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For the Community • By the Community

July 3, 2010



Kenston Destination Imagination Team Places 4th in Global Competition!

Destination Imagination has attracted 3M, the manufacturer of ‘Duct Tape.’ This year, teams were encouraged to create their own Duct Tape hats. Here is “Where’s Weems?” with their self created Duct Tape hats, pictured from left: Mads O’Brien, Katherine Hoffman, Brigitte Kolibab, Maggie Woodworth, and John Kolibab. Read all about the competition and other teams on page 40.

Wish Sammy Happy 17th Birthday With a Biscuit!

Many of you know our “miracle dog” Sammy, a beautiful border collie/black lab mix who we adopted at age 9. He had beaten heartworm and has a thyroid problem, but his former owners moved and couldn’t take him. Who would have thought that we’d be celebrating his 17th birthday on July 11!

Sammy has conveyed to us that if anyone wants to bring him treats and biscuits on his birthday, he will generously donate them to the Geauga Dog Shelter where many dogs wait for their “forever home.” And while Sammy can no longer climb the steps to our *Spirit* office, 8223 E. Washington St., #3, to greet you, he’ll send his sidekick, Lucy, on July 12 from 9 a.m. to noon. Your donations will be gratefully accepted until July 31, when we will transport your donations to the Dog Shelter. Our family will match all individual donations.

Sammy says, “Thanks for being such a caring community! Woof!”

Local Groups Continue Support of Local Food Pantry

Bainbridge Area Food For Friends has seen a definite rise in the number of local families needing assistance in this down economic climate.

Recent generous donations have been received from: St. Martin Episcopal Church, Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary, Bainbridge Women’s Club, St. Joan of Arc Church, St. Rita’s Church Bible School, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Bainbridge AARP and several anonymous donors.

Please don’t forget to donate to the local pantry during the summer! You can take non-perishable items to the lobby bin at Bainbridge Library, or make cash donations at PCN Bank (formerly National City Bank) on E. Washington Street in Bainbridge.



Safe Trip, Ross et al

Before he can begin his second summer internship with us here at the Spirit of Bainbridge, Ross Henry trekked west on the Kenston Field Experience. We wish Ross, pictured above with saying farewell to him mom Grace, and all the students and chaperones a safe journey. Read all about their adventure thus far on page 2.

Inside this Spirit...

- Our *Spirit Summer Health Guide* offers up a wealth of information, beginning on page 25.
- Don’t miss Jo Lindberg’s thoughts on the 4th of July on page 33.
- Summer is chocked full---wedding, reunions, travels, gardening. Such much of these experiences are shared in the *Spirit* pages! We hear often these days of “cross-over” events---television, music, etc. Well, you’ll find cross-over articles in this issue: health collides with gardening, which in turn bumps into Green Scene. Don’t miss a single page of this edition!
- Our *Kenston Spirit* is full, too, with photos of scholarship recipients and retirees. Check out pages 40-43.

Celebrate July 4th at River Road Park

The Bainbridge Township July 4th festivities will take place on Sunday, July 4 beginning at 6 p.m. at River Road Park. Fireworks display begins at dusk.

Activities include a clown, facepainting, inflatables for children and live music (two bands). Food and beverages will be offered by the Bainbridge Men’s Civic Club at a nominal cost. Feel free to bring your own picnic; however, please be aware, alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the park.

The Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce is, again, co-sponsoring this exciting and enjoyable family friendly event. Rain date is Monday, July 5.



KENSTON OUT WEST TRIP, PART I

By Ross Henry

Eight months, 20 days, 16 hours of anticipation and it's finally here...the Kenston Out West Trip! When I arrived for departure, it seemed like I had already done this on three other occasions, and in a sense, I had. The only difference is that this time, it was my luggage being loaded onto the bus and my siblings were waving me off---instead of the other way around. The bus began to roll forward, symbolizing the beginning of our adventure.

The adventure really started in the weeks leading up to our departure. We had conditioning hikes that helped bring the 30 of us together. We got to know each other before we were forced to spend every second of the trip with one another on one bus and in tents together.

For practice hikes, we hiked in North Chagrin, South Chagrin and, a few days before we left, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Through these hikes, we learned about our equipment and how each piece works. We learned about what kind of hiking condition we were in, and we learned a little bit about each other. At the conclusion of our training, we went to Mr. and Mrs. Torma's ice cream store. (Mr. Torma is a science teacher at KHS and Mrs. Torma is leading the Out West Trip.) The ice cream symbolizing the end of our agonizing months of waiting and the beginning to a wonderful adventure.

