



a great place for kids to grow.

BETH TFILOH CAMPS

from the director, david schimmel

calendar for august

	SUN
	20
	MON
	21
	TUE
	22
	WED
	23
	THU
	24
	FRI
	25
	SAT
	25

calendar for august

	SUN
	27
	MON
	28
	TUE
	29
	WED
	30
	THU
	31
september	FRI
	1
	SAT
	2

Thank you for a memorable summer in so many ways. Let's try to count them:

Our biggest Nursery Camp EVER in our 75 year history! More door-to-door bus stops in our 75 year history. Most campers in our 75 year history. First time a new camp sold out in our 75 year history! (thank you STEAM camps!)

YET, and this part is important, NONE of this matters. The only thing that DOES matter is ONE camper, your camper. Did YOUR camper have a great summer? Did your camper make new friends? Did your camper make positive memories? Did your camper make positive Jewish memories? Did your camper learn new skills? Did they learn how to work as part of a group? Did they find a new role model (thank you counselors and instructors) this summer?

We hope we answered YES to all of these questions, because, dear parents, campers, staff and friends, THESE are the goals of Beth Tfiloh Camps. These are what we all work so hard to do, to help YOUR camper be more than what they were when they first stepped onto the camp weeks earlier. Those are our goals, I hope we accomplished many of them for you this summer.

Thank you to a great staff, without all of you working so hard, we are truly nothing. We could not do it without you. A special thank you to our Lay Leaders and Beth Tfiloh leadership/staff. A VERY special thank you to Ryan, Melissa, Monica and Gary, our full time staff who give it their all 12 months a year.

With summer:2017 in the books, we're already working on summer:2018. Beneath my article you'll find a very basic overview of the camp weeks for next summer. Important to note that because of the 9 days of Av, our amazing Carnival will be week 5. **Color War will be either week 6 or 7.** A tentative calendar will be available on our website later this fall. These dates are subject to change as we are at the mercy of the public school systems.

On a personal note, this was not the easiest summer for myself or my family, so thank you to everyone for all of your support during this past month. It is appreciated.

We hope to see all of you next year, where we will still be making Beth Tfiloh Camps a great place for kids to grow!

Tentative dates for summer:2018

week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	week 5	week 6	week 7	week 8
6/25 - 6/29	7/2 - 7/6 closed 7/4	7/9 - 7/13	7/16 - 7/20	7/23 - 7/27 carnival on friday	7/30 - 8/3 color war?!?	8/6 - 8/10 color war?!?	8/13 - 8/17

karma, karma, karma, karma, karma chameleon

Here at B.T. Camps, we have many animals that spend their summer with us in the Nature building. From goats to bunnies to mice and fish, we have it all!

Campers have an opportunity during the summer to pet and hold the animals, feed them, and learn about them.

The Torah requires that people feed their animals before feeding themselves. This teaches people to be sensitive to the needs of other living beings, whether people or animals. This requirement holds true for all animals, birds, and fish that rely on people for their food. While campers enjoy being able to feed the animals throughout the day, our Nature staff makes sure that the animals are always well taken care of and fed, and always check on the needs of the animals before eating their lunches and snacks.

We work hard at camp to teach campers about showing sensitivity towards all living beings. They learn about the proper way to handle animals and how and when to feed them. They have an opportunity to take walks around camp and learn about the different trees and plants that we have here and why we are careful about everything we come in contact with in nature. Most importantly, the campers learn to be sensitive to other people, especially those who are different than they are. Here at camp, children from all different backgrounds, schools, and religions come together to spend the summer playing, learning, and having fun. We hope that through our activities at camp, we have helped to instill in your children a sense of understanding and respect for others, both people and animals.

Do you have spirit? Show camp spirit with Spiritwear. Order today at btcamps.org

aleph@btcamps.org

jessica layman and stacy lunenfeld | unit aleph

What an amazing summer we have all had in Unit Aleph. Our campers have grown so much over the course of the summer. From the first few days of camp when they were unsure and shy to the last weeks as they ran from their buses with smiles on their faces, they amazed us everyday.

Many of our campers have gained amazing fine and gross motor skills in Arts and Crafts, Athletics and Swim. They have improved their swimming skills throughout the summer and many are feeling very confident swimming under water. They are eager to get to the pool each day to show us their tricks and play with their friends.

