

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1 . I S S U E 6 .

the

HI-HILLS HERALD

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BEST SUMMER EVER!



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From the Director.

Dear Hi-Hills,

As much as the holiday season is about celebration and cheer, the end of year is also a time for reflection. I often find myself pondering all that has taken place over the course of the year 2011 – was I successful in my endeavors and achieving my goals? On a personal note, it was a year to remember – traveling ‘across the pond’ to call New Jersey home; becoming a member of the Gill St. Bernard community; being welcomed as the new Director for Hi-Hills Day Camp by staff, parents, and campers alike; and of course, finding my better half in Stacie, the future Mrs. Dinwiddy! For Hi-Hills Day Camp, the summer of 2011 was the start of a new chapter and the inauguration of a not only a new Director but a new direction.

The past 12 months have resulted in several achievements. We rolled out the red carpet for the premiere of our website Hi-Hills.com and a camp blog, while the camp newsletter received a makeover. To keep the camp activities and connections going year-round, we launched the Hi-Hills Kid Zone – an interactive website with fun and games exclusively for our campers! Although a snowstorm in October brought delays, many parents, campers, and counselors gathered for our first-ever Camp Reunion earlier this month. And most importantly, we all enjoyed “The Best Summer Ever” in Hi-Hills History!

As we turn the page on 2011 and look forward to the excitement to come in 2012, I would like to spur the camp spirit and announce our 2012 Supervisor Team within this issue of the camp newsletter. I am very motivated by the selected group of staff; each individual has remarkable talent and a backlog of experience. I cannot wait to see them together in action. To better acquaint you all with the Supervisor Team, each member has written an introductory blurb for this newsletter wherein each have provided an email address should you have any questions or wish to say congratulations.

I should also mention another reason to get excited for Hi-Hills Day Camp in 2012 - you all will be joining us as we celebrate our 45th summer! To ensure it is “The Most Amazing Summer Ever,” we will keep active in the winter months with our Open House and Camp Fair season kicking off in January. Remember to send all interested friends and family members either to our camp website or my way at the camp office for detailed information. And of course, please don’t forget our \$1000 referral discount for current Hi-Hills parents. We will also announce our program updates in the New Year to keep the excitement buzzing.

Although the year is ending, it feels like the beginning of something great!

Until next time, wishing all our family and friends a safe and warm holiday and a very Happy New Year!

Cheers,

Jack

jdinwiddy@gsbschool.org





A Hi-Hills Christmas Poem

by the Gesualdo family (Marc,
Christie, Madison, & Cassidy)



'Twas the night before Christmas
And all of Hi-Hills
Looked forward to summer
For two months of thrills.

Paulie laid in his bed
Thinking with care
And hoping that Santa
Soon would be there.

When all of a sudden
He smiled and grinned
As the tree glowed outside
So beautifully trimmed.

For the greatest thought yet
Would come Paulie's way
It's not about presents
On this family holiday.

You see, a platypus knows
That the best gift this season
Is a summer at Hi-Hills
For so many great reasons.

There's swimming and art
Athletics and golf, too
Nature, karate, tennis
There's so much to do.

Let's not forget Music
Or dance and archery
The thought of such fun
Will light up any tree.

We see friendly faces
Like Ms. Cindy and Mr. Jack
A Hi-Hills experience,
The best gift in Santa's sack.

So in summer 2012
We hope you'll all be there
Counselors, staff, campers
With memories to share

And until that great moment
May your dreams all take flight
Merry Christmas, Hi-Hills
And to all a good night!!

2012 ACA Accreditation

Most of you may remember we were visited by two ACA inspectors during the summer as part of our re-accreditation process. We are delighted to announce that once again, we met all the criteria and remain ACA Accredited. A huge Thank You goes out to our tremendous staff. To acquire information on the ACA, please see the following link <http://hihills.com/meet-hi-hills/accreditation/>



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

1. 2012 Supervisor Team announced! (See page 4 for more information).
2. **Program Announcements coming soon. We are busy working on the 2012 Day Camp Calendar and Teen Travel Schedule.**
3. If you have friends or family who may be interested in Hi-Hills Day Camp, please be sure to take advantage of our \$1000 referral offer! <http://hihills.com/sign-up/hi-hills-2012-camp-discounts/>
4. Hi-Hills Day Camp will be represented at the following New Jersey Camp Fairs in 2012: Summit (1/15), East Hanover (1/29), and Bridgewater (2/5).
5. Kids Zone launched online! Fun and games for campers year-round, see page 10 for more information.
6. Check out our new online feature. Sign up for the latest camp news at www.hihills.com

2012 Open House!

January 8th
February 12th
March 4th
April 1st
June 3rd

Open House is between 11am-3pm.