Thirty-one kids, eight counselors and one bus driver departed Bainbridge and Ohio for three-four weeks of Out West Field Experience,, earning us one-half course credit in Geology. The trip began uneventfully as we rode into the setting sun, everyone on the bus super-hyper with anticipation. Then the bus, consumed in darkness, journeyed on except at this point in silence. Bodies are strewn about, sprawled across the floors and seats, trying to get comfortable. Just when one is about to find sleep, we arrived at a rest stop, and it was like noon instead of midnight. People would have renewed energy, but just as fast as it came, it diminished and we fell back asleep. This happened again at 4 a.m. and 7 a.m.

At 7 a.m. we stopped at a park in Minnesota that looked out over the Mississippi River. We ate breakfast of muffins and juice. After another run-down about chores/duties and grading, we boarded the bus again and headed to Pipestone National Park.

When we arrived at Pipestone four hours later, we set up lunch. A staple food for lunch is peanut butter and jelly with grapes, carrots, iced tea/lemonade and cookies---nothing fancy, just hardy. Inside Pipestone, we toured the park, led by a 1/4-blooded Indian named Travis. It was not uncommon to see group members stopping for pictures, and the male students trying to show off their masculinity. This hike was short compared to what lies ahead. Dinner the first night is tacos. It takes about an hour to cook for 40 people and about five minutes for 40 people to eat all the food!

At this point, I and a fellow camper decided to go for a run; others worked on journals or went on hikes. The sun was just beginning to set, basking the prairie grass in gold. In the distance, cow roamed on a hillside and we saw numerous wind turbines on the horizon. The nearby lake shimmered as fishermen cast lines in the waning hours of daylight. As we run, I tell myself that this beats running at Beartown or Frohing Parks. They're great parks but not this vast. We tell ourselves this is not Ohio.

Day Three, we cross the border into South Dakota. Not much changes. We pass the homestead of Laura Ingalls Wilder where you may recall the "Little House on the Prairie"

took place. To best sum up the landscape, anything looks little compared to the prairie. This is confirmed when we pass a sign that states the nearest rest stop is 237 miles!

Arriving at The Badlands, we split into two groups and go on different trails so that we don't overwhelm anybody with our mass. We are quite intimidating. After countless pictures---both fashionable and comical---the two groups switch and we went on the long path. At the end of the path we came to a vista of The Badlands expanse, all the crevices and prairies. You felt as if you were looking out over the whole world in one swift glance. The sensation was one of exuberant passion. From there we boarded the bus to Mt. Rushmore and by the time you are reading this, we will have been to Glacier National Park, to Canada and back, and will be at Mt. Rainier and Mt. St. Helen's.

We left on Sunday, June 20, as fresh greenhorns, ready to see the country but no doubt about it, we will return in July, well worn and experienced in the Great American West.

Here are a few comments by my fellow campers:

"You know, I've been really anxious for this trip, but over all, I am very surprised how well we mesh as a group. It's really a great experience and along the journey, you transform your character, becoming a leader, finding your true you, and becoming a better person. Besides the bus ride, everything is spectacular. This truly is the experience of a lifetime." ---Graham DiNicola

"This trip has been such a good experience and gave me such a great opportunity to witness all the natural sites that our country holds. The group on this trip is great, everyone gets along well and we are having a really good time. I highly recommend that, if you have the means, get involved in this trip. It is not just enjoyable socially but I have learned so much about geology and biology. The counselors are very knowledgeable and are amazing people. If you get a chance to go on this trip, don't let your inhibitions hold you back. Go for it!" ---Katie Ross.

"Every time I told someone that I was going on this trip, they told me "Good luck! You're going to smell so bad!" But, you see, I don't think they understand it. Yeah, we're a little smelly, but we're not focused on that. This point about this trip is to go out into a different part of the world, a part that most of us have never before seen, and explore it, experience it. Everything is beautiful here---beautiful because it is different. Different is good. And we should all experience it." ---Katie Robinson

Watch for our July 24 edition of the Spirit of Bainbridge for the exciting conclusion of the Kenston Out West Field Experience.

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