



the BUZZER



FALL 2019

WELCOME!



Camp Equinunk has been around for 100 years...100 years, wow imagine that! As the school year continues and certainly into the summer, we will celebrate Camp Equinunk's 100th Anniversary. We will tell stories from 1920, see pictures of 1920 and without a doubt talk about camp in 1920. With all this talk of 1920, how many of us actually know what 1920 was like? Compared to today, 1920 was a wild time. There were no phones, TVs, computers, among so many other everyday amenities we enjoy (and take for granted) today!

1920 was the beginning of the roaring 20's, when everyone was celebrating the end of World War 1 and experiencing a previously unprecedented time in American economic, political and technological growth. Some of the highlights of 1920 were the invention of traffic lights, the hair dryer, band aids as well as Olympic Hockey. However, my favorite 1920 event was the US Post Office officially saying that "children cannot be sent in the mail" – this coming after multiple instances.

52,560,000 minutes – 876,000 hours – 36,500 days – or 100 years. However, you look at the past century or even the next century, know that for many Camp Equinunk has always been and will continue to be the constant.

— *Eric*



Fall Foliage



On Saturday, October 5th Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge hosted over 250 people for our biennial Fall Foliage and Senior Overnight! As we say at CECBR, a good time was had by all! Fall was in the air—it was a crisp fall morning but the sun was shining as families enjoyed a day of pumpkin picking, apple cider, face painting, and of course a classic CECBR BBQ! Our special guests from Moka Origins served ethically sourced and sustainable coffee for parents—the Cold Brew coffee was a hit! A special shout out to all of our new families who joined us and felt the warmth and joy of the Equinunk and Blue Ridge community.

Everyone loved exploring the fall leaves around campus—the colors were truly amazing and very different from the bright green we are used to seeing over the summer! Campers and parents also enjoyed playing tennis, basketball, baseball, and wiffle ball while others got creative with our fall photo booth! The famous "carnival goats" were also in attendance and were quite entertaining!

Following the Fall Foliage day, over 70 of our 2019 Seniors stayed on campus for their special overnight event. The

seniors enjoyed the rest of the sunny afternoon and spent time catching up and taking pictures with friends. The evening activities included pumpkin decorating, cupcake making, and of course singing and cheering (and a highlight dance performance from Mamma Mia—the 2019 senior play!). An autumn campfire with s'mores was a perfect way to end the evening. Despite the cooler fall temperatures, it felt like we were back at camp during the summer and picked up right where we left off. The seniors are looking forward to another great summer and can't wait to be back at camp again—the countdown has begun!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Fall Foliage and The Senior Overnight. We loved experiencing the autumn with you up at camp and hope it allowed you to fall in love with camp all over again! Fall Foliage will be back in 2021!

— *Nicki*





Richie's Article: The untold story of THE CENTENNIAL OF CAMP EQUINUNK

Since most of us don't know anyone who was around in 1920, we can only rely upon Equinunk yearbooks, photographs and camp folklore to piece together what campers and counselors experienced in the early years. The four original owners and founders, Schindler, Bick, Supnick and Lehrer, all lived in Brooklyn. Prior to choosing the camp's location at the intersection of Tradition Highway and Here and Now Route 191, they also considered buying the property of what is now Camp IHC. After deliberating, they viewed Union Lake and the separate campuses more in harmony with their vision and philosophy of a brother/sister camp. As the saying goes, "The rest is history."

As most of you know, Equinunk's beginning preceded Blue Ridge by three years. Equinunk was promoted as "a camp for real boys," whatever that meant at the time. Adam Baker tells a wonderfully exciting story at the first campfire each summer describing how a powerful tornado drove through camp and blew away the tents that our first campers lived in. Shortly after, sturdy permanent bunks, equipped with lightning rods for storm protection were constructed. The first bunk was numbered 3. Bunks 1 and 2 were housed in the Freshman house, located behind the current Soph House. Many of the Freshmen were five year olds, quite common back then. They also had their own flagpole for morning and evening announcements. The Freshman even had their own mini campus, complete with a ball field, a rudimentary playground including a see-saw, and a high speed spinning apparatus known as the "vomit wheel," designed for excitement, fear and nausea.

Most of the campers and counselors came from Brooklyn and Manhattan. Since air conditioning hadn't been invented, parents were highly motivated to have their sons spend their summers in the cooler climate offered in the Pennsylvania mountains. Counselors, nurses and doctors were recruited from top east coast universities and hospitals. Equinunk modeled itself after elite colleges and adopted most of their culture. The camp doctor wore a white shirt and tie with pants while the nurses wore white uniforms and hats. The entire staff was finely groomed and attired in collared polo shirts, collegiate style. The original logo, same as today's adorned all staff uniforms.