The children in our unit have also learned some songs that we sing each day as well as the pledge and they are even getting good at using their "right" hand. Ask them to sing the song about the little birds that we sing each

morning. The campers can't wait to be the ones to come up and help our unit sing.

One of the most incredible things about Mini Camp and Aleph is watching the kids make new friends. Many of them come to camp knowing only the few kids from their pre-school class or family friends. Watching them branch out and find the courage to make new friends is so great to watch. Our campers have become a family and we will miss them so much.

We wish everyone an amazing school year and hope to see all of our friends back next summer.

Shabbat Shalom- Jessica and Stacy

bet@btcamps.org

rivka bresler | unit bet

After eight weeks, the end of camp has come,
These past two months were so much fun.
From meeting new friends and our counselors too,
This summer was the greatest - that is so true.
In arts and crafts, wonderful projects we did make,
And we had a great time canoeing in the lake.
At Fun and Games we played games galore,
And it always left us wanting more.
We sang songs in Shira and at Ruach as well,
When we sang together, our voices sounded so swell.

Gaga was a favorite game that we did like to play
The playground was another place where we could have stayed all day.
The new ropes course was a big hit,
To get across we showed a lot of grit.
In nature we loved to play with the animals,
And in science we made music using different tools.
This was a great summer and we are sorry that it has to end,
As we said goodbye to all of our counselors and friends.
Good luck in first grade - I hope you have a great year in school,
And have so many memories of a summer at BT that was so cool!

gimmel@btcamps.org

cindy terodemos | unit gimmel

What an amazing last week of camp. It was a such a great summer and I am going to miss all of the campers. Unit Gimmel had a great unit. Many new friendships were made and old friendships were able to rekindle.

The campers got to learn how to use gimp in Art. They made gimp keychains. In Science the campers had fun using water and nail polish to make neat designs on black paper. They even got to keep them!

At the Sachs Family Lake, the campers had a blast kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boating. Most of the campers even got the courage to go down the awesome water slide!

Friday, we had a dance party to end the wonderful summer. The campers got to learn new dance moves from professional dancers. All of the campers had a great time!!!

Have a wonderful rest of the summer! Everyone will be missed. Shabbat Shalom.

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melyssa perman | daled and hay

Everyone had a fantastic last week of camp! With all of the activities, the campers were able to enjoy every moment. Whether they were having fire races at campcraft, digging for minerals at nature or sliding into the lake, the time spent at BT Camps this summer has allowed for wonderful experiences.

At swim, all of the campers took advantage of the instruction provided and made strides throughout the season. Many of the children advanced to higher groups and really improved their forward and back crawls. There were even some campers who learned the butterfly stroke.

Both of our units had wonderful counselors who took the time to get to know each of the children and they made sure that every child had the opportunity to thrive at BT Camp. To see so many of the campers climb the Alpine Tower, fly on the zip line over the lake, and make it to the top of the rock wall was

accomplished because of our amazing staff in the ropes department and encouragement by our counselors.

Today, we all celebrated the friendships made throughout the summer at our annual DJ party. Every camper and counselor enjoyed the music and spent our last day being joyful. Of course, the campwide Shabbat was truly special and had everyone singing and dancing together while enjoying delicious challah.

It has truly been a pleasure to spend the summer with your children. I hope everyone has a wonderful 2017-2018 school year and I look forward to seeing all of you next summer. Have a wonderful Shabbat and a great weekend.

Melyssa Perman



seniorcamp@btcamps.org

doug kotula | senior camp

Ode to the Last Week of Camp

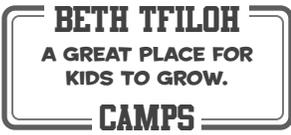
*Camp times have come to an end.
So glad I made a new best friend.
We've made lots of memories.
we were always on the run.
This year's Color War was loads of fun.
We'll say goodbye to the counselors
and our Unit Heads, too.
It's always a good summer here at BT
in senior camp... especially!*

Who wouldn't love a new key chain? Well, in Arts and Crafts, campers made Paracord key chains by crisscrossing two, vibrant colored cords together. By following a simple step by step demonstration, campers now have a very trendy key chain. Perhaps they will use this key chain for their house keys during the school year. In Nature, four of our six bunks, went on an end-of-summer stream walk. While on the walk, some kids caught small fishes. At BT Lake this week campers canoed or went down the 90-foot slide. No matter the activity, campers were securely encased in the buoyant, polyvinyl of the life jacket.

