



CHALLENGE EXPRESS

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Take Us Out to the Ballgame: Challenge 2001 Kicks Off at Shea

Challenge 2001
The Gifted and Talented
Development Center

By

Ryan Joseph Hudson

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Challenge campers and their families came together for the first time on Memorial Day as the Mets and Phillies slammed it out for ten solid innings at Shea Stadium.

It was not that exciting in the beginning of the game for the Mets fans who were among the nearly 34,000 spectators. But in the eighth inning, Jerrod Regan got stomped on when the third baseman jumped, got him out, got the out at first base and changed the inning. In the bottom of the ninth inning, the score was 3-2 and the Mets were losing. They had to score two runs to win the game. Edgardo Alfonzo was up. He got one strike, then a ball, then another strike, then a foul, then another ball, then he struck out. It was one out and the famous Mike Piazza was up at bat. First a ball, then a home run! Score! The

game was tied. The crowd was cheering and chanting. Todd Zeile got a strike, then another. The crowd was silent. Then he hit a ground rule double to center field but the Phillies caught it. So it was two outs and Robin Ventura's turn. He got a strike, then a ball, then a grounder to first base. He dived, but the pitcher ran to first and got Ventura out. The score was tied at the top of the 10th inning.

Bobby Abreu of the Phillies started with a walk to first base. Scott Rolen struck out, Bobby Abreu stole second base and, with one out in the inning, Pat Burrell hit a two run homer. But the Phillies struck out and at the bottom of the tenth, the Mets needed three runs to win. But all three hitters, Timo Perez, Desi Relaford and Todd Bratt struck out.

The final score: Phillies: 5, Mets: 3

Upcoming Events:

- * Joe Field's Magic Show, Friday, July 6
- * Flying Machine's Demo, Wednesday, July 11
- * Car Racing Demo, Friday, July 13
- * Jazz Band Concert, Monday, July 16

KIDS AND COMPUTERS: What You Need to Know

By

Julia Forrest

Kids have to know about computers because they need or will need to use them for researching their school work, typing, or even e-mailing forgotten homework to teachers.

Typing might be the most important

computer skill because all the information you put on a computer is done through a keyboard. Being able to type well not only helps kids for school, like when they're writing essays, but also for a later career and personal things.

For example, you need to ask your friend something quickly but your mom is on the phone. So you go to your

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CAMP NEWS

Lunch: *Every Meal a Winner* / Justin Cho & Shy Wasserman

Lunch at camp is very good. We think the lunch staff is doing an excellent job.

The first day's meal of chicken nuggets were delicious: not too crispy, not too dry and not over-fried. Serving ketchup, as well as bread, with them was a good idea. The corn, even though it had butter, was very sweet.

Tuesday's Ziti with meatballs, bread and chocolate pudding was

every bit as good with its well-cooked pasta and sauce that had just the right flavor and consistency. The bread was good to dip in the sauce and the chocolate pudding was a good choice for dessert. But we would like to ask the lunch staff why tossed salad was served with the pasta?

Wednesday's grilled cheese was great as was the ravioli on Thursday, although we must admit

that we are getting a little sick of chocolate milk. Maybe we should try the ice tea.

Our only suggestion is that there should be ice pops for everyone.



Medical Report: *Ice Cream Doesn't Help* / Ari Greenberg

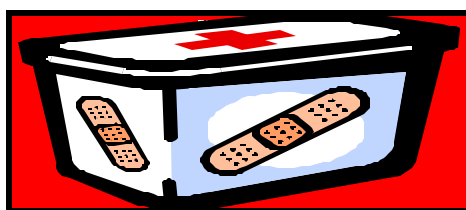
While overheated campers might find it tempting to reach for that ice cream sandwich or pop to cool down, resist the urge and take a drink instead.

"Ice cream doesn't help," said Challenge 2001 nurse Brenda Guy who has already treated many campers for dehydration (water loss) during the first two weeks of camp.

"You must rest between activities, she said. "Drink plenty of fluids

and stay in the shade. Each camper should have a water bottle and be aware when you begin to feel overheated."

She added that it is especially important for campers who have

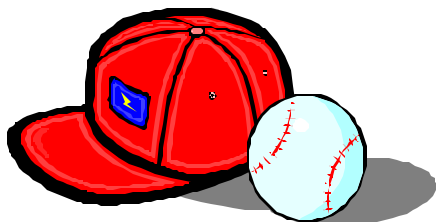


asthma and other respiratory conditions to make sure that they have enough fluids in their system at all times.

As for other medical issues, the nurse said that this year's first session year has begun with typical camp injuries and complaints including sprains, twisted ankles, face bruises, leg cuts, head bumps and the run of the mill stomach pains and headaches.

