

Camaraderie

Le communiqué des Camarades de Canoe Island French Camp

janvier 2015

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTORS: CAMPS BUILD SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE

At the December conference of the Western Association of Independent Camps (WAIC) we were fortunate to hear Steve Baskin speak about the crucial role that camps play in helping prepare children for personal and professional success. Steve is a Texas camp owner, American Camping Association board officer, and an honor graduate from Davidson College and the Harvard Business School, so he has good credentials to discuss how to create experiences for children that will lead to their success in life.

He is an advocate of the findings of The Partnership for 21st Century Skills led by representatives from education and business, including Apple, Ford, Crayola and Legos. Their website states: "Learning and innovation skills increasingly are being recognized as the skills that separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not." These skills include creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. "College and high school graduates are entering the workforce with a deficit of skills", said Baskin. "I can think of (no other place) that is more immersive and intentional for creating these skills (than camps)." He said that, if these skills were strong in graduates, "3.5 million jobs could be filled immediately." But these skills take practice, and interpersonal skills are not found via technology. Indeed, among the skills that The Partnership for 21st Century Skills feel are important for success, technology skills are not in the top 10.



With the average teenager spending 53 hours a week "enveloped in their own cocoons of technology" (11 of these hours texting), Baskin said there is little time for them to practice interpersonal face-to-face skills such as empathy and the ability to read others' body language. "That is what we do (at camp). We unplug and are with other people," he said.



Camps are ideally positioned to help children practice collaboration, communication and creative problem solving through facilitated free play. They give children safe ways to independently challenge themselves physically and mentally, and to learn the joys of succeeding and the equally important lesson about learning from their own failures. Campers have positive, caring adult role models to interact with and learn from. Camps can help instill curiosity and a love of learning as well as the interpersonal virtues of kindness, gratitude, and the capacity to love.

Perhaps most importantly camps are a perfect setting for children to learn how to develop strong and lasting friendships that can strengthen and enhance their entire lives. We hope you will share with other families the reasons why you send your children to camp and the benefits they have received – not the archery or French lessons, but the ability to become confident and successful human beings. We encourage you to check out Steve Baskin's TED talk and The Partnership for 21st Century Skills website for more information.

We have included information about our programs; if you have registered for camp already please pass the brochure on to someone who might be interested in Canoe Island French Camp or take it your school. If you would like more information about our programs, fees, staff, facility or travel to Canoe Island, please visit our website or don't hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is on the last page.

Meillures voueux pour la nouvelle année,
Joseph & Connie Jones

SECOND GENERATION COUNSELORS ON CANOE ISLAND

Canoe Island French Camp had the benefit of second generation counselors this past year: Perrine Torcal and Jehan Chevignard both had parents at Canoe Island French Camp in the 1980s. Perrine and her mother Dominique, who live near Aix-en-Provence, shared with us some of their *souvenirs* of Canoe Island and the United States.

"I still remember my arriving to Canoe, the ferry from Anacortes, the beauty and splendor of the San Juan Islands. It was the most beautiful landscape I had ever seen so far!" she said. Without the internet or friends who had traveled to the US, Dominique knew little about the country. "I still remember my first impression when I arrived at JFK airport. So scary, impressive, **AMAZING, AWESOME!!!** My first words: it's huge! Cars, buildings, roads....not what I expected," said Dominique. She found out about Canoe Island from her brother Jérôme Lucas who was a counselor in 1985 and 1986. She and her brother Christophe Guguen both came to Canoe Island in 1987 and she returned in 1988.

Perrine and Dominique found that camp is still much the same as it was in the 1980s. "I know the tipi and pool decks are really recent, but a part from the installations, the sense of community and all the good moments we both spent are still the same," Perrine said. "The spirit of Canoe is still the same and that's a good thing," said Dominique.



Dominique worked at camp when Gus the Bus took campers and counselors on the ferry to Victoria BC. (Gus is now retired to a shady forest glen filled with campers' and counselors' names and dates at camp.) One thing that struck them both: the friendliness of the American people. "I did not expect American people to be so kind, generous and polite in every situation possible. People on Canoe are the most welcoming people I've ever known," said Perrine. Although Perrine returned to university at the end of camp, her mother had an American adventure with her brother, driving from Seattle to Los Angeles, teaching French in Iowa, and traveling from Chicago to Miami by Greyhound bus and on to the Bahamas. "Needless to say, I experienced many different cultures through all those places. But there's one thing that keeps coming to my mind when I think about it: American people's kindness."

