CAMPER MAGAZINE

2018 8p





p'ICAD P'DIDA WELCOME TO CAMP RAMAH IN NEW ENGLANDS

Dear parents and campers:

Welcome to Camp Ramah in New England!

We are thrilled to have your family joining our Ramah family. At Camp Ramah, we pride ourselves on providing great camper care, exciting programming that teaches skills and promotes self-esteem, and a Jewish environment that is fun and nurturing.

At Ramah, everyone has an opportunity to grow, to try new things, and to discover their passions and talents. As you embark on your Ramah journey, our counselors will help you get to know your fellow campers and make friendships that will last a lifetime.



We have been planning all year for an amazing *kayitz* (summer) 2018. We're so excited that camp is, at last, only weeks away! We can't wait to share with all of our *hanichim* (campers) all the great things we have been working on during this off-season. It is going to be a fantastic summer.

Enjoy reading this magazine, get psyched for camp, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

L'hitraot B'Palmer (see you soon, in Palmer),

Rabbi Ed Gelb

Director

edg@campramahne.org

Joshua M. Edelglass Assistant Director joshe@campramahne.org

Dear parents:

I am looking forward to welcoming your children to camp in just a few short weeks!

In addition to all of our amazing *madrichim* (counselors) and a *Rosh Edah* (division head), each *edah* (age group) at camp has a *yoetzet* (parent liaison). This experienced adult staff-member will work together with the staff of the *edah* to make sure each and every one of our *hanichim* (campers) is having a wonderful experience. The *yoetzet* and the *edah* staff will keep a close eye on each *hanich* (camper) to ensure a smooth



transition to camp. (Take a look at our "Who Will be Supervising Your Child?" chart on page 8!)

Before your child's arrival at camp, you will be e-mailed the name of his or her *yoetzet*, along with your *yoetzet*'s cell phone number. Please call that number if you have any questions or concerns while your child is with us at camp. Additionally, every family of a new camper will receive a call from the *yoetzet* in the first week to let you know how your child is settling in. You should expect the call sometime between Wednesday evening and Friday afternoon before *Shabbat*. Please feel free to call your child's *yoetzet* at any point during the summer if you have questions, concerns or you just want to check in. (Please remember that our *yoetzot* do not use their phones on *Shabbat*.)

I have enjoyed the opportunity to welcome each one of you over the phone and I appreciate all that you have shared about your children in preparation for their summer. I am looking forward to seeing them at camp as they become part of the Ramah New England community! Please don't hesitate to be in touch and know we're so glad you chose Ramah.

Talya Kalender

Talya Kalender Director of Camper Care talyak@campramahne.org





There are many ways for parents to stay up-to-date on all the fun your child is having while at camp!

days are called *Yemei Doar*, mail days!) Our *yoetzot* check each envelope before it goes in the mail, to make certain that every child has written home. (Please note that once the letters leave our hands, we cannot control the speed with which letters are delivered by the USPS. Sometimes letters can take a while to reach their destination, so we ask parents to please be patient.)

on our website: wwww.campramahne.org five days a week throughout the summer. (We don't post on Shabbat, and our photographer has one day off per week.) The password to access the galleries is Summer2018. (The links to our photo-galleries and blog are found on our home-page. Scroll down beneath the main video, under the words "elevate your summer," to see the "quick links" for current families. The direct link to our photo galleries is: https://campramahne.smugmug.com.) We will post an assortment of galleries each day, highlighting different edot and different programs around camp. We do not promise a photo of every child every day, but every week we strive to have a robust selection of photos of all edot and as many camp activities as possible!

Senior camp staff-members write regular updates on our blog: www.Ramahblog.org. This is a great resource to read about camp *peulot* (programs), special events, reflections from our *tzevet* (staff) and lots more. We update the blog multiple times every *yom ragil* (regular day) at camp.

our private Facebook page. We encourage parents to "friend" our Facebook page, which can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/RamahPalmer, to be a part of this on-line community. For any parent who is not on Facebook, feel free to contact our registrar, Marggi, to obtain a generic "Ramah Parents" log-in.