The Feel of a Ball Field / Kristen Danielle Hudson

The Mets game was a blast. I wish I could have stayed there my whole life.



On the top of the stadium, there are 21 flags. The seats have four different colors: orange, blue, green and red. The orange ones are down by the field. We sat in the red ones at the top and had a great view of everything, especially with binoculars. The field looks very small and so far away. Sometimes the players hit the balls over the fence and out

of the stadium. The outfielders can't even catch those balls because they are not allowed to leave the field unless it is an emergency.

I just can't stand it because I know I will never hit a ball as far as the Mets do. They must practice every day.

I was so glad I went to see them.

CAMP LIFE

One Girl's First Year at Camp: A New Adventure

By

Erinn Westbrook

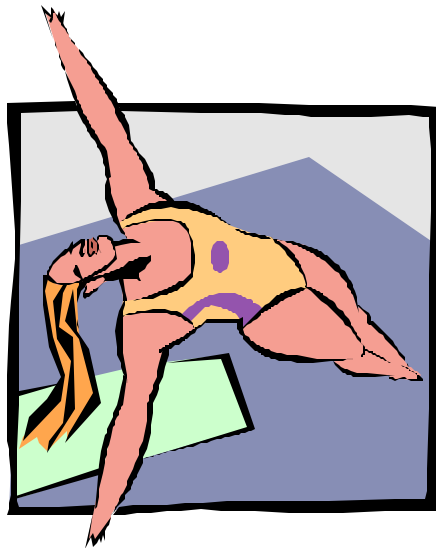
Going to camp for the first time is always a milestone for little kids. For Danielle Cardinal, 10, of Pelham, N.Y., going to camp for the first time "is scary, but after you make friends and get to know your counselors, it becomes fun."

At least 1 million kids in the United States alone have their first camping experience each year. It is easy to make friends in camp situations because the people in your courses are interested in the same things you are.

Danielle's schedule, like that of other campers, reflects her interests. For the first session,

she is taking Wild About Harry, E.R., Jack of All Games, Origami and Gifted Express. Her second session courses include The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Radio Days, Chess Challenge, Shake Hands with Shakespeare and swimming.

She said that is especially looking forward to learning how to swim because she is one of the few kids her age who doesn't know how to swim.



"I really want to know how to swim," said Danielle, who will be attending fifth grade at Pelham's Siwanoy Elementary School in the fall.

"Most girls, especially at my school, already know how," she said. "So when we go to the beach, they can have fun swimming that I can't yet. By the end of camp this year, maybe I'll be able to have that fun too."

Some of Challenge's more experienced campers such as Jonathan Chandler, also of Pelham, said that they will never forget their first camp summer.

It was an exciting and enriching experience," Jonathan said, "because I was looking forward to trying something new," Jonathan recalled.

Whether it's making friends, enjoying the great outdoors or learning new things, camp always turns out to be fun for most kids.

What a Day for a Kid in Pre-K! / Arielle Finard & Sara Fadel

Fun fills the air for the children in **Discover, Imagine and Create**, Challenge 2001's pre-kindergarten program. A regular day might begin with free play. What do you do during free play.

"Interesting stuff," said five-year-old Marshall Estrin, a pre-K camper. We color and read books."

Circle time would be next. Here the kids play group games and sing songs together. After, the teachers instruct the children in specific subjects. Last week, they learned that everything grows and planted bean seeds. Then it's time for lunch.

It's story time after lunch followed by T-ball and then dodge ball which is a favorite among

the kids. Later, after snack, everyone cools down in the sprinkler. Pre-K campers Allison Yeh and Terence Carthy both agree that sprinkler time is the best. Ariana Nathani, however, disagrees, saying that getting candy at the end of the day is *her* best part of the afternoon.

The teachers are an important part of this camp. They supervise the children at all times and, most important, make sure that they have fun.

"I think it's wonderful," said Pre-K teacher Arlene O'Hanlon. "The children are enriched in so many ways."

But Andreas Gromoll, 5, of London, England, pretty much explained it all.

"I like everything," he said.



TECHNOLOGY

Computers (con'd from Pg. 1) computer, click on start, go online, type as fast as you can—which is really fast because you've learned that skill—and send your letter. Your friend e-mails you back and you're relieved.

"I love getting e-mails," said camper Melanie Swartz.

It is also important for kids to know how to get to different files on the computer and special places on the Internet called *sites*. You get to a site by clicking on under-

lined addresses called *links*. Things are fun when you click on a link and something new comes up.

But computers can also be hard to understand because there are so many details. If it's your first time playing a game, you probably wouldn't know what to do right away. Also, experimenting on a computer isn't a good idea because it could crash.

Still, computers are here to stay and to keep up in school and life, kids have to know how to use them.

