

Radius

June 2008

Issue 38

A newsletter for Camphill Special School families

“Receive the children with reverence, educate them with love, send them forth in freedom” - Rudolf Steiner

Monthly Musings

By Ruth Sill, mother of 12th Grader Danny

Transplanting...transitions...transformations.

Springtime...gardens...dark gray and brown landscapes transformed into symphonies of color, texture and aroma. Working in the garden, being part of the transformation,



Danny at the Challenger Fishing Derby (see page 3 for more on the Derby)

enjoying the process with all of your senses brings feelings of humbleness and awe. How beautiful is a mature garden where each variety finds its place, not minding that it is not just like its neighbor. Each

growing plant is busy at its own task, reaching heavenward, bending in the breezes, spreading branch and leaf, offering bloom and fruit as gifts to no one in particular.

Danny, my twelfth grader, will graduate in just a few weeks. I think about how small and delicate he was when he first came to Beaver Run. He needed lots of light and nurturing, protection and the guidance of stakes and fences. He has been transplanted a few times, needing some extra care as he made the needed adjustments. He is ready to be transplanted again, to Beaver Farm where I know he will gain strength of mind, body, and soul in a new space where he has room to thrive.

I look at him now and see a mature thriving being, ready to blossom and produce fruit. He stands tall and unafraid, not at all disturbed by the small child's curiosity that plucks each fresh flower as soon as it unfolds. He is not destroyed by passing storms that might bend him over or even break a branch or two. He is strong and proud, finding meaning and purpose in each season, his roots deep in the soil. He is learning to wrap tendrils around that which is trustworthy, climbing higher and wider than ever. He is valuable, he is

JUNE AND JULY 2008

Wed. June 4	7:00 pm	12th Grade Class Project Presentations
Fri. June 6	5:45 pm	High School Prom
Wed. June 11	1:30 pm	Parents Group meeting (Schoolhouse kitchen)
Sat. June 14		Flag Day
Sun. June 15		Father's Day
Fri. June 20		Last Day of Classes
Fri. June 20	4:00 pm	12th Grade Play performance for Parents
Fri. June 20	7:00 pm	12th Grade Commencement
Sat. June 21		Summer begins
Sat. June 28		Summer Program begins
Fri. July 4		Independence Day - Office and Maintenance closed
Sat. July 19		Last day of The Transition Program
Sat. July 26		Last day of Summer Program

As always, if you would like to participate in any event, please contact your child's houseparent or teacher.

loved and accepted for the amazing life that he is. He is eager to be productive, to contribute to the good of others.

I so appreciate the gardeners who gently made a space for him with the seedlings, patting down the soil around his fragile roots. Some watered, some created protection from storms and predators. Thanks to all of you who have staked up the branches and pruned the stray shoots. Thanks to each of you who nurture and cultivate the lives of our children with your wisdom, your compassion and your commitment. What an exquisite garden...ever changing...with your diligent tending it becomes more beautiful with each passing year.

New Grandson

Admissions Office Program Coordinator Margo Ketchum welcomed her third grandson, Miles on March 21st. Miles is the first child for Margo's son Andrei Dziedzic and his partner Melissa Staudinger.



Congratulations to Margo and her family on your adorable new addition!

Margo cradling Miles wrapped in the blanket she knitted for him

Welcome Daniel!

Fourteen year old Daniel is new to Maureen's 7th grade class and Trillium. He is from Lebanon, Pennsylvania and has a twin brother named Matthew.



Parsifal Pagaent

By Else Wolf, 11th Grade Teacher

From May 1st through 12th, the time between the Ascension and Whitsun festivals, the community celebrated with a pageant. Each day a different scene from Parsifal was performed. All of the classes, except for the twelfth graders who were busy preparing for their own play and commencement, were part of the pageant.

The scenes brought us to many special places within the landscape of Beaver Run and the children loved appearing as knights or ladies, farmers or even birds and join the beauty of the natural world at spring time. The story of Parsifal is full of trials and sadness until finally all is redeemed in the end. So many people worked together to make the pageant possible: the trusty land workers, our faithful musicians, eurythmists, quiet sewers, crown and hat-makers, and more. Our schedule was turned upside down but even the children who dislike change seemed to live into our common quest. It was a true community celebration.