Two-to-four times a week we will share (via e-mail, our blog, and Facebook) an exciting 2 minute video spotlighting different areas of our program, so that you can get a peek into the amazing fun our campers have been having at camp! We hope these will give parents a great taste of the camp experience that your child(ren) are enjoying!

MESKLY UPDATE E-MALES Once a week we will send an update e-mail to all camp families. This e-mail will contain a brief letter from Rabbi Gelb, program highlights from around camp, and other important information for parents.

HOW TO E-MAIL YOUR GHILDS

You can e-mail your child through your online CampMinder account. Log-in to your CampMinder account and click the "email" link towards the bottom of the page. Each parent who has a CampMinder login e-mail may send 5 free e-mails to each child per week. Further instructions will be e-mailed to you before the start of the camp season.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULES

7:15	ามทั่ง Kimah (Wake Up!)
8:00	ארומת (Breakfast)
8:45	John Tefilot (Prayers)
9:45 - 10:35	lc an Chug Aleph (Elective A)
	(Basketball, Boating, Ceramics, Digital Photography, Flag Football, Krav Maga (Israeli self-defense), Outdoor Cooking, Pinterest,
	Print-making)
10:45 - 11:35	31Mf Limud (Informal Jewish Education)
11:45 - 12:35	Pelc Agam (Swimming)
12:45	p"วล3 Jาทาโต Aruchat Tzohorayim (Lunch)
1:30	จทบฟ Menucha (Rest time)
2:30 - 3:20	a Un Chug Bet (Elective B)
	(Archery, Cooking, Jewelry, Silk-painting, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Ropes/Adventure Course, Woodworking, Zumba)
3:30 - 4:20	Elective C)
	(A Cappella, Comics, Dance, Drama, Ga-ga, Hockey, Magic Cards, Origami, Sharpie Art, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball)
4:30 - 5:20	Nikayon (Clean up time)
5:30 - 6:20	שרות Bechirot (Free choice period in which campers can sample different activities around camp each day)
6:30	ארוחרו ארב Johnson Aruchat Erev (Dinner)
7:30	ลาช ภิศิชอ Peulat Erev (Evening Activity)
8:30	จะไวล Harga'ah Process (Night Time Routine)
9:00	ลเด็ก ราง Layla Tov! (Good Night!)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS! EXCITING EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS SUMMER AT CAMP!

Camp Ramah in New England is chock-full of AWESOME things happening every single day! Some things are traditions that have been happening at camp for many summers, while other programs are brand new just for this year! Whatever it is, camp programs ensure that you'll NEVER be bored!

Boker Tzrif – Spend a morning with your *tzrif* (bunk), going to incredible activities you would never get to do on a normal day of camp, like tie-dye and candy-sushi making, and visit some of our regular camp favorites like cooking, ropes, and the water trampoline! You'll get to decide what you want to do along with the rest of your *tzrif* (bunk)! (Boker Tzrif is run once each four-week session.)

Closing Banquet – Each four-week session ends with a closing banquet, and an opportunity for all of us to celebrate our great summer experiences. You never know what the banquet theme will be – it could be a huge outdoor carnival or an elaborate banquet and gameshow.

Weekly Barbeques – Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie-burgers, corn, watermelon, and chips. The weekly BBQ is a highly anticipated dinner.

Six Flags – A highlight of the summer is always the day we take the camp to Six Flags New England! Enjoy the best roller coasters and water slides with all of your friends! Don't like going on rides? No problem! There are tons of fun games to play, too! (*Tzad Aleph* goes to Six Flags once each four-week session. *Tzad Bet* goes once during the first session.)

Yom Sport (Color War) – Run by our oldest campers (*Nivonim*), *Yom Sport* is a day where the entire camp is split up into four teams – *Adom* (red), *Kachol* (blue), *Yarok* (green), and *Lavan* (white). You'll compete in all sorts of sports and a team song and dance performance at closing ceremonies, but the most important part of the day is your team *ruach* (spirit)! And the best part is, the day is entirely a secret, so you'll never know when it's coming! Every year the *Nivonimers* cook up a new and inventive way to "break-out" *Yom Sport* to announce the start of the event to the rest of camp...

