



a great place for kids to grow.

BETH TFILOH CAMPS

august

	SUN	19
camp office has limited hours	MON	20
camp office has limited hours	TUE	21
camp office has limited hours	WED	22
camp office has limited hours	THU	23
camp office has limited hours	FRI	24
cookie minyan/mini minyan for ages birth to 5 10 am @BT kid cong 10 am at Beth Tfiloh	SAT	25
august		
	SUN	26
camp office has limited hours	MON	27
camp office has limited hours	TUE	28
camp office has limited hours	WED	29
camp office has limited hours	THU	30
camp office has limited hours	FRI	31
cookie minyan/mini minyan for ages birth to 5 10 am @BT kid cong 10 am at Beth Tfiloh	SAT	1

from the director, david schimmel

Ok - so my first day was August 31, 2007 and today marks the end of this dream I had for years, to run my own camp. Most of you know that that it was my choice to make this my last summer as it was simply time to try a new adventure. But, in my time here, let's look at what has been accomplished with the facilities and programming:

- Splashpad
- New Instructional Pool
- Dredged the lake and added the Wet Willy slide
- On-line registration
- Travel Camp
- Survival Camp
- Theatre Camp
- STEAM Camp
- Nursery Camp
- Revamped Sports camps with pro athlete involvement
- New Nurse's Building
- A Barn for Theatre Camp
- Sports Court for basketball, quickstart tennis, etc.
- Renovated and reconditioned bath house
- 3-D Natural Archery Course
- Bringing back electives for the oldest day campers

These are the things I can look at and say, "I had a lot to with that", and that gives me some feelings of pride. But, to be honest, that's not why I wanted to become a Director of a camp. It's because I always knew I would be good at this, I always knew that I could make a difference in a child's life, that camp could have just as positive impact on their lives as it did for me when I was growing up. I knew that if I had a chance to be that guy on the golf cart, be that guy making the tough decisions, if I could be that role model for kids.....then that would be a dream come true. And it was.

BT Camps gave me an opportunity to watch my kids grow up which makes me extremely lucky. I also got to work with my wife for 10 summers, which is something I did not truly appreciate until it was taken away from me.

I was lucky to have a job that for 99.9% of the time was a LOT OF FUN!

I was lucky enough to have an opportunity to make a difference in our Jewish Community and for that I thank the congregation and our camp committee. Their support made all the difference.

I hope everyone had a great summer this year and I hope all of you come back next year to Beth Tfiloh Camps, a great place for kids to grow.

we've come shofar this summer

This week, during our final week of camp, we examined the theme of yachad - togetherness. This theme truly encompasses the other three themes we have had during the summer - shalom (peace), chesed (kindness), and chaverim (friendship). Here at camp, we celebrate our diversity. Children and staff members of different religions, races, and backgrounds spend the summer getting to know each other and appreciate one another. This is yachad - being together, feeling as one. Each person has their own unique set of talents and their own strengths, and we combine those talents and strengths to make this camp community the best it can be.

This past Saturday, we began the Jewish month of Elul, when we prepare for Rosh Hashana (the Jewish New Year). To begin camp each day this past week, we all listened together to the sound of the shofar, which is traditionally blown during this month. The shofar is a

call to action, and it gives us a chance to reflect on what we have done during the past year and how we can improve during the year ahead. We do this as individuals and as a community, b'yachad, together.

One new initiative introduced at camp this summer is the communal recitation of the Birkat Hamazon (Grace after Meals). Each day after lunch a member of the Beth Tfiloh clergy has led the campers in a fun rendition of this prayer. Some children would sing, while others would clap or bang along. We did this b'yachad - together - as one camp.

Now that camp has ended, we are all going our own separate ways - to school and college and other jobs. But we will carry with us what we have learned b'yachad about each of our themes this summer. We can't wait to be together again next summer.

aleph@btcamps.org

jessica layman | unit aleph

It is so hard to believe that we have come to the end of another amazing summer at BT Camps! The campers and staff in Unit Aleph has a great week 8 of camp. We started the week out with a special treat. On Monday, The Tzofim came to camp and they put on a great show. Everyone was singing and dancing along!