Camp tours will be lead by current Hi-Hills Staff and Campers.

Refreshments for all and activities for children will also be available.

If you know of any colleagues, friends or family who may be interested in attending Hi-Hills in 2012, please invite them along to an Open House. Alternatively have them call the office for more information or a camp tour!

Current families can take a advantage of our \$1000 referral offer. See our website for further details.

The 2012 Supervisor Team.

The Hi-Hills Day Camp, Supervisor Team is responsible for the planning, organizing and execution of the Hi-Hills Day Camp Program. This team spends a considerable amount of time during the off season, evaluating the past season, developing new ideas and implementing plans for the upcoming summer. During camp each staff member also has individual responsibilities and is assigned to an “area” of camp.

Jack Dinwiddy, Camp Director. Jack is employed year-round in the camp office; his function is to oversee the entire camp operation. Jack will “support” each Supervisor in their role.

We have **Marc Gesualdo** returning to our staff, but joining for the first time as **Specialty Programs Supervisor.** Marc will “support” our specialty programs this summer. He will work closely with staff to focus on the quality of programs and meeting the individual needs of varying age groups. Marc will also maintain his key presence in league tournaments.

Next up, **Mike Trapani**, returning to the Camp Office but newly promoted to **Office Manager!** Mike will perform at the “core” of the operation. He will provide “support” to each of you in your individual positions and manage a vital role in the overall camp administration, logistics, and organization of the camp program. Mike will also be the liaison for parents and manage camp transportation.

We are excited to have **Mindy Schwartz** returning to our team as our **Special Events and CIT Coordinator.** Not only does Mindy bring a wealth of experience to the post, she is the spirit of camp. With our “support” and collaboration, Mindy will coordinate all camp events this summer.

Our next shout-out goes to **Beth Hanson**, who is stepping up as the **Kinder Camp Supervisor** this year. Beth will lead our Kinder Camp Program and “support” each Kinder Camp Counselor in their roles. She distinguished herself by delivering an incredible bunk experience last year; and we aim to continue this success across the camp program. With no shortage of great ideas Beth is excited to develop and influence the youngest division of camp.

Another notable and exciting addition to our Supervisor Team is **Marc Hungarter.** If anyone knows how to lead the model “bunk” at camp, it’s Marc. Esteemed by every kid in his 2011 group, Marc will be working this summer as **Bunk Supervisor** to support each Head Counselor and Counselor in achieving the highest standards and meeting the individual needs of each group.

Last, but certainly not least, we have **Jim Bennett** returning as the **Teen Travel Supervisor.** Jim has the ability to create a balance between respect and fun with our eldest campers. He is excited to be back and eager to continue his work with the Teen Travel Program this summer. He will also work closely with Marc G to schedule programs for Teen Travel during their time on campus.



Drawing by Cassidy Gesualdo.



Calling All Staff!

If you are interested in a position at Hi-Hills Day Camp during the Summer of 2012, please check out the following link:

<http://hihills.com/meet-hi-hills/the-staff/staff-application/>

Office Manager Checkin' in!

Hello all! I'm Mike Trapani and I'm very excited to be a part of Hi-Hills' supervisory team as office manager this summer. During the camp off-season I'm a 7th grade social studies teacher at Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School where I've been teaching for five years. I coach baseball in Bridgewater as well. I've been at Hi-Hills for five years now and I think our camp is just what kids need for the summer. It's a great place to catch up with old friends, meet new faces, and participate in so many different types of activities. I look forward to a great summer ahead!

Mike Trapani
Office Manager

(Feel free to contact mike at info@hihills.com)

Kinder Camp Corner..

My name is Beth Hansen and this is my 9th summer at Hi-Hills. I spent the first 8 years at this wonderful camp as the Head Counselor for our youngest campers, the 3 year olds. This year I am so excited to be returning as the Supervisor for Kinder Camp! This is an exciting opportunity for me and I am thrilled to have the chance to not only continue working with the preschool but also to take what I have learned over the years and share it with the Kinder Camp staff to enhance the experience of every camper.