The "It's A Good Life" *Chug* – For twenty years, this has been a special *chug* (elective activity) option offered ONLY to *edat ha-Shoafim* (campers entering 7th grade). This *chug* is not run during the regular *chug p'rakim* (periods) of the day – each meeting of the *chug* is a surprise. Within the first 36 hours of arriving at camp, *Shoafimers* will learn more about this top-secret *chug*: how to join and what happens next. We are not at liberty to disclose any additional information about the "It's a Good Life" *Chug* at this time, only to say that this *chug* is reserved for the most silly, fun-loving, good-natured *Shoafimers* out there.

Peulat Tzrif (bunk activity) – Several times a week, your *madrichim* (counselors) will plan something special just for you and your *tzrif* (bunk). You never know what's in store, but it promises to be a blast!

Yemei Meyuchad (special days) – Approximately once a week, we'll cancel our regular schedule and instead run a Yom Meyuchad – a special theme day planned by your madrichim (counselors)! You never know what activities or themes they'll come up with, like Yom Disney, Yom Pirates, Yom Five Senses, Yom Back To The Future, Yom Kibush Tzad Bet (Conquering B-Side), and more. The sky is the limit!

Shabbat Shira (singing) – Shabbat at camp is considered by most Ramahniks to be their favorite day of the week, and it's highlighted by our Shabbat shira (song session) led by our Nivonimers (oldest campers). Get ready to learn and sing some new Hebrew songs at the top of your lungs, bang on the tables, and have a great time in the Chadar Ochel (dining hall).

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OPENING DAY PROGEDURES

For full-summer, first and second session, and mini *aleph* and mini *gimmel hanichim* (campers) arriving on June 26 and July 25, the gates will open at 11:00 a.m. and drop off will end by 1:00. Mini *bet* and *daled hanichim*, arriving on July 10 and August 7, will drop off between 11 a.m. and noon.

It is a long-standing tradition for those who drop their children off at camp to unpack and settle their children into their *tzrifim* (bunks). For those of you who do not drop your *hanichim* off at camp, don't worry, our *tzevet* (staff) will help with this process.

Once parents who have dropped their *hanichim* off have finished the unpacking process and had a chance to visit the health center, office, and/or meet with senior *tzevet* (staff), we will ask them to say their goodbyes, depart and we will begin *edah* (age unit) programming. Some *hanichim* feel anxiety about when their parents will leave. We want to make this transition smooth and clear. Parents will say goodbye to their children at the *tzrif* (bunk) where *tzevet* members (including *yoetzot*) will be available to help and then integrate the camper into activities with their *edah*. Senior staff (our Director, Assistant Director, and Director of Camper Care) will also be available to greet you and answer any questions during drop off time.

We expect the vast majority of all *hanichim* (campers) arriving by plane to be at camp by 1:30. They will be greeted by their *madrichim* (counselors) and will have time to drop their belongings off at their *tzrifim*. Luggage sent to camp on our MD, CT or MA luggage trucks will already be waiting in their *tzrifim* for the *hanichim* when they arrive from the airport.

At 2:00, camp will kick off with a full-camp sit-down lunch in our *chadar ochel* (dining hall). After lunch, *hanichim* will participate in a *Tzohoryim Tzrif* (afternoon of programming by bunk), that will allow us to have ice-breakers and other fun *peulot* (activities) and also to do other first day things like *agam* testing (waterfront evaluation). We want to get the kids active and involved from the get go!

At 5:30, the *hanichim* will go back to their *tzrifim* where any *hanichim* who have yet to unpack will be able to do so (with help from their *madrichim*), with additional activities for those who have already settled in.

At 6:00, we will gather for a *Tekes Peticha* (opening ceremony) as a whole camp to welcome everyone into the community. It should be a *ruach* filled and fun event. After that, the *Tzad Aleph* campers will head to *aruchat erev* (dinner) while the *Tzad Bet* campers will attend a short orientation on our "Roo" (Sports team) program.

After dinner, each *edah* will have their opening *peulat erev* (evening activity) followed by *harga'ah* (bed-time activity in the *tzrif*). After such an active and fun day, we will help the *hanichim* get comfortable for a good night's sleep as they anticipate the start of a great *kayitz* (summer)!