A daring swordfight between knights



11th grader Stevie dressed as a knight during the Pageant

The community danced and frolicked



The catch of the day

Students from Beaver Run and Beaver Farm were part of the annual Challenger Trout Fishing Derby on May 18th. Pickering Creek was bustling with activity as the young people, each paired with a knowledgeable fisherman, reeled in rainbow trout and palominos. Everyone who participated received a trophy, a t-shirt, and got to take home their catches. *Thank you* to Dennis Duym for inviting Camphill Special School again this year!



Beaver Farm coworker Paul holds up AJ and Justin's fish



Isa proudly displays his fish



Emily shows off her catches, one of which was almost two feet long!



Nick managed to reel in three big trout

Seventh graders present Christopher Columbus puppet show

On Wednesday, April 30th, Maureen's seventh grade class performed their puppet show about Christopher Columbus, once for the Lower School and again for the Upper School. Their handmade puppets and props were beautiful and everyone enjoyed the performances. Bravo!



Left: Jesse, Issie, and Bud during a performance



Right: Jeremiah, Isa, and Bud show off the puppets and boat they crafted especially for the show

Record breaking year for the Camphill ProAm!

On Friday, May 9th The Desmond Hotel Ball Room was filled with 262 family, friends, and supporters of Camphill Special School. This year’s Tennis Ball auctions raised over \$13,000! The live auction was especially exciting thanks to our professional auctioneer, Ron Smith, and the enthusiastic and talented tennis teams.

The rain held out on May 10th and the ProAm Tennis Tournament was more exciting than ever! Our eight teams played their hearts out as music flowed from the DJ’s speakers and the barbecues sizzled with burgers and dogs donated and prepared by the Epstein Family. Our own Andreas Schuschke and teammate Gino Carosella triumphed after a tough match with Brian Zanzitis and Celes Panichelli.



The big winners! Caroline McCardell, “owner” of the champion team, Pro Gino Carosella, Camphill student Stevie, Amateur Andreas Schuschke, ProAm Founder Anthony Decco, and his son Luke

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, program advertisers, donors, ticket purchasers, raffle ticket buyers, auction item donors and buyers, and volunteers, this year’s ProAm raised over \$131,000 to benefit our amazing students and our magical School!



Second place team “owners” Brian and Sandy Epstein with Pro Brian Zanzitis, Amateur Celes Panichelli, and Anthony DeCocco

12th grade teacher Tünde led the student performance at the Tennis Ball. From left to right: Nina, 10th grade teacher Peggy, Danny, Sarah, Woodledge housemother Laurie, coworker John, Alexandra, 9th grade teacher Sally, Mindy, Jesse, Taylor, Oak Hill housemother Nicole, and Courtney



Parents and ProAm Committee members Greg and Annie Ambrose relaxed and watched the tournament



Our tennis teams and some of our students



The Whitestonians in attendance included (seated) Martin, Hong, Eric, William, Dane, Alexandria, Noah, Christian, (standing) Julius, and Sofia

Special thanks to Barry Pohorence for photographing the Tennis Ball, Marc Bryan-Brown for photographing the ProAm Tennis Tournament, and the Colannino Family for sharing their pictures of the Tournament.

Classroom and Transition Program Happenings

Kindergarten: Kindergarteners moved the ducklings to their new home by the creek. They are preparing for their year-end celebrations including an excursion, a yard sale, graduation, summer birthday celebrations, and a festive year's end.



Kindergartener Owen

1st grade: First graders celebrated Benjamin's eighth birthday, which was May 10th. They are using the story *The Seven Ravens* to guide learning the number seven and the letter R. The children planted seeds in the garden and continue to care for the school's baby lamb.

