



THE BEELINE

BANQUET 2023 ARTICLE

By Maddie LaPierre and Lila Goldin



For the first time in Danbee history, the vote for Banquet 2023 was unanimous. That means every single Wel-B-Yon agreed that there was only one theme that was perfect for their last night of the summer. Although there were many ideas tossed around, including Moana and Frozen, Wel-B-Yon 2023 knew that Banquet had to be Tinkerbell.

After the first few days of camp flew by, it was time to begin work on what would become the biggest project of the summer. In the blink of an eye, paint covered the hands of the Wel-B-Yon, and murals took over the walls of the Wel House. Banquet 2023 had officially begun.

Over the course of the summer, committees worked tirelessly on each and every little aspect of the night, making sure that no corner of the mess hall would be left undecorated.

To throw the rest of camp off their trail, Wel-B-Yon spread countless fake themes to make sure no one would know the truth until the last night.

The committees worked on menus, storyline, costumes, centerpieces, and of course, painting the murals. Every fifth period as the Wel-B-Yon gathered in the living room to work on Banquet, they imagined what it would be like when it all came together. Finally, after seven weeks of waiting, Banquet had arrived, and it was everything they dreamed and more.

When the night began, each bunk filed into the mess hall with looks of anticipation and excitement on their faces. When the Wel-B-Yon giving them a tour ripped back the curtain and shared their big secret excitement was replaced with shock and squeals of delight filled the air.

What's Inside

This year on *The Beeline*, girls embraced all things Danbee and what makes it so special.

Lila Goldin and Maddie LaPierre wrote about the first-ever unanimous Banquet theme and all the faith, trust, and pixie dust that went into making Banquet 2023 magical!

Avery Portugal covers the cherished ninth grade traditions at Danbee.

The long anticipated WBY trips to Los Angeles and Montreal are covered by Maddie LaPierre.

Catalina Cabral introduces us to all the kids at camp who aren't campers. She also talks about what makes Danbee different from camps in the Dominican Republic.

Ella Glassman writes about Wel-B-Yon OD, a special Sunday night tradition.

Mia Sarabia delved into the world of fashion at social, featuring interviews from campers about different trends.

Lila Goldin dives into what makes working at Danbee special with new Theater Director, Patrick Cragin.

Wynne Guerra offers a fresh perspective on the lake, showing that it is cherished by staffers and campers alike.

Lila Goldin interviews Danbee alum and current Today Show Producer, Lexi Rudolph, to discuss empowerment and the impact of the Danbee experience.

Happy reading!

Madeline Loehr, Program Director
Melanie Velasquez, Program Instructor
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Photos By: Brandi Solerno, Paige McCallum, Lizzie Allen

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Past the black hole containing a glowing hammer, campers are shown into a Pixie Hollow wonderland version of the mess hall. With hand-glued clouds hanging from the ceiling, and meticulously painted murals on every inch of wall, Wel-B-Yon fill with pride showing off their hard work to the entire camp.

Leadership staff members, dressed up as characters from Tinkerbell, are ready to bring the movie to life. As campers are shown through the mess hall, they get dusted with Pixie Dust (confetti), and handed powdered-sugar-donut dewdrops to snack on. No expense was spared and no detail was left behind. Tinkerbell had well and truly come to life.

Once all the campers were seated, it was time to begin the thematic dinner, which means time for awards and speeches. Each activity had its moment to shine, and Wel-B-Yon had a chance to thank leadership staff members who had made an impact on their age group.

During this time they also dedicated Banquet and all of their hard work to Director Mark Toporoff and shared details about their special bond with him. Tears were shed as campers and staff who had known and loved each other for years finally had a chance to recognize their gratitude.

Wel-B-Yon were also able to give six well-deserved awards to one another, and acknowledge their friends who had gone above and

beyond in different aspects of Danbee. These awards include Miss Leagues, Miss Nationals, Miss Americans, Miss Sweetheart, Miss Banquet, and The Spirit Girl. These awards were voted on by the Wel-B-Yon during the last weeks of camp. To bring the eventful night to a close, the Mistress of Ceremony Stella Newman addressed the entire camp in a heartfelt speech.

As the summer has flown by, all of Wel-B-Yon 2023 would like to thank every single camper and staff member who made this summer so incredible and unforgettable. We hope you loved Tinkerbell as much as we all did and had a perfect final night.

