

A Letter from the Directors

Greetings Danbee Families,

A few weeks ago we had the opportunity to spend a few days up at camp reflecting on the past summer and looking ahead to Summer 2020. What struck us as we were walking through camp, enjoying the beautiful fall day, was that Danbee wasn't Danbee without all of you.



We often get asked in the non-camp months what makes Danbee, Danbee – we are quick to answer with a resounding “our girls”. Each of your individual personalities brings energy and spirit to our summer home, and together we fill Danbee with such a wonderfully unique spirit. This past summer, we were lucky enough to watch you cultivate new friendships and nurture old ones, try unfamiliar activities with courage, and dance like no one was watching. It can be easy to forget with all the hustle and bustle of the school year just how much you accomplished at Danbee.

Take a moment to reflect on the resilience and grit you showed when you were learning something new, when you're working through a disagreement with a bunkmate, or were missing home. We hope you are proud of yourself, because we are certainly proud of you. We also love hearing about how Danbee's commitment to community service and helping others makes its way into your classrooms and on to your sports teams in the winter months. Be sure to keep us updated on all of the wonderful things that you are doing!

We can't wait to see you back in The Berkshires.

Warmly,

Jay, Mark, Jackie, Lauren & Courtney



IMPORTANT 2020 CAMP DATES

WBY Sleepover

Saturday, May 2

New Camper Luncheon

Sunday, May 3

Doubletree Hotel, Fort Lee, NJ

New Parent Orientation

Sunday, May 3

Doubletree Hotel, Fort Lee, NJ

Camp Opens

Friday, June 26

Little Sisters Sleepover

Saturday, July 18

Parent Visiting Day

Sunday, July 19

Danbee in 4 Ends

Friday, July 24

Danbee in 3 Begins

Saturday, July 25

Discovery Weekend

Friday, July 31 – Sunday, August 2

Camp Closes

Friday, August 14

HEADING BACK TO DANBEE!

Alumnae reflects on her next Danbee chapter.

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In 1950 Danbee opened their cabin doors to its first campers. Since then, Danbee has been home to thousands of girls who proudly carry on some of Danbee's most special traditions. We are lucky enough to see some of those former campers return to their summer home vicariously through their daughters and granddaughters. Check out our interview with Lindsey Heller Engler! Lindsey's daughter, Grey is joining the Danbee family for her first full summer in 2020.



Lindsey, when did you first come to camp and what was your Wel-B-Yon year? I came to Danbee in the early 90's and was WBY 1995 (best WBY ever alive)! During our WBY summer about half of us BEGGED Jay to let us return the following summer as CITs and he graciously developed a CIT program just for us in the summer of 1996!

What was your favorite memory as a camper? I have so many amazing memories of Danbee, but I must say creating banquet during our WBY summer was such an amazing experience. Our theme was The Jungle Book (of course we told everyone it was FARM too... I think that tradition remains) and I was one of the more "artsy" in our WBY as we consisted of only 10 girls! I can still freehand draw most of the characters from The Jungle Book to this day!

Obviously there are so many more memories that are always with me from crying my eyes out at counselor service, to leagues breaks (and FAKES), to shooting the winning basket during my WBY summer at the end of Marathon (I'm not very tall), to wish boats, slicking my 90's bangs back for Songfest and so much more!

Tell us something that you learned while at camp that you find useful today. I honestly believe that camp is responsible for so much of the person I am today. I am an only child so arriving at Danbee to live in a bunk with eight other girls and two counselors was definitely a big leap in my life. I learned to respect and learn from other people, to appreciate others points of view and to make healthy choices and compromises. I also learned how to love my

friends like family and how important it is to treasure these friendships long after your camp years are behind you. Grey, my daughter is also an only child so I look forward to watching these traits grow in her as well.

Your daughter will be entering camp as a Yellow Jacket, what are you most excited about for her to experience? There are so many things that excite me about Grey's first summer at Danbee! I can't wait for her to meet her camp family and to really get into her comfort zone. I can't wait for her first Leagues break and to get that feeling in the pit of her stomach when "Eye of the Tiger" plays and you know it's legit! I can't wait for her first sing down in the mess hall. I can't wait for her first "fly" down the zipline. I can't wait for her first oatmeal pass on the 4th of July... but really, I can't wait for her to make her own memories and share them with me!

How did you know Danbee was the right fit for your daughter? Interestingly enough, Grey is a THIRD generation Danbee girl! Her grandmother (my mother-in-law) Joyce Roth was a Danbee girl in 1964 and came all the way from Caracas, Venezuela to attend camp! Naturally, with Danbee on BOTH sides of her family we have been talking about Grey's Danbee years since the day she was born.