Beware of E-Mail

**By
Morgan McDaniel**

A dangerous aspect of computers is sending e-mail to people you don't know. Someone with the address **Carebear2** could be a criminal. Maybe they'll contact you to get at your family or to try to kidnap you. When you don't know who's on the other end, you could be talking to anyone. Always know who you're contacting.

R/C PILOT Computer Program Rocks / Justin Cho

I have a flying model airplane. The name of the airplane is Fire Bird. There are other flying model airplanes like Hawker Hurricane and Piccolo helicopter.

But before you will know how to fly it, you will have to have a computer game called **R/C Pilot**. R/C stands for remote control. It helps you fly a model airplane because it shows you an airplane to pick and teaches you to fly. You



An R/C Pilot virtual airplane

hold a controller that's connected to you computer by a cable which works just like a real transmitter. Then you choose the plane and skill level you want, click on "Fly Now" and you're off. There are even special effects like engine noise and crash sounds.

The R/C Pilot game is very cool and fun. I recommend it highly.

SNOOD: A Game of Multiple Challenges / Ari Greenberg

Snood is a great computer game which takes strategy, technique and aiming skills. It has many levels and you can play each level again and again. The object is to destroy all the snoods on a particular level. To destroy the snoods, you need to shoot three of the same ones together before they hit bottom and die. One successful technique which I have used to

win the game has been to pile up all the snoods together and then hit the top snood which will make all the ones underneath it fall. A good overall strategy in winning this game is to destroy everything when you're in trouble [Ed. Note: This strategy has been used successfully by both business and government.] You can download snood, without registering, at www.snood.com.



One of Snood's many levels

ARTS

TV: A Heavenly Show

By
Melanie Swartz

One television show I love to watch is **7th Heaven**. I like to watch it because they have real problems that could happen in real life. If you're ever in one of those situations, you can take advice from what happened on the show as a solution to your problem. It teaches you lessons about what to do and say in your life.

I also like it because it is about a good, kind family. Everything they do on the show, typical families do in reality.

There are nine members of the show's family, the Camdens, and one dog. The parents are Eric and Annie. The children are Matt, 21; Mary, 19; Lucy, 18; Simon, 15; Ruthie, 10 and the two year old twins, Samuel and David. The dog's name is Happy. My favorite character is Lucy because she and I have lots of things in common.

The show has just finished its fifth



The Cast of 7th Heaven

season and I think the actors are still doing a good job portraying their characters.

I sometimes wish the show were on at a different time if I had a big test to study for or have homework or cheerleading practice. But even when I miss it the first time, I always end up watching it during the summer in reruns or on tape.

I think this series is a really good one. I would hate to see it be taken off the air.

Music: A Top Ten List of Singers and Bands

By
Sara O'Toole

Everyone has their favorite music and, in the end, it's all a matter of taste.

These are my top ten singers and bands:

1. N*SYNC ****
2. BACKSTREET BOYS ****
3. BLINK-182 ****
4. O-TOWN ****
5. DESTINY'S CHILD ***
6. TRAIN ***
7. AMERICAN HIGH FI ***
8. INCUBUS ***
9. EVE ***
10. EVE6 ***

TV: The Wild Thornberrys / Alliana Semjen

If you are five or older and like TV, I might have a show for you.

The Wild Thornberrys, on Nickelodeon, is a very good show for animal lovers. It is about Eliza Thornberry who is a girl who can talk to animals but never tells about her power. She has a mom, dad, a sister and several animal friends that she has found. Besides talking to animals, she can ski, horseback ride, scuba dive and do a ton more.

Some good things about **The Wild Thornberrys** are that the show makes sense, it can be scary and it teaches

you about animals such as the manatee. In one episode, it said that sailors used to think that manatees were mermaids swimming through the water.

I thought that was really neat.



LEISURE

Restaurants: *Lively Meals at Edo's / Jonathan Chandler*

Edo Japanese steak house is a traditional Japanese steak house, not a sushi bar. And in spite of its elegant design, it has a noisy, lively, boisterous atmosphere.

The service is only good, but the food is delicious.

Cooked fresh right in front of the customer, Edo offers everything from seafood to beef and poultry.

As the chefs prepare the food, they put on a show. They cook the food at a built-in grill on the table and do such "acts" as "The Volcano"

(onions stacked up in the shape of a volcano and set on fire) or "The Shrimp in Hat" (throwing a shrimp in their hat with a knife while it is still cooking) among others.

The restaurant is usually crowded. Each table has eight seats, so you sometimes end up sharing a table with other people, which, for some diners, might make the experience even more of an adventure.

Edo's is open every day for dinner only. The price range is

\$15-\$20 per person. It is located at 4787 Boston Post Road, Pelham, N.Y. (914) 738-1413. Reservations are recommended.