With all our love,
Wel-B-Yon 2023

WBY TAKE ON CANADA AND CALIFORNIA

By Maddie LaPierre

One of the many highlights of a Wel-B-Yon's (WBY) last summer is the two overnight trips, to Canada and California. On the third week of camp, the WBY piled into a bus early in the morning to start the four and a half hour drive to Canada. The trip spans over four activity-packed days that range from waterparks to white water rafting to shopping in Old Montreal! One special aspect of the trip is the fact that the WBY also spends time in Canada with Camp Winadu.

At the end of July into early August, WBY leaves for a whole week to head over to the West Coast to visit California! Similar to Canada, the trip is filled with fun activities such as going to the beach, visiting Disneyland, and

sightseeing around Los Angeles. The California trip is also spent with another one of our brother camps, Camp Mah-Kee-Nac.

The Montreal trip began bright and early on a Monday morning. At 8:30 the WBY all piled onto the bus and headed to the first stop of the day, Winadu. Twenty minutes later, the bus arrived at Winadu for the buses to meet up and then the drive to Canada officially began. Right before the border, it was around lunch time so it was time to stop for some food.

After a quick meal at Chick-Fil-A, it was time to go to the border. How long it takes to go through the border can vary by each trip, but this year, all that we had to do was come off the bus and go into the border office.

Once in the border office, they checked passports and searched the bus. When we finally passed the border, we had a short amount of time left before arriving at the hotel to settle in before our next activity.

After a short break at the hotel, Danbee and Winadu headed off to Downtown Montreal for laser tag and pizza. After laser tag it was time to head back to the hotel to get a good night's rest for the next busy day ahead. Day two in Canada was very action packed. The first stop of the day was Super Aqua Club. The day consisted of lots of waterslides and fun in the sun. After a lunch at the waterpark, the WBY were off to a surprise trip to Roots!

The next day WBY went white water rafting on the Rouge River. Everyone split into groups with an instructor and set out on the river. There were seven different rapids all varying by difficulty.

The trip started out with easy rapids and ended with a really hard rapid, nicknamed the Washing Machine. On that specific rapid, the raft would go down into a swell and then the raft would pick back up again, which caused a lot of people (including me) to fall out of the boat!

Another activity the WBY did during white water rafting was what the instructors called “surfing” when one person would scoot to the front of the raft and the rest of the people would paddle into a rapid which caused the raft to go on top of the wave. After the hour and a half/two hour rafting trip, everyone headed back to the base camp for lunch and pool time with Windau before they went rafting. Everyone then went back into the hotel for dinner and a chill night since everyone was tired.

On the last day in Montreal the main activity was jet boating. All of the WBY went out on one big boat together in ponchos and life jackets. The boat went through some big waves along with rapids and everyone got soaking wet. After jet boating WBY split into walking groups and walked around Old Montreal for lunch and some shopping.

After a fun day, everyone piled back onto the bus to head back to camp.

On the sixth week of camp, the WBY headed off to California, one of the most anticipated parts of the summer. At 5 a.m., the WBY woke up to eat breakfast and get on the bus for the four hour drive to JFK.

During the five hour plane ride, movies were watched and people slept, still exhausted from the early wake up.

When we got off the plane we collected our bags at baggage claim and got on the bus and went to the hotel. At the hotel, we ate pizza for dinner and headed to bed.

The first day of the Cali trip was a beach day. Everyone headed off to Laguna Beach for the first half of the day. After a couple of hours at the beach it was time for some lunch and shopping. People split into their walking groups for the day and grabbed some lunch at the nearby restaurants and then some shopping by the beach. After the beach, it was time to go back on the school bus and go back to the hotel to freshen up for the Dodgers game. Both Danbee and Mah-Kee-Nac went to Dodgers Stadium and enjoyed the baseball game.

On the second day, WBY headed to the Grammy Museum and saw many interesting exhibits with outfits worn to the Grammys from famous singers such as Taylor Swift, Harry Styles, and Bruno Mars. After, it was time to head to the Grove for lunch and more shopping. The last stop of the day was to look around Rodeo drive. Once it was time for dinner, everyone went to Universal City Walk.

It wouldn't be the iconic WBY California trips without stopping by UCLA. We took a quick look around the campus and stopped at the bookstore to buy some UCLA merchandise. After we left the campus, it was time to go to one of the most iconic restaurants on the west coast: In N' Out. For the last activity of the day, we went to the Annenberg Community Beach house in Santa Monica. The waves were huge and it was the perfect beachy afternoon. For dinner we all went to Downtown Disney for dinner and fireworks. On the second to last full day in California it was time for the long awaited Disney Day. Some specific highlights of this day were the insane roller coasters such as the Incredicoaster and Space Mountain. After the long day it was time for dinner, the firework show, and the light show.

