickball and cookouts with s'mores. Thursday Bus Song Competitions rocked and Friday 2011 Maccabi Marathon Closing Ceremonies were awesome. Congratulations to the Haifa campers on the Red Pizza Bagel team and good job everybody else! It's hard to believe that the first session is over and our summer is halfway through. Lots of us are coming back for second session next week and we're looking forward to having new campers join us also. Have a great weekend!

A Note from Liza Baron, Camp Director

Session one is officially over and session two is only a couple of days away now. Our first four weeks have been filled with daily new adventures for campers in the swimming pool, on the Ropes Course, in the woods, on the dance floor, in the Archery Pit, and on the ball fields. We hope your campers have come home each day having learned a new skill, having made a new friend and having created a memory that he or she will have for a lifetime. Thank you to all of our hardworking counselors, specialists, unit heads and aquatics staff for ensuring positive experiences for all of our campers.

REMINDER: You should be receiving emails from us, courtesy of our system Alert Now. Alert Now enables us to communicate with you via voicemail and email regarding transportation matters (if buses are delayed), schedule reminders (3rd grade overnights), materials needed (tshirts for tie-dye), and any other important information we want to share. The recording will be my voice and the camp number will appear on your caller ID. The "sender" of the email will be Alert Now Message from Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh. We'll be using the phone numbers and email information you provided to us on your camper registration forms, so please let us know if you have not received these notifications.

I welcome your suggestions and feedback now and all summer long. Please feel free to contact me at any time during the summer at (412) 829-7707.

Shabbat Shalom

All-Camp Talent Night

With second session about to begin, we thought we'd find out who has the most talent at J&R Day Camp! On Wednesday, August 3rd from 6:45-7:45 pm, we're having our first ever All-Camp Talent Night at the JCC in Squirrel Hill. Campers will prepare with their counselors for this special event during the first half of second session. After performances and dessert, parents will be able to register for J&R Day Camp 2012, locking in the 2011 rate! Don't want to miss this night but aren't registered for session two? It's never too late to sign up! Call the Day Camp office at (412) 829-7707 and choose the weeks that work for you. More information about All-Camp Talent Night will come home with your campers during the first week of session two.

Session Two is July 18-August 12

We're starting fresh on Monday and we want your campers to join us! Session two can be registered for by the week so call us in the camp office and sign up!

Major funding for JCC camps is provided by The Philip Chosky Charitable and Educational Foundation, Massey Charitable Trust, the Morris and Fannie Skilken Foundation and The Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust.

Leave those Crocs at Home!

Parents, please help us make camp a safer place by sending campers in tennis shoes whenever possible. Crocs are comfy but aren't a great idea for day camp. With so much activity and running around, shoes that are secure around the ankles are a much better choice. Thank you!

Themes, Wacky Wednesdays

We are loving our theme weeks and Wacky Wednesdays here at J&R Day Camp. Here's what's coming up for second session!

Week One: Fantasy Land
Week Two: Winter Wonderland
Week Three: Happy Birthday J&R
Week Four: Color War

Wacky Wednesday One: Costume Day
Wacky Wednesday Two: Chanukah in July
Wacky Wednesday Three: Planet Green Day
Wacky Wednesday Four: Pajama Day



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Summer Times

Maccabi Marathon was Marvelous!

It's time to say L'Hitraot (see you later) to session one and HELLO SESSION TWO!!! We're finishing up the first Arba (four) weeks of summer and we can't believe how fast it's gone by. It was a close race all week long but we want to wish a Mazel Tov (congratulations) to the Red Pizza Bagels for earning the Maccabi Marathon Gold Medal and to all campers for playing with Ruach (spirit) and Rachmanus (sportsmanship)! Thanks to the captains and their counselors for a really fun week. Shabbat Shalom!

