

This Week at Camp

In the Karmiel Corner (Lisa Mendler)

What a great first week at camp for Karmiel campers! Everyone was placed in an instructional swim group and we decorated group name tags. Our group names this year are: Jumping Jellybeans, Magic M&Ms, Lovely Lollipops, Peppy Peeps, and Sour Patch Kids. Can you tell that we like candy?! We had unit relay races with hopping, skipping, hula hooping, and rope jumping! We learned lots of cheers like "Give a yell, give a yell, give a yell we're Karmiel! And when we yell we really yell and this is what we yell- Karmiel, Karmiel, KARMIEL!" We made butterflies with our Arts & Crafts specialist, Bonnie, and we learned drumming patterns with our Drumming specialist, Alisha. Campers, help your families learn our unit song and get lots of rest this weekend!

Unit Song (To the tune of "California Girls" by Katy Perry)

Karmiel kids, we're unforgettable
Tennis shoes, one pieces on top
Sunscreen, skin so hot, we'll eat our
popsicles
Oooooooh!
Karmiel kids, we're so adorable
Fine, fresh, fierce, we got it on lock
Our Cove represents now put hands up
Oooooooh!

Tracking Tira (Eve Dater)

Tira is off and running this summer at J&R! We learned how to play Follow the Leader and Going to Kentucky. We enjoyed new things with our Specialists, like making stained glass butterflies in Arts & Crafts with Bonnie and having team-building games at the Ropes Course with Bobby. Tira campers learned how to sing "Tree of Life" with David and it even had hand motions to go with it! We learned about leaves with Ayne in Nature too. Our group names this year are: Tiny Triceratops, Raging Raptors, Terrific Pteradactyls, Terrible T-Rexs, and Super Stegasauruses. You can see that we had a very busy week and we can't wait until the next one! Sing our unit song with your families this weekend!

Unit Song (To the tune of "Bad Romance" by Lady Gaga)

Ra-ra-Tira-Tira
We are Tira Tira
Ra-ra-Tira-Tira
We are the best here
Put on sunscreen and get on the bus
Get in the pool and we won't make a fuss
We love camp
Camp, camp, camp
We love camp
Give us our milk and our cookies
Drink your water and use your sunscreen
We love Eve
Eve, Eve, Eve
We love Eve
Playing the day away, we want to stay
All day at J&R
Having fun in and out of the sun
All day at J&R
Oooooooh, all day at J&R
Ra-ra-Tira-Tira
We are Tira Tira
Ra-ra-Tira-Tira
We are the best here

Jumping in with Jerusalem (Kari Malvin)

It's a wonderful summer to be a Jerusalem camper at J&R. During our first week we learned our unit song (try to sing along with your friends this weekend!) and prepared for our unit's performance of Noah's Ark during Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday. It was so much fun to work on this all week long! Traci, our Judaics & Israeli Culture specialist, helped us get ready and it was great! Our entire unit played Sharks & Minnows and did some dancing too. We made group name tags and here are the names of our groups: Huggies, Koolaims, Hawaiian Punch, Capri Suns, and Sunny Ds. We like to stay hydrated at J&R Day Camp and our group names remind us! We also really liked playing some new games we learned like Chinese Soccer and The Great Wind Blows. Ask us to teach you at home!

Unit Song (To the tune of "Jessie's Girl" by Rick Springfield)

J&R's my camp
Yeah, you know we always have fun
But this year something's changed
That makes camp oh so fine
I'm in J-Ru with Kari
And we're having a great time
Cause we're making all new friends
And we're going in the pool during free swim
And we're putting on our sunscreen again and again
You know you wish you were Jerusalem!
You're hanging with Jerusalem!
I couldn't find a unit this fine!
Jerusalem!

This Week at Camp

Shalom Station (Josh Lobelsohn)

It's been a great first week for the Shalom Mighty Ducks- this year we're the ducks because DUCKS FLY TOGETHER! We split up into groups on the first day but we're making friends with everyone in the Shalom unit. Shalom campers were heard chanting great cheers and belting out our unit song (see below and sing along at home!) We were spending time in the woods, decorating our camp sites by painting rocks and planting group flags. Our first week of Chugim (Special Interest) had Shalom campers enjoying football, Judaics, archery, biking and so much more. Next week we're going to celebrate America's birthday with a big Fourth of July celebration, J&R-style!