I have an AA in Early Childhood Education, a BA in Psychology and have worked with Pre-School aged children for 25 years. During the year, I work for a public school in a self-contained special education class for 3rd through 5th graders. When I am not working with children of all ages, I enjoy quiet time at home with my husband and 13 year old son. I relax by knitting, crocheting, cooking, reading and gardening. I also love spending time during the school year looking for new and exciting activities that I can bring to camp. I look forward to making this the “Best Summer Ever” for parents and campers alike.

Beth Hansen

Kinder Camp Supervisor.

bethhansen@optimum.net

Important Camp Dates,2012

January 8th:	Open House
January 15th:	Camp Fair (Summit)
January 29th:	Camp Fair (East Hanover)
February 5th:	Camp Fair (Bridgewater)
February 12th:	Open House
March 4th:	Open House
April 1st:	Open House
June 3rd:	Open House
June 10,17-18th:	Orientation
June 25-29th:	Camp Week 1
July 2-6th: (Closed 4th)	Camp Week 2
July 9-13th:	Camp Week 3
July 16-20th:	Camp Week 4
July 23-27th:	Camp Week 5
July-30th- Aug 3rd:	Camp Week 6
August 6-8th:	Camp Week 7
August 13-17th:	Camp Week 8



Drawing by Madison Gesualdo

Teen Travel, 2012

I would like to say hello to all of our current, new teen travelers coming this summer and parents. For those of you who might not know me my name is Jim Bennett and I am really excited about the upcoming summer season. This will be my fifth year as the teen travel supervisor at Hi Hills and my 14th year overall as a member of the summer camp experience. During the year I teach High School history and serve as a coach for my school's soccer, basketball and lacrosse programs. I am a parent of two boys that have been with me throughout my summer camp years.



One of the best things I enjoy about our program, and as a parent, is the comfort level that characterizes our program. The teen years can be quite a challenge but it is my belief that our group of teens belongs to an environment that is devoid of peer pressure and fosters a feeling of acceptance and well-being that all parents want for our children. After a long school year kids thirst for some fun in the sun and time to either renew or build new relationships as part of their maturation process. I have been blessed to actually witness both of my children be able to experience the joys of camp and know that they will be able to look back in life and savor the many positive experiences that we help provide at Hi Hills.

We have plenty of trips planned that hopefully will provide something for everyone. After discussing last season with several teen members we will plan on repeating some the more popular trips including paint ball and outdoor laser tag. These unique experiences allow our teens to get away from their computers and live out what it was like for many of their parents (when they played in the woods) but in this case we have trained professionals to keep the activities organized, safe and fun. Another enjoyable day was the opportunity to enjoy a little solitude drifting down the Delaware River with inner tubes. This relaxing setting allows everyone to appreciate the tranquility of nature as groups tie together either moving slowly or quickly through the rapids. I was able to witness many individuals overcome their fears and achieve accomplishments that they initially did not think possible with the encouragement of their peers. For example in the Pocono Mountains all of our kids were able to climb the “elements” set up in tree tops and utilize the zip line. I believe these trips, including the end of the year campout, get our kids to really enjoy the outdoors and get them out of their comfort zone. Our goal is to have teens attempt things they normally would not be privy to and let them know they are capable of enjoying the great outdoors.

For the individuals who want a little bit of the city experience we have several trips to the Big Apple. Last season's Broadway play was “Sister Act”. What a pleasure it was to see our kids laughing at the one-liners and enjoying the stupendous singing of the actors. A cruise around lower Manhattan gave us a breathtaking view of Lady Liberty and the downtown skyline.

While it may be difficult my goal is to top the previous year and provide your teens with the best experience they ever had. With all of the events we have planned the thing I find endearing is the time our kids get to spend each year developing their social skills. For any parents or teens that either have questions for me or wish to make suggestions that can help enhance our summer experience I welcome all to reach out to me at my email address jamben@bergen.org so that we can make this the best summer possible.

Sincerely,

Jim Bennett
Teen Travel Supervisor

Special Events!