Enjoyable and exciting games of Newcomb, kickball, soccer, wiffle ball, and TRB challenged the campers during their time in athletics. At times, the games grew in intensity as teams worked together to the final whistle in hopes of being victorious. However thrilling these games may have become, no thrill can compare with the one associated with the fascinating popularity of Battle Ball. The final game of the summer occurred on Thursday afternoon, when, in true Senior Camp form, the campers defeated their counselors during the final minutes of play. Even a "jail break" called by Doug wouldn't save the counselors. It was inevitable that the campers would win.

We ended camp on Friday with a visit from DJs and dancers from Lime Light. Campers celebrated the end of a fantastic summer by dancing to a mix of great dance songs. We love it when Lime Light visits camp because they are always so enthusiastic and entertaining. The extremely talented dancers keep the kids moving for the entire 45 minutes with their high energy and awesome dance moves that are easy to learn.

Have a fantastic school year. I look forward to seeing everyone next summer!



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- after summer ends -

It's hard to believe summer:2017 is over! Immediately following the last bus dropping off the last camper, the office will close for a week. When the office reopens, we will be available, but on a limited basis as the year-round staff will be out on the grounds frequently. We will check email, voicemail, and reply in a timely manner. Speaking of voicemail, our voicemail will be reactivated on TUESDAY, August 22.

- variety show -

The Variety Show is available on our website and will be available to view for the next couple weeks. We hope you enjoy watching it as much as we did!

- lost and found -

Throughout the summer we've accumulated many lost items. Many of these items are unlabeled. Please know that all items unclaimed as of the close of camp today are being donated.

varsitysports@btcamps.org

andy bloom | varsity sports

It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up our 2017 camp season. This week we spent time on the "hardwood" by completing our basketball camp or went off campus to Suburban Country Club and hit the "links."

The basketball campers spent Monday morning being divided into groups and completing stations. These stations worked on defense, rebounding, shooting, passing, dribbling and some fun games like "50" and knockout. This allowed the campers to work on their skills as well as giving us the opportunity to evaluate their skillset. Monday afternoon the campers were placed onto teams (named after rare endangered animals) and began their round robin regular season. Tuesday was a washout with the weather so the campers were placed onto kickball teams and completed a mini-kickball tournament. By the afternoon, we finally got the kids on the court for a shoot around games of Around the World. Wednesday,

we got back on the court to continue the regular season with a full slate of games. Thursday, we finished up the regular season and began our playoffs. We wrapped up the camp season with a dance party and celebration.

The golf campers went off campus to Suburban Country Club to work with Richard. They spent the week working on chipping, putting, and driving. When the weather took a turn for the worst the campers headed into the indoor driving range and continue to work on their game. The campers wrapped up each day by getting on the course and playing as many holes as the time allowed.

Thanks for everyone's support this year in making this our largest number of Varsity Sports campers ever!! My staff and I enjoyed working with your children and hope to be able to do so again next year. Have a great school year!!

jvsports@btcamps.org

dex miller | j.v. sports

Welcome to week 8, our final week, of J.V. Sports! This summer flew by in a blink of an eye, but one thing can be said for certain, our campers had the time of their lives this summer. New friendships were made, old friendships were strengthened, and sports were played at an incredibly high level. It is a bit bittersweet to be writing the last newsletter of the summer, but without further delay here is our recap of week 8.

This week our campers spent the mornings playing kickball, handball, s.p.u.d., and tennis racquet baseball (TRB). Even though the rain tried to assert itself early on in the week, our campers did not let the weather disrupt the fun. Our featured sport of the week was football, where our campers were divided into four teams, red, blue, green, and yellow. While on these teams, they competed in tournament-style games, with

counselor quarterbacks. Our campers have improved greatly since the first time that we played football as a unit. Campers were making spectacular play, after play, and then some.

The week ended with one final Friday battle ball game, which was very fierce, but fun. After battle ball, our campers participated in a camp-wide Shabbat. Finally, J.V. Sports was able to dance their hearts out during a party at the Ulam. While the music was playing, and campers were dancing, it was a picture perfect scene to wrap up a fantastic summer at BT Camps. I know I am not the only one to feel this way, but this summer was one of the best that I've ever had! It was a pleasure working with all of the campers and staff in J.V. Sports. Until next summer, this is Dex wishing you all a very positive school year ahead!