Sports were called "athletics" and formed the core of the program. They were organized in exclusive clubs for baseball, basketball, track and field, tennis and handball—played against a wall, not the popular game we enjoy today. Most of the fields and courts were dirt and grass equipped with wooden backboards for basketball. Fifteen camp-wide boxing and wrestling matches for counselors and campers were organized weekly and were popular as they were in society.

Although there were no PA announcements on a loudspeaker system, bugle calls for reveille, activities, mess call, recall and taps were played by talented campers and counselors. You may realize that Equinunk and other camps found their roots in the American Civil War. Our scheduling, uniforms, vocabulary and culture were influenced by its military origins.

Equinunk had its own butcher shop, bakery and ice house for refrigeration. Even though the Social Hall or as it was known back then Brining Hall, was built in 1920, the first Upper Senior Game in Color War was played outdoors. Pre-game ceremonies were quite brief since there were no former chiefs to introduce.

Campers arrived at Callicoon, New York by train from Hoboken New Jersey and were transported eight miles to camp by wagons and buses.

After lunch, academic instruction was mandatory for campers. Spelling Bees and definition contests were part of a program called "intelligence tests" to ensure that campers would be ready for school in the Fall.

There were no Wayne County Tournaments back then, but there were occasional games with the few existing camps in the area.

There were no coed activities because there were no girls.

There was no official Visiting Day because parents could visit any day and even stay overnight at the "hotel" on the property. Guests ate in a separate dining room, swam in the lake at a guest dock and were pretty inconspicuous to the campers. Parents, don't get any ideas. We will let that tradition rest in the CE archives.

Parents and campers did not speak on the phone; everyone wrote letters and postage stamps cost two cents.

Camp was a little different in 1920. They had to build the traditions we now embrace and love, however, it is exactly the same as today as it is about the timelessness of youth, becoming more independent, playing outdoors, living together and making friends and building memories that last a lifetime and perhaps for the next 100 years.

— *Richie*



Here's to another 100 years!



Facility Spotlight

There is no time to spare from when the last bus of campers departs CECBR and the arrival of the winds, ice and snow of winter when it comes to off-season facility development at camp. At the core of every initiative we take on and every experience we provide are the people of Equinunk and Blue Ridge.

Before we get into sharing the projects that are already underway up at camp, I would like to introduce to you the team responsible for building and maintaining the facilities and grounds at camp. While we work with a talented and dedicated group of local contractors and suppliers throughout Wayne County and the greater NE region, it is our year-round and extended-season maintenance team whose heart and pride shine through in all that they do at camp. While the summer is spent preparing fields, cleaning buildings, removing trash, running the water and septic systems, addressing daily maintenance requests and so forth, the 'offseason' is spent shutting off water lines, raking leaves, deep cleaning every square inch of every building, bunk and field, shoveling snow, painting, sanding, staining, repairing, improving, and of course building. Led by our Caretaker Jeff White who has been with us for over 20 years, the crew consists of 7 women and men year-round with an additional 6 people during the summer. A very special part of that team are Ingrid Ott and John Bortree who have each been part of our camp family for over 55 and 40 years respectively. An amazing fact about Ingrid is that she and her husband traveled across the country on horseback from the Seattle's World's Fair in 1962 to the New York's World's Fair in 1964. The women and men of our maintenance crew are a staple in camp life to whom we have a great appreciation for.

This year our plans for campus development are as ambitious as ever. We have begun what is a two-year initiative to add air-conditioning to the CBR Mess Hall. In year one, the building will be outfitted with a new roof system, ventilation, new insulation and the installation of a new power line from our utility company that will run underground from the upper softball field into the Mess Hall. In year two the project will be completed with the installation of the duct work and compressors. In celebration of Equinunk's Centennial, the CE Social Hall, first built in 1920, will have renovations to ensure it remains strong for the next 100 years. It will also be enhanced with several great features for this summer, including an expansive addition to the building. The court floor will be resurfaced and actually widened, beautiful wood stadium bleachers will be built into the addition, the building will be rewired and outfitted with an LED lighting system, and a state of the art sound and light system will be installed to support the spectator experience as well as any indoor camp performances and special events.