Team PB & J (Purple)
Captain Michelle Bloomfield of Karmiel

Team Chicken Nuggets (Green)
Captain Eve Dater of Tira

Team Tuna (Yellow)
Captain Sarah Glascom of Jerusalem

Team Pizza Bagels (Red)
Captain Rachael Altoff of Shalom

Team Macaroni (Orange)
Captain Erin Stoller of Tel Aviv

Team Hot Dog (Blue)
Captain Steve Lautman of Haifa

What's so Special about Specialists?

This session at J&R we caught many Specialty Staff providing extremely Special experiences to our campers. Here are just a few:

- Bobby Helfer on the ropes course guiding Shalom campers through the Nitro Crossing
- Sam Angelo encouraging a Tel Aviv camper to shoot her first bow and arrow at Archery
- Rich Spolar in the field teaching Squirrels in the Trees to Karmiel campers
- Fun Kelly Young helping Tel Aviv and Haifa campers improve the backhand in Tennis
- Samson McHugh teaching Shalom campers to bike the trails
- Bonnie Markowitz creating Dream Catchers with Jerusalem campers
- Kelly Sheppard having parachute fun with Tira boys and girls
- Melissa Sellner boogie-ing down with Jerusalem campers

Write it Down!

If you're picking up a camper early from J&R one day, please don't forget to send us a note or give us a call. We'll have your camper ready and waiting in the office. If you're picking up at the regular time and don't want your camper going home on the bus, he or she will be waiting for you on our "Pick-Up Bench" located near Camp Circle where the buses line up between 3:15 and 3:30 pm.

Lost and Found and Lost Again

Please help us return lost items by labeling your camper's belongings. T-shirts, swimsuits, sunscreen, and water bottles all have a better chance of making it home to you with a name in it. With so many similar items we want to make sure we're sending back the right stuff!



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Swim Stuff

We think swimming is one of the most important activities we offer here at Day Camp so we're including this information again! Every week campers are encouraged to test into the next swim level during instructional swim. They bring home pins when they pass to a new level. Here is a little of what our campers have been learning at each level:

Minnows

- Blow bubbles
- Put face in water
- Hold breath

Tadpoles

- Face down floating
- Sit-down dives
- Face down flutter kick

Catfish

- Back floating
- Front crawl
- Sculling and kicking on back

Dolphins

- Bobbing while holding onto the side
- Side kicking with kick board
- Treading water

Goldfish

- Back crawl
- Rhythmic breathing with front crawl strokes
- Jumping in pool and treading water

Porpoise

- Elementary backstroke

Rainbow Fish

- Breaststroke kick

Bronze Shark

- Breaststroke arms
- Front crawl with alternate breathing using a kickboard
- Diving from side of pool

Silver Sharks

- Alternate breathing with arm strokes
- Diving from diving board
- Deep water bobbing

Gold Sharks

- Stride jump
- Under water swimming
- Dolphin kick
- Long shallow diving

Platinum Sharks

- Butterfly stroke
- Freestyle flip-turn
- Breaststroke pull out
- Surface dive
- Approach and hurdle on the diving board

Stingrays

- Backstroke flip-turns
- Springboard diving
- Retrieving 10 lb. brick from deep end

Whales

- Back dive
- All starts from block
- Treading with legs only
- Elementary backstroke kick with no arms

Dates to Remember

Second session is about to begin and we have lots of cool activities planned for our campers. You'll get more information about all of them starting next week but we wanted to make sure you have all the dates in your calendars already!

- Friday, July 22nd, Israeli Scouts visit J&R campers
- Monday, July 25th, a visit from KDKA Meteorologist Dennis Bowman
- Thursday, July 28th, Third Grade Overnight at J&R (optional)
- Wednesday, August 3rd, All-Camp Talent Night at the JCC (optional)
- Tuesday, August 9th, Fourth & Fifth Grade Overnight at EKC (optional)
- Week Six, Synchronized Swim Chug for Haifa & Tel Aviv

Photos

We'll be taking photographs of all the terrific things happening at Camp each week and posting them on our website.

Check out www.jccpgh.org every Monday night to see the previous week's pictures!