This week the campers in Unit Aleph had one last chance to visit all of their favorite activities at camp. Everyone had a blast splashing in the splash pad and paddling the row boats at the lake. In arts and crafts the kids made bead necklaces and bracelets. They had one last chance to visit the animals at Nature and to play Ga-Ga with the friends in their bunk.

On Friday we had a camp wide Shabbat. All of camp gathered together in the Ulam to our favorite Shabbat songs. After Shabbat we had an awesome dance party! The kids loved dancing with their counselors and friends.

It has been a truly special summer. The counselors and I have loved spending each and every day at camp with your children! They have brought us all so much joy. Thank you for sharing them with us for the summer!

I hope that everyone has a great school year and I can't wait to see you at camp next summer!!

bet@btcamps.org

rivka bresler | unit bet

I can't believe how quickly the summer has gone by. It has been an amazing two months in Unit Bet, capped off by an incredible week 8. The week began with a special show from the Tzofim (Israeli scouts) on Monday. Campers had a great time singing and dancing with the Israeli scouts. The Tzofim always put on a great show and this year was no exception.

Throughout the week, campers had one last chance to enjoy some of their favorite camp activities. With the heat in the middle of the week, the splashpad was one of our favorite places to visit. Campers had one last chance to go canoeing and paddle boating and make one last art project. In Nature, campers were sad to say goodbye to our goats, and during Science, they created Lego boats with the goal of making them float.

The week ended with our amazing end-of-summer dance party, where the children showed off their amazing moves. Everyone had a blast! We also took part in a camp-wide Kabbalat Shabbat, where we sang all of our favorite Shabbat songs from the summer.

Thank you for trusting us with your children this summer. We loved having every single one of them and wish them all luck in first grade this year. We can't wait to see them back next summer. I also need to take a moment to thank our amazing counselors. They worked tirelessly throughout the day to make your children's summer the best that it could be. They were energetic, responsible, and FUN!

Have a wonderful school year. Thank you for an amazing summer!

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stacy lunenfeld | unit gimmel

It is very hard to believe that the summer of 2018 is over. I can't believe how fast this summer has flown by. This week, like every other, has been amazing. Our campers finished up swim instruction and all of them have made tremendous progress. We are all so proud of them as many of them also passed their swim test to go on the slides. What a wonderful accomplishment.

On Monday this week we were entertained by the Tzofim, Israeli Scouts. They sang and danced and got us involved as well. Watching them perform was a real treat. We also heard the shofar each morning this week.

At the lake, our children had one last opportunity to go in canoes, zip down the side or jump off of the dock into the lake. At nature, we said goodbye to the creatures and some of the bunks went to the mineral pit while others took nature hikes.

On Friday we celebrated our last day together with an awesome dance party. I appreciate you all sending your children to us to spend the summer at an amazing camp. Our counselors have worked hard to be sure that each camper had fun and stayed safe. We will miss all of our friends and hope to see them back next summer. Have a wonderful school year!

daled@btcamps.org
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melyssa manhoff | daled and hay

Our summer has come to an end, but we had a week filled with excitement and joy. The Tzofim came to BT and we were able to enjoy the music, dance, and community. We were able to enjoy an amazing dance party which ended with a camp wide Shabbat that was truly beautiful.

Throughout the summer, your camper improved his/her skills with swimming, sports, and so many more activities. Whether the children created 3D flower pots, key chains, or trivets, our campers were able to develop their creativity as a result of Stephanie and her wonderful arts and crafts team. Thank you so much to the Art department for their hard work and encouragement.

At Nature, your child was able to learn about all the animals in the Teva Center and even create catapults, puff boats, and GOO. Next door, at Campcraft, Richie and his staff made delicious treats with our

units and even taught the children how to make fire and create shelters in the woods.