Before she arrived Perrine doubted that some of the things her mother told her would be fun. "I thought you had to be crazy to sing three national anthems every morning, that I wouldn't like it so much, the way she did ... safe to say this is not what happened!" said Perrine.

"Being a camp counselor at Canoe was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had, said Dominique, "and I'm glad Perrine felt the same way so many years later. It means that Dr. Austin's wish and dream is preserved even with another board of directors that is doing a great job. No wonder Canoe is still successful!"

COIN PAR COIN

by Amaury Coin

La nouvelle année en France



Americans send out Christmas or holiday cards every December, but in France, the tradition is to write and send *cartes de vœux* to their relatives and friends in January. One is expected to wish a *bonne année* when meeting relatives, friends and colleagues you see for the first time in the new year, and, according to tradition, you are supposed to do so until the end of January. The French will often say *bonne année et bonne santé*, and it is not rare to also hear *bonne année et bonne santé, plein de sous dans le porte-monnaie* (literal translation: "Happy New Year and good health, tons of money in the wallet").

In January, the French share a *galette des rois*, a sort of flat cake, that you can find anywhere in the country until the end of the month to celebrate the Epiphany, January 6, the day that the wise men were to have arrived at the Christ child's manger. People will then *tirer les rois*, and everyone is secretly hoping to be the lucky one who will find the *fève* in their piece of cake! The one who gets the *fève* becomes the *reine* or the *roi* of day. And you, will you be the new queen or king this year?

Bonne année; heureuse année = Happy New Year, *Meilleurs vœux* = Best wishes, *Carte de vœux* = New Year card, *Galette des rois* = King's cake, *Tirer les rois* = To share a king cake (literal translation: to draw the kings), *Fève* = broad bean, or small porcelain figure, *Reine* = queen, *Roi* = king

MERCI A NOS BENEVOLES ET DONATEURS

In 2014, our camper families and friends supported Canoe Island French Camp in many ways. They attended our adult events such as Yoga Benefit Weekend, they registered at higher tuition levels, and they gave generously. Donors are listed from donations received through December 15. If you donated after that time, we thank you and will honor you in the January 2016 newsletter.

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Gloria Van Dusen & Stephan Kleine



CALENDRIER 2015

FRENCH CAMP

SESSION 1	LA REVOLUTION FRANÇAISE	AGES 9-16	JUNE 21-JULY 2
SESSION 2	LES VOYAGEURS	AGES 10-16	JULY 5-23
SESSION 3	LE MONDE FRANCOPHONE	AGES 10-16	JULY 26-AUGUST 13
SESSION 4	LES CHEVALIERS	AGES 9-16	AUGUST 16-27

FAMILY AND ADULT EVENTS

SPRING WORK PARTY	ALL AGES	MAY 1-3
ADULT YOGA BENEFIT WEEKEND	ADULTS	MAY 15-17
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKENED FAMILY CAMP	ALL AGES	MAY 22-25
OPEN HOUSE	ALL AGES	JUNE 20
LABOR DAY WEEKEND FAMILY CAMP	ALL AGES	SEPTEMBER 4-7

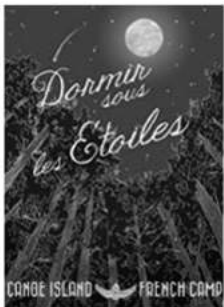


2014-2016 BATHROOM/LAUNDRY REMODEL PROJECT APPEAL

CIFC has embarked on a two-year project of remodeling the camp's main restroom and shower facilities, as well as the laundry room. When completed this will provide us with modern energy- and water-efficient rooms that are much more attractive and will better accommodate the needs of the campers, schools, and families we serve. The remodel will provide individual showers, better floor and sink counter drainage, a family/ADA restroom/shower room, and improved laundry room.

We are looking to YOU, our CIFC friends and supporters to help us raise \$65,000 over the next 18 months to complete these projects by May 2016. We hope you will consider a larger than usual donation to Canoe Island French Camp that will help us to continue to make improvements to the facility that reflect the camp's commitment to overall program quality and natural resource conservation.

You can also donate to our Scholarship Fund, which allows us provide financial aid to campers who might not otherwise be able to afford to come to camp. Please consider donating to both funds. To learn more about our Thank You Gifts, pictured below, or to make a donation, please visit our website, www.CanoeIsland.org.



Contact Us!

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