HANHALLAH 2018: MEET OUR RASHEL EDOTS



Rosh Kochavim (Kochavim Aleph and Kochavim Bet) Marcia Glickman — I am so excited to be Rosh Kochavim! This will be my sixteenth kayitz (summer) at Ramah. In the past, I have been Rosh Gan, Rosh Mumchim (Head of Specialists), Rosh Tarbut Yisraelit (Head of our Experiential Israel Education Program), Rosh Drama and Communications Director. My family started coming to camp when our oldest daughter was in Ilanot and our three younger children were in Gan. This kayitz our youngest son will be on tzevet (staff) for the first time and two of his older sisters will be working at camp as well. Ramah is the most magical place in the world and I can't wait to give you your first taste!



Rosh Kochavim (Kochavim Gimel and Kochavim Daled) Elad Dorenbust — Hi! I'm really excited to be your Rosh Edah! I'm a third year electrical engineering student in Israel and this kayitz (summer) will be my fourth kayitz at camp. I have been a madrich (counselor) in Kochavim, Ilanot and Solelim, and Rosh Adat Ha-Solelim! Most of the time you will find me traveling around the world or on a basketball court or just fixing a friend's computer. I've missed the mesmerizing agam (lake) and the Havdalah we do at camp. I'm SO excited to come back to camp and to meet you all! See you there!



Rosh Ilanot: Andy Weissfeld – Hello there! I am very excited to serve as your Rosh Edah! This is my third summer on Hanhallah (senior staff) at Camp Ramah New England and my second summer as Rosh Ilanot. I am originally from Pittsburgh, PA and currently live in Bethesda, MD. I graduated from the University of Maryland last year and just finished a year of learning and working as the Ner Tamid Fellow at Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase, MD. This fall, I will start Rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary. I enjoy biking, watching baseball, and I am an avid Star Wars fan.



Rosh Solelim: Ianne Sherry – Hi! My name is Ianne Sherry and I am so excited to be Rosh Solelim this kayitz (summer)! I am a rising senior at Brandeis University studying Education and Economics. This semester I am studying at Hebrew University as a Nachshon Project fellow. This will be my eleventh summer at Ramah Palmer and I can't wait to start *kayitz* 2018!



Rosh Shoafim: Emma Neusner – Shalom Shoafim! I am so excited to be your Rosh Edah this kayitz! This will be my fourteenth summer at camp, and I was Rosh Kochavim last summer. I am from Chevy Chase, Maryland and just graduated from Virginia Tech (go hokies!), where I majored in psychology. Next year, I will work full time with Camp Ramah in New England as the staff hiring and programming coordinator. I love coffee and dancing, and I'm so excited to have a great kayitz with you all!!





This chart is a simplified version of our overlapping web of supervision at camp. Our *madrichim* (counselors) have many layers of veteran staff-members responsible for their training and supervision. Our *madrichim* participate in daily training sessions, run by Rabbi Gelb and Josh Edelglass, that focus on the care that they provide to their *hanichim* (campers.)

You can let your child know that there will always be someone he or she can turn to if something is bothering him or her.

Our parents are our partners. We welcome you to be in touch with us if you have any reason to be concerned over the course of the summer. We may turn to you for helpful strategies if your child is experiencing challenges at camp.



BEFORE YOUR CHILD GOES TO CAMPS

- * Encourage as many sleepovers at friends' homes as possible. (Group sleepovers are even better.)
- * Discuss strategies with your child if he/she has difficulty falling asleep (i.e. reading, drawing).
- * You may want to pack a letter in your child's bag for him/her to open when he/she arrives at camp.
- * Send a letter to camp a couple of days before your child departs, so it will be there waiting for him/her to open soon after he/she arrives at camp.
- * Send your child to camp with stationery, stamps, and pre-written address labels for you and for anyone else he/she might want to write to while at camp.
- * If your child does not already make his/her own bed on a daily basis, he/she will at camp, so you might want to start getting him/her in the habit now.
- * Please read the 2018 Family Handbook carefully and contact us with any questions.