Last, but certainly not least, the Daled and Hay counselors have made this summer for our children an amazing success. They always came to camp filled with enthusiasm and made sure that each child's needs were met every day. Wonderful relationships were created between the campers because their counselors understood that BT Camps may have wonderful activities, but it is a place where friendships are made that last a lifetime.

I wish everyone a wonderful 2018 -2019 school year. Have a wonderful Shabbat and a great weekend. SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER!!!

Melyssa Manhoff



seniorcamp@btcamps.org

doug kotula | senior camp

Week 8 started with a Monday morning, special performance by the Tzofim Friendship Caravan, who are celebrating over 40 years of bringing excitement, energy, and friendship to North America, and to BT Camps! Senior Camp loves it when the caravan comes to perform. The kids get all pumped to see them when they start setting up.

We get a sneak preview of some of the songs as they test their microphones and the members of the caravan enjoy speaking to the campers as they find out what they've been doing throughout the summer. Once the time comes for their Senior Camp performance the kids, as well as the counselors, are overwhelmed with enthusiasm as we scream, cheer, clap, and dance our way through the Tzofim's performance that was centered on a message of hope and peace for Israel.

The Caravan's five boys and five girls displayed their excitement for performing while singing a variety of songs as they got the audience to clap and dance right along with them. Before we knew it, the Caravan took their final bow and the remainder of our Monday played out in the usual way – swim, sports, snack, and period 6.

Throughout the week, in sports, campers not only demonstrated their agility, but also their ability as they played competitive games of basketball on the Sport Court, kick ball in the Ulam field and hockey in the Ulam. On the Lake field, games of TRB and Newcomb were intensely endured by the campers. As is usually the case, campers were pumped for Thursday's Battle Ball competition. However, as this was "the last Battle Ball game for the summer," it saddened a few to see the game end.

Faster than a speeding bullet, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, "Look. Up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's...well, it's a

whole lot of Senior campers running around in super hero T-shirts and the like. Just because Wednesday was "Super Hero Day" it didn't mean that suddenly, we got super powers from our red capes, blue tights, golden wrist bands, and plastic utility belts, but it sure was fun pretending that we did. I personally love this theme as it gives me an excuse to wear all my Spiderman paraphernalia as I imagine what it would be like to be Peter Parker. Along with my hero, Spiderman, we also saw Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Batgirl, Quailman, and Cat Woman enjoying the fun that is BT Camps.

And now, I become extremely cliché by saying, "I can't believe how quickly the summer went." I've come to the moment in my article where I tell you what happened on Friday, but not just any Friday, week 8 Friday. Where did the time go? Here I am telling you about the dance party that traditionally ends summer for the Senior Camp kids. Like always, Limelight entertainment through an amazing dance party for the kids! The Limelight dancers taught us choreography for a few current, popular hit songs!

We caught awesome, glow-in-the-dark prizes such as wrist bands, and rubber balls, as they were thrown into the crowd from the DJ stand. It was a high-energy event that had the kids and their wonderful counselors, moving and shaking until the last, final song of the afternoon. Limelight always gives us a rocking party to end our summer.

OK, so that's it. 8 weeks of summer camp – done, my 10th year at BT Camps – done, working with an amazing camp director, David Schimmel, - done! Senior Camp wishes David well in his new endeavors as we look forward to next summer with Mike. "End scene." (bow head) *editors note: applause*



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- stream walks -

Our stream really appreciates all of the attention this summer and is looking forward to summer:2019.

- the gallery -

Just because camp is over doesn't mean you can't revisit every amazing summer memory. The Gallery is open 24/7 and as always, is free to view. Visit btcamps.org and see if you can find your camper in the photos!

- bus changes -

To make a bus change next week, we recommend contacting the school system your child attends.

- summer:2019 -

Stay tuned to our website and social media outlets for information about the 2019 camp calendar.