Ice Skating: *Summer's Coolest Sport / Elizabeth Estrin*

Ice skating is one of my favorite sports, especially in the summer because it keeps you cool. It feels so refreshing and you forget that the temperature is so hot outside

Each time I start out on the ice for the first time that day, I don't feel steady so I hang onto the bar. When I get comfortable, I skate all around and across the middle of the rink and then it feels like I'm flying. It's fun to feel myself sliding and gliding on the ice. My last two birthdays were spent at the rink with my friends.



Sometime in the future, I'm going to try to become a professional skater. I know it will take a lot of practice time but I hope I will be able to do it. In the meantime, I enjoy watching professional skaters on TV. I go to the rink as much as I can and I love it.

So remember, when you are trying to think of a place to go in the summer where you won't feel hot, ice skating is a great choice.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Pelham Residents Reject \$40 Million School Bond

By

Morgan McDaniel

In one of the highest voter turnouts in Pelham school district history, residents rejected a \$40 million school bond. The vote was 2,040 to 1,501.

The defeated bond was intended to finance a new middle school and the expansion of both the middle and high school campuses. The plan would have eliminated the need to use portable classrooms and split shift schedules for the town's increasing number of secondary school students and would have included both a varsity size gymnasium and new facilities for art, music and technology classes.

The vote comes in the wake of a series of bond issue controversies in cities and towns throughout the county where residents, particularly older residents who no longer have children living at home, do not want to pay higher taxes for school construction and improvement.

"Most elderly people are on a fixed income and taxes are already high," said Pelham resident Mike Donovan, a senior citizen who characterized the plan as "too extravagant."

Proponents of the bond believe that without it, Pelham students will receive an education inferior to that of surrounding communities.

"It is a responsibility to provide our children with the best education possible," said Joan Morgan, a parent.

"Pelham's school facilities need to be expanded, updated and improved," she said.

Middle school guidance counselor Lisa Cornacchia said that among those hardest hit will be special education students.

But Samantha Langworth, whose house would have been torn down to make way for a new parking lot as part of the plan, is relieved.

"It's a good thing the bond didn't pass," she said. "We don't have to move. I'd rather have my house than a better education."

Mini-Tornado Sweeps Mamaroneck

By

Andrea Plate

A mini-tornado hit Mamaroneck two weeks ago knocking down dozens of town-owned trees and lifting neighborhood sidewalks.

No one was injured.

One 24-year old house, however, was split down the middle by a fallen tree. The town's total property damage has not yet been assessed so that the extent of municipal liability is still unknown.

Town police closed all roads obstructed by the damaged trees.

The storm's dangerously strong winds were mixed with rain making many town residents think it was a hurricane.

"I can't remember a storm worse than this," said Mamaroneck resident Arielle Finard.

"I was in town when the storm hit," she said. "It was so windy and rainy that my brother and I had to duck into a Starbucks and call my mom to pick us up."

The Buick Open golf tournament was rained out prompting one resident to say that the additional practice time would probably help the less able competitors.

More to the point, she added:

"At least the trees were the Town's property so the person whose house a tree fell on will not have to pay for the damage."



Challenge Express

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From the editor: The staff of *Challenge Express* has worked very hard over the past two weeks to bring you a newspaper which we hope you will find fun and informative. We welcome your comments about any of the articles in this edition and ask that you let us know if there are any events or issues at Challenge 2001, or elsewhere, that you would like to see covered in the paper. Please bring any suggestions, comments or questions to the main office and we will respond as soon as possible.

Also, look for the full-color version of *Challenge Express* and *This Week at Challenge 2001*—a weekly photo album of camp activities and events taken by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer James Estrin—published every weekend on the Web at www.challengecamps.com

We hope you are having a great summer and look forward to bringing you the next two editions of *Challenge Express*.

The Joys of Summer / Sam Gross

First of all, summer has a lot of fun stuff like water balloons. You can have a water balloon fight. Second, you can go in pools and play and get wet. Third, you can go in the sprinklers and play even more games. Finally, and maybe most important of all, you can wear shorts.

I asked a few of my friends and here's what they have to say about why *they* like summer.

"I like hot summer nights and swimming in the backyard pool," said Ari Greenberg.

Ryan Chernin is "glad that school is out so that I have more time to spend with my family."

Shy Wasserman loves playing play sports like soccer, baseball, basketball and hockey and Danielle Cardinal is really enjoying learning clarinet and origami at Challenge 2001.

Robert Schechter is thrilled about the fact that he doesn't have to do any homework until September and I'm just happy that there's no school.

But out of everyone, I think that Bianca Dallessio sums it up best:

"You get to do whatever you want."

Amen



...and the livin' is easy