In truth, I firmly believe that camp, and Danbee in particular, provides girls with the confidence, resilience and empowerment that they need to succeed and thrive later in life. I am so thrilled that our family has the ability to send Grey to Danbee and can't wait to relive a bit of my camp years through her experience.

Best Night of My Life

By: Olivia Newman, Yellow Jacket 2020

It's no secret, we really LOVE hearing from our girls in the off-season. We miss our campers and love when they share highlights from their year with us. Kudos to Olivia Newman for having her "Best Night Of My Life" at Camp Danbee! Thanks for sharing, Liv.



"Come on Americans!," said the team captain. Songfest is tonight at my Camp Danbee, and this a big deal. The team captain said, "remember, I want all of you to sing as loud as you can, and don't forget to enunciate." "Make sure you cut your corners and keep a straight face," she added. She also reminded us that It will be fine if we don't win, but some of us will still cry a little bit. My team captain also reminded us to please not laugh at the crazy story the key staff tells us. "Now it's time to go in the theater," said the team captain.

Both teams were in the theater now waiting for our turn. I was so nervous but excited at the same time. This will determine who wins leagues. Songfest is an evening activity where you sing songs about your league's team. Leagues is just like color war, but it is way more intense. Everything that we participate in is done to the extreme. You need to sing really loudly and enunciate the words that you sing at Songfest. The tallest person on the team is called the clapper. She claps three times before you sing your songs about your league's team. The first song is called a pep. It is a short song, like a chant to try to scare the other team. Next, the second song is called a novelty. It is about a special event at camp. Finally, the third song is called slow. This is a slow song about our wonderful time that we had at camp and now having to leave. There was so much tension in the air! It was time for our team to start to sing. My team was called the Americans. The clapper says the first word of the song and claps three times. We sang all of our songs, then the other team called the Nationals sang their songs. Soon the oldest age group called the Wel-B-Yons went up and said a cheer. It meant that we could go to our friends and talk to them and say how worried we were. You know you won leagues when the lake director flips a watermelon with either an A or an N carved in the watermelon. I was so nervous that my hands were all sweaty.

The time has come! He is about to flip the watermelon! "On the count of three" he said one... two... three! There was an A carved in the watermelon! I can't believe it! My team won leagues. This was my first year at sleep away camp! I was so happy and proud of myself and my team. As a reward for all of our hard work, there was an ice cream party for everyone, I could not believe I won but I was still considerate of my friends that weren't on my team. There were sad tears and happy tears. This was the definite best night of my life. Can you believe I won? I know I can't. I'm so excited and can't wait to go back to sleep away camp next year.

Getting to Know Nicole Arbaje

2020 will be Nicole's 4th summer on Staff at Danbee. Her warmth, sense of humor, and dedication to our girls makes her an important part of the Danbee family. We caught up with Nicole to learn a little bit more about her, what she does when she's not at camp, and what some of her favorite things about Danbee are!

Nicole, tell us about where you're from and how Camp Danbee became your summer home?

I'm from the beautiful tropical country of the Dominican Republic. I found out about Danbee because my younger sister, Isabela, was a camper in 2011 and 2012. She told me all about her summer home and when I was looking for summer camp options to work at, I knew right away that Danbee as a good fit for me.

How many years have you been at camp? I started working at Danbee in 2016 as a bunk counselor and Lake Staff. I took a gap year because of work as a Clinical Psychologist in DR and was able to return to Danbee for summer 2018 and 2019. I am looking forward to being back in 2020!

What do you do at camp? For the last two years, I've been the International Camper's Coordinator and Head of Acres and Campus Club, which is the Community Service Program at Danbee.

This program is the opportunity for the girls can give back and do projects that will help or send some love to someone in need.

What makes this program special to you? Acres and Campus club is the perfect space to talk about the importance of dedicating some of your time to give back and do something for others, by opening conversations about what the girls can do for their community back home and how each of them can spread kindness and love with simple actions. This is something that I always try to do back home so to be able to talk and generate a little of that desire in the girls is what makes this program so special for me.

What are some of the projects that you did this summer? This summer we did three different projects!

- Hand-Stitched Bonding Hearts for babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and their families.
- Knitted hats for newborn babies.
- Handmade fleece blankets for the elderly.



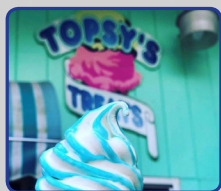
How do you choose which projects to do with the girls? This year we added a new project that has never been done at camp. We had a staff member who works in fashion design back home, Nikita, told us about the bonding hearts she regularly sends to hospitals.