- office information -

We can't believe summer:2018 is already over! It is the most rewarding experience to see the smiles on camper's faces every day. As we decompress from months and months of planning and long hours, the office will be operating with limited hours over the next two weeks. Voicemail will be active by Wednesday of next week. We will be periodically checking email as well.

varsitysports@btcamps.org

andy bloom | varsity sports

It's hard to believe that this is the final newsletter of the 2018 camp season! We wrapped up 2018 with campers playing Soccer, Golf, or Tennis.

Soccer is usually our most competitive week and this week was no exception. Campers were placed on teams Monday morning and began their round robin regular season. Monday ended with all 6 teams being able to finish in first or last place. The rest of the week the teams continued to play one another trying to become the #1 seed heading into Friday's World Cup.

Golf and Tennis campers went to Suburban Country Club, with a lot returning from the week before because of the experience they had. Golfers spent

time working on putting, chipping, and driving and had an opportunity to play a few holes throughout the week. Tennis campers worked on their forehand, backhand, and serve, and also had the opportunity to play some singles and doubles matches.

When campers weren't battling it out on the "pitch," they were competing or participating in activities of: World Cup, Archery Tag, 3 Flies, Lake slide, and basketball. Friday, we had a huge party celebrating the end of the 2018 camp season.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy school year and hope to see everyone again next summer!!

jvsports@btcamps.org

dex miller | j.v. sports

Welcome to our final week of the 2018 season, week 8, of j.v. sports! This has been an incredible summer, filled with visits from sports stars, a trip to Aberdeen, a plethora of sports, and amazing friendships! This week featured a special performance from Israeli scouts, football as our sport of the week, and a fantastic end of the summer party.

Week 8 began with a special performance from Israeli scouts during periods 2 and 3. It also featured our sport of the week, football. This was j.v. sports second go-round with football, and like the first time we played, it featured an exhilarating tournament-style format. With counselors leading the way at quarterback, our campers made impressive play-after-play, and many times it left spectators truly speechless. Our campers are very talented, and play at a level well

ahead of their time. Thursday concluded our football playoffs, and in the end there was nothing but high fives and congratulatory handshakes.

Friday ended our memorable summer with a highly energized party! There were times when I looked around and saw campers dancing without any breaks in-between! The party featured great music and colorful glows sticks, and accessories. As is the case each and every summer, the time flew right on by. It is hard to believe that the 2018 summer at BT camps is already in the books. This was truly a memorable summer, and it will be missed. As we all get ready for the upcoming school year, I want to wish everyone well in their endeavors, and look forward to building upon the good times that were had this summer in 2019. Best wishes!

the beth tfiloh weiner old court campus

SHALOM CHAVERIM! Welcome back to this summer's final BT Congregation Connection! This week's theme is: YACHAD which means together! During Shira (music) they learned a related song: Yachad, Yachad (come together now...).

Birkat (the blessing after the meal thanking G-d for the scrumptiousness we eat) is said each day at camp by rockin' out with even more ruach (cheer)! Mastering the first paragraph, singing it together with their bunk, as a unit, as a camp – their voices in unison, what a great sound.

Continue celebrating this week's theme by joining us for children's Shabbat services at 10am on Saturdays and learn more about YACHAD. Our combined Cookie and Mini Minyanim and Kid Cong bring us TOGETHER to connect to the Parshah, sing songs, and have fun! Each service ends with a mini-kiddish, in which all children are invited to sing Adon Olam on the bema

and get a unique treat from the Rabbi, followed by ice cream in the main kiddish.

Come celebrate the end of summer with a Pre-Shabbat Family Chinese Dinner, Friday, August 31. For more information or to register for an event, contact the Youth Center: 410-413-2221.

This summer has flown by – WOW, WOW, WOW! We are so proud of how much YOU have learned b'YACHAD!

~ KINDLY wishing you a Shabbat SHALOM spent TOGETHER with CHAVERIM and family!

Now it's time to Kindly say Shalom b'Yachad to all our Chaverim! Thank you for an amazing summer and supporting this new initiative. We could not have done this without you! Todah Rabah!