WHAT TO DO WHILE YOUR CHILD IS AWAY AT CAMPS

- * Write letters frequently, keeping them light and upbeat.
- * Be matter-of-fact in your letters/e-mails about your day. Kids like to know what you are doing but not that you are having too much fun. Add as much humor as you can. Try not to emphasize how much you miss them.

IMPORTANT TIPS TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDS

- * Help your child set realistic expectations. Let your child know that when they are at home, or in school, not every day is perfect. Likewise, not every day at camp is perfect but overall he/she will have a good time.
- * Send your child with something that allows him/her to feel safe and familiar at night. (Ex. A blanket, stuffed animal, or other item.)
- * If your child is feeling anxious about going off to camp, you can talk about other times that he/she experienced anxiety and ended up getting through the situation just fine.
- * Please don't send your child with food, a cellphone, or other items that are not allowed at camp. (Please consult page 10 of the 2018 Family Handbook to find a list of items not allowed at camp, as well as a list of items that we recommend kids leave at home.) Food, electronic devices that can access the internet, and other forbidden items will be confiscated, and then your child will be stuck in a situation of having to start camp by having a counselor take something away from him/her. We would prefer to start off camp on a more positive note!

Questions about your bill? Contact Ken Milgram, *Finance Associate*: x107 or Kmilgram@campramahne.org. Questions about camp forms, or your child's transportation to/from camp? Contact Marggi Shechanah, *Registrar/Office Manager*, at x106 or Marggi@campramahne.org.

Questions about the care that your child will receive while at camp? Contact Talya Kalender, *Director of Camper Care*, at x104 or <u>TalyaK@campramahne.org</u>. **Tikvah families**, please contact Bonnie Schwartz, *Tikvah Director*, at <u>BonnieS@campramahne.org</u>.



Camp provides a wonderful opportunity for children to gain independence. Being away from home, particularly for the first time, can be both exciting and, sometimes, a little anxiety provoking. Homesickness is a normal, predictable response to being away from home and is not limited to younger or first time campers. Homesickness typically means that there are lots of things about home that campers love and miss. That being said, however, homesickness can be uncomfortable and parents should know that there are ways to prepare their campers for camp that can reduce the chance that they will feel homesick.

MANAGING AND MINIMIZING HOMESIGKNESSS

- 1. Talk with your child about the upcoming time apart from you. Sometimes parents think that if they talk about homesickness, it will cause their child to feel homesick. Actually, the opposite is true. Talking a little bit about missing home and being prepared for it can help your child feel better. You can honestly tell your child that almost everyone misses something from home when they are away, and the good news is that there are lots of things that they can do if they feel bothered by homesickness.
- 2. Prepare your child by discussing strategies to use should he or she feel homesick. Encourage your child to talk to their counselors, friends, or adults in camp to help feel better. Most importantly, specifically encourage your child to make new friends and participate in activities to both to help distract them from their homesick feelings and because having fun will help them feel better.
- 3. Although it may be tempting, avoid making a "pick-up deal." Sometimes parents feel that if they promise, "if you don't like it, I'll come and pick you up" they are showing concern for their child. This type of bargain actually increases the likelihood that the child will feel homesick. It also gives the child the impression that the parent has little confidence in the child's ability to cope and the parent must come to rescue him/her.
- 4. Work together with your child to learn about camp. Use the website to look at pictures of the different activities at camp, and read our blogs from last summer to learn about about the adventures he/she can look forward to. Being familiar with camp and our programs will help your camper feel more comfortable when he/she arrives.
- 5. Keep it positive! Avoid expressing whatever anxieties or ambivalent feelings you may have about your child's time away from home.
- 6. Help your child keep in touch and still feel connected to you by providing him/her with paper, envelopes, stamps and addresses, or better yet, address labels!

Adapted by Susan Gold, Ramah Yoetzet, from Thurber CA, Walton EA. Preventing and treating homesickness. Child and Adolescent Psy Clin of North America 2007, 843-858.