Unit Song (To the tune of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper)

Wake up, it's 8 am
 Can't wait to get to my favorite unit again
 We are the ones running around in the sun
 Shalom is gonna have fu-un
 Oh Shalom is gonna have fun!
 Some units take hikes in the woods
 But no unit is really this good
 They need to know that Shalom's number one
 In Shalom we have the most fu-un
 Oh Shalom just has the most...
 That's all we really haaaaaaaave
 Is fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuunnnn
 The weather can be rain or sun
 Shalom is gonna have fu-un
 Oh Shalom has the most fun!

Tel Aviv Talks (Sara Reznick)

Tel Aviv campers are so awesome that they get to all their activities on time, and this is a great thing because we have so many cool things to do every day! This week we were so excited that Alison Riley and Rosie Perlman learned how to ride bikes! The Tel Aviv Tigers ran Flagpole on Wednesday and sang their own cheer in front of the whole camp. Campers made group banners for Tel Aviv Park, decorating their home away from home. The summer is off to a great start and we can't wait for many more days of fun in the sun with Tel Aviv. Campers, teach someone at home the awesome Tel Aviv song!

Unit Song (To the tune of "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus)

Hopped off the bus at J&R
 With a smile and a bathing suit
 Welcome to the land of fun and sun
 Where everybody fits in
 Jumped in the pool, did a flip for the first time
 Looked to the right, see the boys in the lunch line
 This is all so crazy
 Everybody seems so friendly
 So I put my hands up, sing the Tel Aviv song
 And the other units run away
 Nodding our heads like YEAH
 We're the oldest at camp oh yeah!
 So I put my hands up, sing the Tel Aviv song
 I know it's gonna be a fun day
 Te-el Avi-v, we're the party at the J&R camp!
 Te-el Avi-v, we're the party at the J&R camp!

Haifa Hub (Zachary Sitkin)

Haifa is in full swing with lots of great counselors and campers leading the way. This week we made group banners that we paraded to Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday. The Tazmanian Devils chose and decorated a camp site in the woods for cookouts next week. The Wile E. Coyotes made "crazy socks," and the Bugs Bunnies made group shields with group emblems. The Pepe Le Pews won this week's soccer tournament and the Marvin the Martians went on a bug hunt only to find tadpoles and small frogs! The Roadrunners decorated their camp sites and went hiking in the woods. We taught our unit song to everyone so try to sing along at home! Our entire unit participated in the Haifa World Cup this week and it was a blast. See you Monday!

Unit Song (To the tune of the Pokemon Theme Song)

We want to be the manliest
 Like no group ever was
 Cause you know that Haifa is the best
 And we sing this song because
 We're the kings of J&R
 And that's just how we roll
 Playing sports against us
 Is bound to take its toll
 We are HAIFA men!

A Note from Liza Baron, Camp Director

You should have received an email and a voicemail from us on Wednesday, courtesy of our new 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 (T-shirts 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 did not receive an email or a voicemail from us on Wednesday.

Thank you to all of the people who help to make camp a safe and fun place for J&R Day Campers: counselors, unit heads, specialty staff, aquatics instructors, food service providers, security, maintenance, assistant directors, office staff, camp nurse and camp inclusion staff. A special thank you to J&R Day Camp parents for giving us the opportunity to provide a summer of fun and a lifetime of memories.

Each summer begins with opportunities for trying new activities and building new friendships. 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 the Way from Israel

J&R has two counselors from Pittsburgh's sister city, the Karmiel-Misgav region in Israel, participating in day-to-day camp life. This opportunity is made possible through Partnership 2000 of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

This year we are pleased to welcome Shiran Gurevich and Eden Sassoon. Shiran is a counselor in Shalom and Eden is a counselor in Tel Aviv. Both Shiran and Eden bring Israeli culture to us every day in their own unique and special ways through song, dance, Hebrew language, and more. We'd like to extend a special thank you to our host families who have graciously opened their homes and their summer to our visitors: Jamie Stern and Marc Adelsheimer, Jim Lando and Leigh Winston, Debi and Noam Gilboa, Darcy and Mike Gordon, and Sara and Jonathan Mayo. If you'd like to host the girls for a meal or a Pirates game, give us a call in the camp office!

Learn the J&R Song

(Sung to the tune of "Free to Be, You and Me")

There's a camp not too far
and it's called J&R;
Shalom is what we say
when we welcome you each day.
We are always having fun
hiking, biking in the sun;
Take my hand, come with me
and I'll show you...

A CAMP
where the children run free,
A CAMP
where we all want to be,
A CAMP of the JCC
Where you and me are free to be, you and me!

