

The Final Day of Summer Explosion 2008!

What a fantastic end to a spectacular week! On the last day of camp, we traditionally have a slightly different schedule, either to include a special activity or to accommodate the final competitions of the week. This week was no different. After our morning games at Newtown Friends School, we went over to George School and took advantage of the spacious grounds by playing a massive game of capture the flag. Even at this late time, the campers could earn "incentives" toward their bridge projects in the form of "weight vouchers". Each camper was given a weight voucher (popsicle stick) worth 4 ounces (a quarter pound) to begin the game. If during the game they were caught by one of the opposing teams, they could redeem them to their captor as a get out of jail free card. Weights of the accumulated vouchers would be totaled and added to the overall weight that the team's bridges held collectively. This added another minor dimension to the game. The game also allowed campers to burn off a lot of energy prior to another delicious GS lunch. They should sleep well tonight!

After lunch, we had the bridge competition. We took all the bridges to Walton Center and conducted the weighing ceremonies on stage in front of the entire camp. As expected, some of the bridges collapsed fairly early, but many withstood a great deal of weight. Dennis Hauptert, our staff person in charge of the activity, said the campers worked extremely well all week on the project. He was impressed, as were we, with the various designs, decorations and concepts used in the construction process. Several bridges surpassed 20 lbs. of weight before caving in! It really was intense! After the competition, we moved to the science building and enjoyed a slide show of the week's events. This has become an annual tradition and it is a wonderful way to celebrate the week we spent together. We finished this segment of the day with ice cream for everyone, followed by our swim and then, sadly, our final dismissal.

In this week of camp, we worked together and cooperated with each other. We tried new things and we were challenged to stretch our imaginations, enhance our creativity and integrate our personalities. We worked through problems and solved issues respectfully through positive communication. It has been an exciting week of growth, collaboration and fun for us all.

So, this brings to a close our 8th year of Summer Explosion. We hope your children have had a positive experience. Steve and I have truly enjoyed this week with the campers and we thank you for entrusting them to us. Some time next week, we should have all the pictures taken this week posted on the website (including those taken today at the bridge competition). Please check them out so you can get an idea of what your kids have been doing this week. Until next year, have a great summer and school year. We hope to see you all back next season.

Steve and Steve

If ever you want to give us feedback on the camp, suggestions to improve, etc. simply send us an email at campconcepts@comcast.net. Who knows, you might find your quote on the SE home page!