Happy Holidays to one and all! I just can't believe that the New Year is just about upon us. That means that camp is just around the corner. This will be my 17th year at Hi Hills. When I first started at Hi Hills my first placement was in preschool for several years. When I first found Hi Hills Day Camp I knew that I had found the right place for my two children to attend camp. I knew that if I worked in the same camp and was able to watch my children grow and flourish would be a reward compared to non other. My son David grew up at Hi Hills, was a C.I.T., counselor and is now married and is a Social Worker. My daughter Aimee also grew up here at Hi Hills Day Camp and became a counselor as well. I knew watching my children have fun, make new friends and just experience this camp was an amazing gift. I used to have a Birthday Party Business where I would run parties in people's homes. When the former owners Mr, and Mrs. Goldberg observed my talents at their own grandchildren's birthday party I was offered the position of Special Events Director. I love creating new experiences and bringing smiles onto our campers faces. I am always looking for new themes, new dress up ideas. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you may have. My email address is missmindy57@aol.com. I am already looking out for new dress up Friday ideas as I travel through the stores to see what is new out there.

Mindy Schwartz

Special Event & CIT Coordinator



Our First Ever Camp Reunion!

If you have not done so already, be sure to check out our picture highlights from our 2011 Camp Reunion!

We need your help!

Hi-Hills Staff and Campers if you are interested in helping out with our 2012 camp tours please call Jack in the the Camp Office.

Winter Birthdays

We would like to say a Big Hi-Hills Happy Birthday to.....

December

Dec 1 Emsheimer, Stefan
Dec 3 Rogers, Abigail
Dec 7 Ku, Gabrielle
Dec 8 Beers, Jake
Dec 12 Luther, Benjamin
Dec 13 Rezac, Elena
Dec 19 Janas, Clare
Dec 19 Torres, Maria
Dec 20 Tamchin, Christina
Dec 21 Kirk, Oscar
Dec 21 Li, Katherine
Dec 21 Molina, Amanda
Dec 22 Garfield, Alexandra
Dec 26 Brown, Liam
Dec 27 Leone, Sophia
Dec 29 Abbott, Campbell



Staff

Dec 3 Bennett, James
Dec 11 Lorio, Kaitlin
Dec 13 Foster, Em
Dec 16 Barback, Laura
Dec 29 Wyatt, Sarah
Dec 30 Petrilli, Anthony
Dec 31 Monto, Jennifer

The Hi-Hills Birthday Card Competition

In January, we will be launching a new competition- Design the Hi-Hills Camp Birthday card! During this month, simply design a birthday card and send it to us. We will display all entries.

Can you guess what the prize is for the winning card? That's right, the most creative design will be used as the Hi-Hills Camp Birthday Card for the year of 2012. All runners up will also receive a prize. Send all entries to Jack at the Camp Office, (address can be found on the front cover of the newsletter).

GEARING UP FOR ANOTHER GREAT SEASON AT HI-HILLS!

Hello Hi-Hills Family! My name is Marc Hungarter and I have the unique pleasure of serving as the camp's bunk supervisor this summer!

After serving Hi-Hills Day Camp as a lifeguard, teen-travel counselor, and upper bunk counselor for 12 years, it is an honor to reach the position of bunk supervisor. Over the years, Hi-Hills Camp has truly become my summer home, and year after year I return because I firmly believe that it is a unique, wonderful setting in which to have fun with friends and experience interesting new things.

As a fifth and sixth grade teacher for over 13 years in the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional District, I have come to realize the impact a safe, nurturing learning environment has on children. Both during the school year and in the summer months, children need diverse, age-appropriate experiences to develop physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. Hi-Hills Camp has always been a great place for me to work because it continues to promote a combination of fun, creativity, and competition so that all campers can keep growing over the summer in their own ways with the help of caring counselors and staff. As the bunk supervisor, my goal each day will be to make sure that each bunk is structured to promote the best experiences possible for every camper.

This spring, I am looking forward to help plan another great season at Hi-Hills with the rest of the camp staff. I know that there will be a lot of new ideas we discuss for this summer, so get ready - the "best summer ever" is about to become even greater than last year! So I look forward to meeting all of you soon, but until then enjoy the holidays and have a wonderful rest of the school year!

Marc Hungarter
Bunk Supervisor
(mhungarter@hotmail.com)