Specialty Staff

We couldn't have camp without them. Our specialty instructors add a certain something special to daily camp life and here's who's joining us this summer:

Kipp Dawson, Pittsburgh Colfax
Teacher, Garden

David Fair, Rodef Shalom Religious
School Music Instructor, Music

Bobby Helfer, Community Day School
Educator, Ropes Course

Mary Beth Kish, JCC Aquatics Director
Aquatics

Steve Lautman, Pennsylvania State
University Student, Archery

Traci Levine, Educator, Judaics &
Israeli Culture

Bonnie Markowitz, Early Childhood
Educator, Arts & Crafts and
Jewelry-Making

David May Stein, Pittsburgh Colfax
Principal, Outdoor Adventure

Samson McHugh, University of
Pittsburgh Student, Biking and
Skateboarding

Alisha Ross, JCC Rhythm Kids
Instructor, Drumming

Sharon Serbin, Educator, Drama

Rich Spolar, Educator, Sports

Ayne Terceira, Educator, Nature

Kelly Young, JCC Health & Physical
Education Instructor,
Sports and Tennis

Summer Times

Noar/Bogrim News (Mallory Schlossberg)

What a wild and adventurous week we had! We explored camp on the first day, making new friends, hiking and swimming. On Tuesday we went to Fallingwater, and campers were very interested in the beautiful architecture. We went to Wildwood Highlands on Wednesday and spent all day with mini golf, laser tag, go-karts, and so much more. On Thursday we kayaked down the Allegheny River, and we were so proud of Emily Rollman who faced her kayaking fears! On Friday we went to UPMC SportsWorks and had a blast. We started a new tradition at Camps Noar/Bogrim: this week we congratulate Milan Abramowitz, Abby Stubenhofer, Tyler Carcy, and Alexandra Bowens for being Campers of the Week! We are super excited for Monday and our three-day-getaway.

Don't forget...

Please help us to help your children bring home their belongings by writing their names on clothing labels. If a towel or swimsuit does not return home one day, please give us a call in the camp office and we will make sure your camper visits the Lost and Found that day. This Friday we handed out camp T-shirts and we've already put campers names in them!

Look what's NEW this summer

J&R Day Camp is now home to our new and improved Arts & Crafts Pavilion! Complete with storage and seating for multiple groups at a time, campers will be able to enjoy working sheltered from the sun and occasional rain shower on some of their favorite craft activities like friendship bracelets, masks, picture frames, sit-upons, and bird feeders, along with new projects like Extreme Recycled Art and Mural Mania. Campers of all ages will be able to utilize our Arts & Crafts Pavilion during specialty periods, Chugim (hobby time) and Unit programming. J&R Day Camp Arts & Crafts Specialist Bonnie Markowitz is thrilled to call our new Pavilion her home away from home!

This summer we are very excited to offer Horseback Riding to our Tel Aviv and Haifa campers (3rd-5th grade boys and girls) during Chugim! Spots are limited for this special week-long program at the Drop Stables in Irwin, located approximately 20 minutes from J&R Day Camp in Monroeville. Campers will take a quick van ride each day to the Stables and enjoy time learning to saddle a horse, ride safely, eat lunch and visit with other animals like goats, sheep and chickens. We are offering this new program opportunity the week of July 12, during first session.

Not to be outdone by arts & crafts or horses, comes our brand new 9-hole Miniature Golf Course! Currently under construction and set to debut in July on our former kickball court located next to the tennis courts, this course is sure to challenge even the most experienced mini-golfer! Our course will be used by campers of all ages and our youngest campers will have a great time learning how to swing a club! The Miniature Golf

Course will also be open on the weekends to members of the JCC and Henry Kaufmann Family Recreation Park. Families can benefit from another relaxing way to spend a summer afternoon together, and mini-golf can bring a whole new level of fun to birthday parties.

For more information about any of our awesome new developments at J&R, please contact Liza.

Early Dismissals and our Pick-Up Bench

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.

JCC summer day camps are supported in part by The Philip Chosky Performing Arts Program, Massey Charitable Trust, Morris & Fannie Skilken Family Foundation and The Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust with additional support from the Aviraz-Rosenfeld Family Enrichment Fund, Stanford and Ada Davis Young People's Theater Fund, Dora and Joseph Marcus Camp Scholarship Fund, Sally and Fred Rock Family Fund, Beatrice Schutte Foundation, Gladys & Abraham Shore Endowment Camp Fund, Max and Gussie Shore Children's Scholarship Fund, Sandy and Edgar Snyder Israel Experience Fund and the Rhoda Lee Tabachnik Children's Theater Fund.