Bonding Hearts are two hand-stitches stuffed hearts that goes to a family with a baby in the Neonatal Intervention Care Unit. This pair of hearts help create a bond between the parents and the baby even when he or she can't be held. We chose this project because we thought it was a beautiful initiative and also a good way for the girls to learn a new skill.

What brings you back to Danbee every summer? I return to Danbee every summer because of the unmatched community and my summer family. I've made amazing life-lasting friendships among the staff and I love to see the campers grow and mature year after year.

What is your favorite thing to do at camp? I love walking around checking out all of our different activities or spend time down at the lake. I love talking with the girls or seeing if they need any help or advice. I like listening to their problems, if any or just being that person they can feel comfortable talking to.

Tell us something we don't know about you? Everybody knows my native language is Spanish but what people don't know is that since my school was in Spanish, I had to take private English classes since I was in first grade and I spend 6 summers in the USA going to summer camps and summer schools to practice my English.



Danbee Word Search

Look around and try to find some of your
favorite Danbee words!



C T E R J L Q Y S Q I A Z H M H S W R M
J B E I W C W N T N B Q M N C V L C E S
M S T U Y H A L L O W E E N D C A Y P X
B K B L Q C W U P Y P K J N W U N U L W
C B N S I N X M B C C S R Z U A O P I W
Y R R R F G A E T B P O Y A N C I S C Z
L B E Y X I I B R O A I U S M R T W L D
B M U W R K H T J H E B N R S E A O S D
A T Z N C R O R B B D U O L T S N L G V
K Q L A I Z D N P R R P R X W N E Q A B
L O J E R E M H S A M R A F V A E U V K
N U S Q E A U L S R Z K L U G A O Y I F
S U W J L K A Y R D V W D U E C R R X Q
I X W D Y X K T K Z M D E U J A P W L C
N D W M S U P C F R P S E U O R L H T F
E L Q O U G D A P Z Q P R Q D N V X H O
U U P G P Y Z I Y E S J A Y D I X Q Q U
V I N L M U S H Z H K B I I Y V P P K G
F I L C A X C D A M V Y Y T L A U R E N
S B O M C J U V O W P V K Q F L E Y N K

ACRES
AMERICANS
ASHMERE
BANQUET

CAMPUS
CARNIVAL
COURTNEY
FARM

HALLOWEEN
JACKIE
JAY
LAUREN

LEAGUES
MARK
NATIONALS
SING

TOPSYS
VAGS
WUBBY

Worth Remembering...

We are lucky to have had **Chloe Metz** and **Josie Moskovitz** MC our 2019 Banquet. Elected by their WBY peers, Chloe and Josie personify what it means to be a Danbee girl. The speech they gave at the banquet was incredible. Thanks, ladies!

In society, the idea of girls being anything other than what a magazine portrays them to be is no longer taboo, but yet still not accepted. It seems sometimes our purpose is to be scrutinized for our imperfections and thus, it is hard to accept who you are. With the picture of the so called perfect girl, plastered in front of our faces, it's difficult to feel comfortable enough to disobey societal norms.

However, Danbee is a place that instills the confidence that allows you to be completely yourself. Each and every girl acts in a different way, looks different, and enjoys being uniquely themselves. At Danbee, because your differences are embraced, these very girls can do just that. This is one of the many reasons Danbee has become our summer home for the past 6 and 7 years.

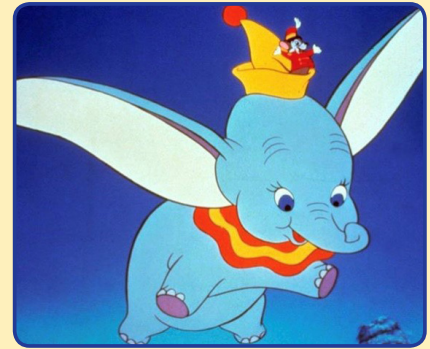
Everybody's home means something different to them. Some may say it is the place where they are surrounded by the people they love. Maybe as a place they can thrive or even somewhere in which they become the best version of themselves. Most would describe only one home, but we are fortunate enough to have two. Just as home has a different significance to everyone, so does Danbee.

As our second home, it means a place where we have found

our best friends, where we have discovered our ability to let loose, and where we have developed the confidence to be proud of who we are. During the school year, it's where we want to be; it's what we had to look forward to, and what we had to get us through the tough times. Danbee changes everyone for the better, but not always in the same way.

I've never really understood what it felt like to have a sibling. With my parents always away on business trips, it was hard not to have someone to share my childhood with. All my adventures, aspirations, and dreams I would have no choice but to keep to myself. Of course I had friends but the relationship you have with your siblings is one you have to experience to understand. When my parents introduced the idea of camp to me to say I was opposed to going would be an understatement. Even though I longed to have siblings, I was scared to blindly let myself fall into the unknown. Little did I know, that Danbee was all I needed to gain the sisters I never had. Danbee was all I needed to meet my best friends.