Our last day was jam packed with fun locations. The first stop of the day was Griffith Park, also known as the Hollywood Sign. After that was the US Surf Open and our final stop was the Santa Monica Pier, where we got some delicious dinner and got a final look at the beautiful California Coast.



LEAGUES BREAK 2023

By Truly Hort

The suspicion first started to arise when Jay Toporoff, one of the camp directors, announced a Taylor Swift Eras Tour that was to be performed at camp. As expected, the camp was filled with excitement, exhilaration, and fear. After having already a Fake Out, everyone sat in anticipation; Waiting. Now all that remained was the question: When will Leagues 2023 break?

As usual, the meal started with Jay going, “Bon Appetit.” All was considered normal until the first clue was revealed, with the typical three songs played after meals being interrupted by car noises played on the loudspeakers. And just like that, the word was out. Leagues Break had begun. The rush ran through the mess hall as the group leaders of every age group bursted through the door dressed in capes and masks.

“Wel-B-Yon followed Georgia McCloskey outside the mess hall,” the Wel-B-Yon piled up, trying to escape the mess hall as fast as possible.

Screams erupted throughout the mess hall as the Honey Bumbles eagerly formed a line following them. A huge blob started to form with everyone else trying to follow WB Y through the tunnel, on the path to Old Acres, and to the horse stables. Clumps started to form of each age group surrounding a huge ring. Three-hundred-fifty girls anxiously awaited for what was to come next. Chatter broke out in the fields as Taylor Swift started playing on the speaker. WB Y started to yell for quiet. Jay started to talk into the microphone.

“Hey Danbee!” The camp looked up to the stage that was displayed on the grassy field. “Hey Danbee!” Jay repeated, causing silence to fall over the crowd. “Fifty years ago on this exact night, there was a monster truck show competition.” Confused glances crossed over the campers. “We thought to commemorate this event, we could recreate that very night.”

Two people holding monster truck cutouts were revealed. All of a sudden they started running as fast as they could in circles. Cheers erupted across the fields until Jay interrupted, “Wait- This is kinda lame.” Jay continued to introduce four monster trucks, who were to compete in a race. Eye of the tiger started to play on the loudspeakers. The cars continued to circle around until they came to a halt. Jay started to announce the captains for both the Nationals and the Americans, as excited campers screamed for the teams. The Nationals captains: Courtney, Freya, and Lisa. The Americans captains: Cam, Lucy, and Ryan. Wel-B-Yon ran onto the stage two at a time, anxiously looking for either green, or red confetti, to be released from their confetti cannon. The next question was: Who will win Leagues 2023?



DANBEE VS THE DOMINICAN

By Catalina Cabral

Camps in the Dominican Republic can be very different from American camps. Some differences are the food, weather, language, people, artists, and music.

One dish in the Dominican Republic is Mangu, a popular dish that consists of mashed plantains with vinegar and red onions. It is usually served with scrambled eggs and fried salami. At Danbee, a very popular dish is chicken.

In the Dominican Republic, the language typically spoken is Spanish. Here it is primarily English. Many people at Danbee are from different parts of the world. At Dominican camps, the people are mostly from the Dominican Republic.

Another difference between Danbee and the Dominican Republic is the culture. For example, American camps celebrate the 4th of July (the American Day of Independence). We celebrated with some games and even heard some fireworks. In the Dominican Republic, we celebrate independence on February 27th.

The music from the Dominican Republic is also VERY different from the music at Danbee. The Dominican Republic has different types of music. The most common music types are bachata, dembow, reggaeton, and merengue. The most popular music is reggaeton, similar to Spanish rap.



CARNIVAL IS SO MUCH FUN!

By Charlie Mintz

Cotton candy! Snowcones! Games! Carnival has all of these!

Carnival is a special day during the summer for all of Danbee to enjoy. There is a Campus parade to start Carnival. Acres and WBY watch and cheer!

During Carnival, each age group has a job. Campus' job is to walk Acres job is to give the parade an audience. Campus and Acres run their booths. Ninth graders run the different concession stands, and WBY's job is to watch the parade, read Danbee-grams, and participate in the dunk tank.

