



## SOMapY Camp



## Summer Times

June 22, 2010 Vol. 6 Issue 1

### ***Welcome or Welcome Back!***

We hope all of you are ready for a summer full of fun and new adventures. All of our counselors and specialists have had a minimum of 24 hours of training in preparation for this summer and they are eager for this new camp season to start! We are looking forward to seeing all our campers from last year, and hoping to meet many new campers as well.

There are many fun and interesting activities planned for this upcoming summer. In fact, each week of camp will have its own theme. Please check our Camp's webpage where we have posted our weekly themes and the many field trips and events. Our themes for the first session are: **Friendship and Spirit Week, Wacky Athletes, and Weird Science.**

### **Team and Friendship Activities**

**June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Our first week of camp is all about making new friends, re-acquainting with old friends from last summer and creating a group spirit within the new camper groups. **Friendship and Spirit Week** activities that are designed to do this include the return of the ever favorite entertainer **DJ Bruce Fagan** on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He will help start off our camp season with a high-energy program that will get the kids jumping up and down and excited about all the fun they will be having at camp this summer. **Bruce** will provide the campers with a combination of contemporary children's tunes; rock 'n' roll classics, favorite party dances, and current dance tunes, using his keyboard & interactive synthesizer, deejay maker, dual CD & MD players, and a complete P.A. system.

We'll conclude our first week of camp with **Friendship Day**. Campers will exchange friendship bracelets with their new found friends and each group will reveal their new group name and group banner. This summer's camp theme is the Wacky Athlete so campers will be naming their group with a made up wacky athlete name.



Throughout the summer we will be involving our campers in a variety of fun healthy lifestyle, fun food and high energy activities. Supporting our efforts in this will involve the use of the **CATCH** program. Please visit [www.catchinfo.org](http://www.catchinfo.org) for more information.

# CATCH

**Coordinated Approach To Child Health**

### **Wacky Athletes Week Activities**

**July 5<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>**

On July 6&7, Mark Hair, the CEO of **12comics**, is back to help us celebrate our Wacky Athletes Week!



[www.12comics.com](http://www.12comics.com)

Mark will help each camper design and create their own Wacky Athlete. On the first day the campers will decide on the attributes of their cartoon character and sketch out their rough draft. At the conclusion of the second day Mark will have entered those attributes into his "cartoon machine" and come up with a unique cartoon character for each camper. Over the summer, Mark will apply a finishing process and prepare a comic book for each camper to receive that is a collection of all the campers' personal cartoon characters. The finished comic books will be available for distribution at our last day of camp on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Campers not in camp on this day may come in during our closing party to get their book and to party with their friends.

## Weird Science Week July 12<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>

On July 14, our campers will be taking a trip to **Marine Sciences Consortium Ocean Studies @ Sandy Hook**. [www.njmsc.org](http://www.njmsc.org). Campers will spend a half day exploring the most productive ecosystem on earth - the salt marsh. They will go seining, sieving, shell collecting and hiking in this very special environment. Please note that there will be no swimming that day so any need to pack a swimsuit.



### **SANDY HOOK TRIP REMINDERS:**

- **Campers must wear their camp T-shirts on this day (campers are given their camp T-shirts their first day at camp).**
- **This is a rain or shine trip so if rain is forecasted then pack a raincoat for your child.**
- **This is a full day trip so there will be no swimming this day so there is no need to pack a swimsuit.**
- **Pack a regular lunch and drink.**
- **Sneakers only.**
- **Bring a plastic bag for shell collection.**
- **There is a gift shop there but we're not sure we will have time to visit it. If we can we will so if you want to send your child with a small amount of spending money then that's okay. If you want to check out their merchandise ahead of time you can visit their website listed above.**

## **Shelter House Construction Update:**

We are happy to report that we will soon have an entirely refurbished Shelter House for our Camp to use at Maplecrest Park! While it is not going to be ready for the *start* of Camp, we have been told that it shouldn't be too far into summer before we will have an indoor Arts & Crafts room again, along with indoor restrooms. In the mean time we ask that everyone pack extra water bottles and we will also be bringing additional water to make sure all of our thirsty campers are well hydrated.

### **Important Information** **To Know**

At the YMCA, we believe in teaching the four core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility, and during camp we will expect them to live by them. We will be recognizing campers throughout the summer who demonstrate these qualities while at camp.

One program that we will be using is sponsored by the American Camp Association called, "Don't Laugh at Me". It is a program designed to raise children's awareness and teach social skills and compassion when dealing with conflict and diversity. It was developed by Peter Yarrow, of Peter, Paul, and Mary fame. I encourage you to support this program and inquire of your children on a regular basis how they have done with it and/or benefited by it.

To get bus schedule info go to our website, [www.smountainymca.org](http://www.smountainymca.org) and click on the Camp tab, and then click on the SOMapY tab. There you will find the camp pick up and drop off bus schedule for session I. Please read it carefully. Buses are frequently late on the first day, so bear with us as the children learn the bus routine. In addition, you will find a calendar that can easily be posted on your refrigerator to help you remember any special needs for each day.

Also at the SOMapY website, please be sure that you have read your Parent Information Guide prior to the first day of camp. **All** of your answers to logistical questions about camp are contained in it. However, if you should have a question, give us a call at (973) 762-4145.

We have found that in the past the items listed below from the Parent Information Guide are things most often overlooked. Please make note of them.

## Helpful Reminders!



- Please label with their full name all of your campers' belongings that are brought to camp.
- Bathing caps or tied back hair is required at the JCC pool for campers whose hair is below their shoulders.
- Be sure to check daily your email or camper's backpack for possible camp notes.
- Do not put medications in your camper's backpacks. Give medications directly to the bus counselor or camp director.
- If your child is to be absent from camp, please be sure to call in their absence prior to 8:30AM. Call 973-762-4145 X110 to report the absence.
- Please do not allow campers to wear sandals, Crocs, or "Heelies" sneakers (sneakers with built in roller skate wheels in the heel) to camp. They are potentially dangerous due to the wide variety of terrains at camp.
- Campers are not allowed to bring to camp any type of electronic toys like hand held video games, CD players, or iPods, and items like Yugioh or Pokemon type playing cards.
- **Lost and Found:** Items that have campers' names on them that have been found usually get them returned the same day or the next day. For items that have no name on them, what we do is after the morning and after afternoon roundups, all campers are paraded past the found items pile and encouraged to look to see if their belongings are there. Every Friday, all items not claimed are taken to the Lost

and Found box at the Program Center at the YMCA on Jefferson Ave. Additionally, items lost at the JCC pool may be in their Lost and Found box. This is because if your camper's name is not on the item, we would not be able to distinguish if a lost item is from one of our campers or if it belongs to another JCC user.

**Please contact the YMCA office and give us your email address if you receive this newsletter by post mail and would like to get it sent to you electronically.**

**We are looking forward to seeing you at camp this summer!**

Thank you for  
choosing  
**SOUTH  
MOUNTAIN  
YMCA**  
for your Child's  
Summer Camp  
experience.  
We promise your  
child will have a  
safe, fun and  
memorable  
summer!



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.