Do I pack my child's favorite t-shirt? What if it gets lost? Should I send up enough pairs of socks for one per day or more? What's the best way to label clothing? These may be a few of the questions going through your mind as you begin the packing process. Below are a few tips offered by veteran camp parents who have perfected the art of packing for camp. And yes, it is most certainly an art!

page with your child doesn't want to leave home without. More importantly, this helps familiarize your child with what is in his/her luggage so that, when he/she gets to camp and begins to unpack, it's easy for him/her to pull out his/her bedding to make his/her bed and to locate pajamas and whatever else he/she may need.

cubby or shelf could easily become a black hole of clothing where it could be challenging to find a pair of clean socks, you may want to consider sending up certain items like socks and underwear in mesh laundry bags.

PAGK A WATERPROOF BASKET OR BAG FOR YOUR GHILD'S TOTLETRIES. Once at camp, your child's *madrich* (counselor) will help him/her to find a place for this basket of his/her toiletries (usually on a shelf in the bathroom). This will be used daily to help keep your child organized.

everything that you send with your child to camp (including the clothing they wear on the bus). For your convenience, there is a link in your Campminder account to order self-sticking, waterproof labels through Oliver's labels. If you are using a Sharpie, please use a Sharpie Rub-a-Dub Laundry Marker, which doesn't bleed like a regular Sharpie marker. Please label with your child's first and last name, as there might be many campers at camp with your child's initials! Please take the time to label everything you are sending up to camp, including watter bottles, flashlights, sports equipment, and even shoes. Labels make bunk clean-up happen more smoothly and allow us to return items found around camp.

your child to have so much fun at camp that the last thing on his/her mind is going to be keeping track of socks, underwear, nice shirts, etc. Our *madrichim* (counselors) are trained to help with this, but we advise campers not to bring anything to camp that will result in their being heartbroken if it is lost or damaged.

PLEASE DON'T PACK ANY ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ALLOWED AT CAMP, LIKE FOOD, GELLPHONES, OR ANY DEVICES THAT CAN AGGESS THE INTERNEY. Please see "What To Pack" on pg. 7 of the 2018 Family Handbook, and "What To Leave At Home" on pg. 10.

A COMPLETE PACKING LIST CAN BE FOUND IN THE 2018 FAMILY HANDBOOK ON PAGES 45-48.

HEBREW WORDS COMMONLY USED AT CAMPS

per Service Agam – Lake

ארוחות Aruchat Boker – Breakfast

p"วจ3 JาทาโC Aruchat Tzohorayim – Lunch

Aruchat Erev – Dinner

PJA Banim – Boys

JUA Banot – Girls

Birkat Hamazon – The prayer after a meal

Chadar Ochel – Dining Hall

Un Chug – Elective activity

ี 578 Edah – Division (grade-level)

กระวา Harga'ah – Going-to-bed activity

%p Kayitz – Summer

กฬ**p** Kimah – Wake-up

Menucha – Rest time

Mirpa'ah – Health Center (nicknamed the Marp)

J7007M Mirpeset – Porch

Nikayon – Clean-up time

ลาง ภูฬิงอ Peulat Erev – Evening activity

Pollat Tzrif – Bunk activity

กรช **ปรา** Rosh Edah – Division Head

Ruach – Spirit/energy

จา**ทาง** Schiyah – Swimming

ກາ**ຄວາ** Tefilot – Prayers

Tzrif – Bunk

EDAH NAMES:

Ic 33 Tzad Aleph (A-Side)

Kochavim – current 2nd & 3rd graders

(rising 3rd & 4th graders)

Jufic Ilanot – current 3rd & 4th graders

(rising 4th & 5th graders)

Solelim – current 5th graders (rising 6th graders)

Shoafim – current 6th graders (rising 7th graders)

33 Tzad Bet (B-Side)

Magshimim – current 7th graders (rising 8th graders)

Bogrim – current 8th graders (rising 9th graders)

Machon − current 9th graders (rising 10th graders)

Nivonim – current 10th graders (rising 11th graders)

จาวก *Tikvah* (campers with disabilities)

Amitzim – multi-grade camper program

จาวไว Tochnit Avodah – our vocational training program

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

WE35 7758 www.campramahne.org

Blocs www.ramahblog.org

https://campramahne.smugmug.com

(password for photos: Summer2018)

https://www.facebook.com/RamahPalmer

SUMMER OFFIGE PHONES 413-283-9771



L'HITRAOT B'PALMERE

WE'LL SEE YOU SOON AT CAMPI