As we do each year, we will also be enhancing the camp's infrastructure by expanding our underground power service to further prevent disruption due to inclement weather and installing a deep-reserve water well at Equinunk. Last year's installation of shade pavilions on our athletic fields and swimming pools were a tremendous success and we will be adding an additional shade pavilion at the CBR basketball courts. One of the greater service enhancements to camp life debuting this year, full pool, lake and shower towel service, will require a complete renovation of our laundry facility and installation of 14 new washers and dryers. This is a tremendous undertaking in terms of renovations, equipment, towels and hiring of additional staff. We could not be more excited to provide this service to our campers and staff. Throughout the year we will be posting plenty of photos to share the progress that is taking place at camp and can't wait for you to see it yourself on June 28, 2020.

— Adam

NEW CAMPER Gaga Social

Recently we hosted our first-ever New Camper Gaga Social at The Gaga Center in NYC! Over 50 campers joined us for an afternoon of gaga, pizza and socializing! It was so nice to see so many of our new campers meet each other, mingle, and play high energy games of gaga. Thanks to everyone who joined us!

Did you know that Gaga originated in Israel in the 1970s and became popular in the 2000s at schools and camps?! It is believed that gaga (not to be confused with Lady Gaga) was invented as an alternative to dodgeball. Gaga is played in an octagon-shaped ring - which we have 3 of at Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge! We were very impressed with the gaga skills of our new campers and are can't wait for them to join us at camp this summer.

— Nicki



Staff Spotlight

Introducing Jamie to CECBR



Hometown: Parkland, FL
Favorite Band: Gavin Degraw, Jonas Brothers
Hobbies: Reading, Arts & Crafts, Hiking
Favorite Movie: Harry Potter
Favorite Food: Pizza

Tell us a little about yourself:

Born and raised in sunny South Florida, I loved having summer weather all year round, enjoying the outdoors through activities like cheerleading, swimming and hanging at the beach. Fortunately, I was able to escape hot Florida summer by attending my mom's alma mater, Camp New Moon in Ontario, Canada. From camper to staff member I spent 13 memorable summers there.

Even in college, at the University of Central Florida, I still spent my summers working at camp. While others traveled and studied abroad, I never felt I was missing out on any experience because I was at my favorite place helping to build a fun environment for campers and staff.

Moving into my professional career as an Event Planner and Graphic Designer, I found myself looking for something more. I always enjoyed working with children, so the position of Operations Lead is the perfect combination of my past experiences and my personal passions.

What are you most excited about:

I am excited about being a part of a team with a common goal that I feel very strongly about:

Give campers the summer of their lives! Contributing a small part to an experience that shapes young lives is truly rewarding.

What was your favorite camp moment from last summer:

On the first day of camp, during bus arrivals when the campers were seeing their friends for the first time in months (or maybe longer). I could feel the excitement and pure happiness in the air and that was when I first realized I was in a very special place.

What is your favorite camp quote:

"As things change, things change." There are a million moving parts happening each day at camp and being flexible and adaptable is a huge part to having success in camping.

What is your favorite camp meal:

Greek Night! You can't beat the yummy combination of chicken, rice, pita and tzatziki.

What is your favorite camp activity:

The water park; it's challenging, fun and I love being outside and swimming in the lake.

EQUINUNK HOCKEY

EQUINUNK HOCKEY... EQUINUNK HOCKEY... EQUINUNK HOCKEY... One of the more well-known chants in recent Equinunk history pays homage to the Equinunk campers who battle it out in the E-rena. Whether it be an inter-camp game, EHL game, or the Equinunk Cup, Camp Equinunk has built up quite the reputation for playing some quality hockey.

Camp Equinunk has seen its fair share of high level athletes come to camp throughout its 100-year history, but perhaps the most accomplished Equinunk athlete is New York Ranger, Adam Fox. The Jericho native was a two-time All-American athlete at Harvard before leaving for the NHL following his Junior year. After being drafted 66th overall in 2016, Fox's signing rights were acquired by the Carolina Hurricanes before being traded to the New York Rangers back in April.

Following an impressive preseason where he was named the top rookie at training camp, Fox made his New York Rangers and Madison Square Garden debut on October 3rd against the Winnipeg Jets.

Although he isn't wearing his "traditional red Equinunk", the entire EBR Family wishes Adam Fox nothing but the best as he dons the New York Ranger red and blue sweater.

— Eric



CECBR

WINTER REUNION

January 11, 2020

LIFE the Place to Be
2 Lawrence St.
Ardsley, NY 10502

LOWER CAMP:
10:30am - 1:00pm
UPPER CAMP:
11:00am - 1:00pm