When I first stepped off the bus as a little hornet, I was so timid. I was afraid of going to camp without knowing who I would be in a bunk with, who I would



become friends with and how I would survive 7 weeks without my parents. I was so shy and afraid to step out of my comfort zone. If you told me 6 years ago that I would be here right now giving this speech, I would have looked at you like you were insane. I didn't believe that I could have gotten up in front of the whole camp and speak my mind about what this place means to me. However this is what Danbee does. It helped me break out of my shell and become confident with who I am.

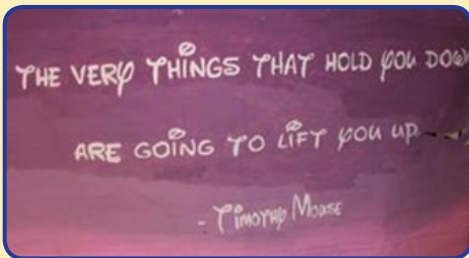
These changes were not only because of the place, but because of each little fragment of Danbee that contributes to a greater whole. Whether it's the spirit, the atmosphere, the people, our Wel-B-Yon, each plays a tremendous role in crafting each and every memorable summer.

As painful as it may be, we are forced to realize that our time here has slipped away from us. And we are forced to realize that no matter how much we want to stay, all that will remain of us is our legacy, and the legacy of Wel-B-Yon '19.

Continued on next page...

MC SPEECH 2019 *Continued...*

After our wish boat flames slowly die out and the numbers of the burning 19 fall to ash, all that will remain is our names on the Wel House walls, our torn down banquet, and memories of the place we once called home. All we will have is glimpses of the past that we can replay but never again relive. With each of our final days passing so excruciatingly fast, we desperately try to find a way to hold on but every attempt proves to be a failure. There's no way around the fact that we've had our last campfire, last dance in the mess hall, and we are approaching the last hug with each other. As we look into the eyes of Wel-B-Yon to come, we remember what it felt like to be unaware and oblivious to the fact that one day we would have to let go of something we love so much and the people we love so much.



To our 36 sisters, you give us something almost impossible to come by. You give us endless love, support and laughs. Through it all, thick and thin, you have never left our side. Our lives would feel empty without you and we wouldn't be who we are today. Being surrounded by people who inspire us, encourage us, and truly care for us, is something not everyone gets to have. We got so lucky to meet and grow up next to the 36 of you. The bonds we have formed will last a lifetime. Even when winter sets in, and blue skies are nowhere to be found, our friendships will still be ever so prominent. It may seem like time is robbing us of the little moments we have left together and in some ways, it is. We can't control how fast or slow the clock ticks, all we can do is enjoy the time we have.

We thought seven weeks would be enough, but in reality nothing would ever be enough. As we leave the house for the last time tomorrow morning, we are leaving behind a place where

we feel safe, and strong, and beautiful. But we are leaving with 36 sisters by our side who we know we can count on for life. We never believed we'd be taking our final steps onto the coach bus, but we don't really have a choice.

It's very easy to take a place like Danbee for granted. A place where you can be yourself without consequence, a place where your differences are celebrated, and where being unique is what everyone strives for. So we want to leave you with this: Every second you get here is precious, don't waste your time worrying about little things that in the end just don't matter.

Spend your time surrounding yourself with people you love, and who appreciate you for who you are because one day you won't have any time left to do so.

Thank you.





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AND THE SURVEY SAYS...

Hear what some of our campers love most about Danbee...

Dancing in the mess hall and all the people and key staff. • The traditions! • Being away from home and gaining independence. • The friendships I've made. • All the friends I made and the loving staff. I was very nervous to try camp again but so glad I did! • The focus on empowerment! • All the people make it special. Everyone is welcoming and no one is judging you. • Dancing in the mess hall!

Straight from the mouths of our parents...

Danbee is more than a camp. It is a community that walks their walk. They promote empowerment and support that journey. I was nervous to send my girls as it was our first time. I felt that I was taken care of the same way my girls were. I was confident that I was leaving my girls in really good hands. • We have had such positive summers for both our daughters. Can't recommend Danbee highly enough. • Thank you to all for making this the best summer ever both of my girls. We so appreciate all of the time and effort put in to make sure they were so well taken care of. • Thank you for providing our daughter with the best summers of her life. Wish they could keep going forever! • I can't think of a more empowering place for young women and girls to spend their summer. My girls would live at camp year round if they could!