3rd grade: As Julie wrote, "We build a house with some walls and floors and windows and doors. We drill it and we nail it." Third Grade has made a lot of progress with its house in the lower playground. The walls are almost finished. They have planted some seeds in a garden bed near Rock Crystal and will plant more to harvest things in the fall. In the classroom children have started sewing projects and they are baking bread using some flour they ground themselves. The students enjoyed the recent Parsifal Pageant and sang a farming song in the first scene.

5th grade: Fifth graders are ending school with Greek Myths and Greek Olympics. The children are practicing running, jumping, wrestling, and throwing the discus and javelin. Jackson's mother, Fiona Young, made costumes and fifth graders from Kimberston Waldorf School will come to Beaver Run to watch and compete in the games.

6th grade: The Parsifal Pageant fit the sixth graders' Middle Ages theme perfectly! The class danced as the knights and ladies of King Arthur's Court and enjoyed a trip to the Reading Museum to see the swords, shields, and armor. They almost are finished working on their slippers in handwork class.

7th grade: Seventh graders have a math main lesson block focusing on money skills. Highlights of the past month include participating in the all-school pageant and the performance of their class puppet show, the story of Christopher Columbus. (See page 3 for photos.)

9th grade: Ninth graders are studying the American Civil War. They will learn about various individuals who played integral parts throughout the span of the war. The students have a great interest in the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

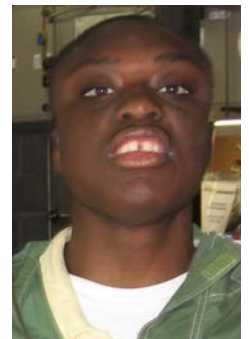


Freshman Ryan

10th grade: Tenth graders are taking an exciting journey with Homer's *The Odyssey*. *The Odyssey* tells of the many adventures Odysseus had on land and sea as he tried to reach his homeland of Ithaca after the Trojan War. Princesses, giants, nymphs, and other magical creatures are keeping the students' interest piqued as they make their way back to the homeland with the hero.

11th grade: The eleventh grade needed to come back to earth after the History of the Middle Ages and the Parsifal Pageant. They have a block about cooking, cleaning, clothing, and other everyday things. They are very engaged with the things people use all the time asking, "Where do they come from? How are they made? Why do we use them?" The class is discovering and making many things, too: soap, paper, and foods like cheese and special snacks. It is great to discover new things about what surrounds us everyday!

12th grade: With commencement nearing, the twelfth graders are alive with anticipation! They are continuing rehearsals for the production of *Much Ado About Nothing* and are enjoying creating props and costumes for the play. Look for photos of the play, senior project presentations, and commencement ceremony in the September issue of the *Radius*



Akil is a senior

TTP: The Transition Program students are very busy in their Spring crews and are looking forward to going to the Outer Banks in North Carolina for summer holidays. They also were busy preparing and sprucing up the farm for Emma's and Bill's wedding, which took place on the property on May 31st.

Camphill Special School Horse Show

On Memorial Day, May 26th, many of the students who participate in our equine therapy program got to show off their skills in a horse show. All the riders did a fantastic job and the spectators loved watching the accomplished horsemen and women on their trusty mounts.



Jared on Sandy



Bryce rode Charlie



Sofia and Chad made a great team

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Mission Statement

Camphill Special School's mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with developmental disabilities through education and therapy in extended family living.

Do you have material you would like to have appear in the Radius?

Deadline for submission of items to appear in the September 2008 issue of the *Radius* is August 15th. All material should be submitted in electronic form, either by e-mail or on disk, to Courtney M. Coffman in the Office or at ccoffman@beaverrun.org.

Thank you!

Please note that all material submitted is subject to editing and is included on a space available basis.

To receive the Radius by e-mail contact Courtney at ccoffman@beaverrun.org.



Ariel is nothing but smiles on Sandy

Nina jumped Chad over an x-fence



High School students attend Phillies game

For the third year, Phillies outfielder Pat Burrell donated his suite at Citizens Bank Park to Camphill Special School. Students and coworkers had a great time watching the Phillies beat the Colorado Rockies seven to four on May 27th.



Will had a great time watching the game from the suite



Alexandria and Nina give a big thumbs up to the Phillies



Luthian and Sarah