One of my favorite things at carnival is the corn maze. Even though it was not actual corn

it was still fun to run through three or four times.

There is a kissing booth, where they hand out Hershey's Kisses and many other fun booths.

Every year carnival has a theme that campus parades through the soccer field. This year the theme was World Cup countries.

Some of the food options at carnival are cotton candy, popcorn, fruit pops and snow cones. My favorite food at Carnival is cotton candy or popcorn.

As you can see, carnival is a bunch of fun. Who would not want to have so much fun there?



WBY OD IS A SPECIAL TRADITION

By Ella Glassman

Wel-B-Yon On Duty (WBY OD) is a weekly occurrence that has taken place at Camp Danbee since the early nineties. Every Sunday evening during the weekly staff meeting, WBY campers go in groups to bunks on Campus and Acres to spend time with the younger campers. WBY campers choose their groups that they want to OD in, and then are assigned bunks to go to. After the first week, some people wanted to stick with their original bunk, and some people chose new bunks. WBY plays games and talks to the campers in the bunks.

Some popular games are Uno and Crazy Eights. The WBY then get the younger campers to go to sleep at their different bed times.

Throughout my previous summers at Danbee, I was always excited for the chance to see the WBY during their OD. It is one special privilege of the WBY experience. Campus and Acres campers value Sunday nights when they are able to hang out with older campers they look up to, and ninth graders begin to look forward to having that opportunity next year when they are WBY.

This is an important tradition for the WBY because it allows us to have a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities counselors take on, and gain a greater appreciation for them. It also serves as fun and valuable time for us to connect with younger campers and make them feel more comfortable and included at Danbee.

FASHION AT SOCIALS

By Mia Sarabia

How do you get ready for a social? Some people have different styles that they want to use but what if you don't? There are new people at camp every year and they might need a little help getting ready. What do you like to wear?

Queen Bee Reese Tetrick said, "I like to wear tank tops, skirts, or athletic shorts." Ines Cuilleret, a ninth grader, said she likes to wear, "Jean shorts, something [I'm] comfortable in." Isabel Elmudes, also in ninth grade, says she wears, "sweatpants or jean shorts."



CASINO NIGHT

By Charlie Mintz

What is Casino Night?

Casino night is an event where you play cards and different casino games with friends and counselors.

Where is Casino Night held?

Casino night is held in the mess hall. During Casino Night you get fribbles (aka milkshakes). You can get chocolate, strawberry, coffee, or vanilla.

Why do you team up with your bunk to get Danbee money?

The goal for the night is to win as much money playing games as possible. At the end all of your bunks money is counted together. You team up with your bunk to get money because your bunk is your age and you live with them for the summer.

What are some of the games at Casino night?

Some of the games at Casino night are Black Jack, Wheel of Fortune, Roulette, War, Poker, and Deal or No Deal.

What do you wear?

How you dress up for Casino night is by wearing fancy clothes. Usually clothes are black, gold, white, and sparkly with a lot of fancy accessories.



NINTH GRADE TRADITIONS

By Avery Portugal

When you're a ninth grader at Danbee, there are a lot of special things you get to do! To name a few: Be an angel at Gold Rush, make a paddle for your Wel-B-Yon sorority sister, and play deal or no deal at casino night!

Let's start by talking about sorority paddles. Throughout your years at camp, you can find yourself an older and younger sorority sister. This is basically one camp sister separate from your camp family who you're friends with. Starting your ninth grade summer, you start to do activities with your older sorority sister. One of the things you have to do is make them a paddle, similar to ones made in actual sororities. It could be decorated with greek letters spelling Danbee, you and your sorority sisters' names, or anything you want! Some girls splatter paint their blue and yellow, others fill tiny glass bottles with sand from the lake or confetti from leagues break and put it on. It's supposed to be a tribute to Danbee and your sorority sister's WBY summer. You give the paddle to them at the end of the summer. It's a nice moment to show how much you love and care about your older sorority sister.

Another super fun ninth grade tradition is dressing like an angel for Gold Rush. During Gold Rush, an event where you run around camp in cowboy themed attire trying to find the most painted rocks to earn the most "money", there are a few campers who are picked to be "wanted". This means that anyone on camp can find them and bring them to the wild west jail,

where their bunk will have to bail them out. UNLESS, they are with a ninth grade angel, guarding them from anybody trying to bring them to jail! The ninth graders make their own angel wings with paper, glue, glitter, and strings. It's a pretty tough task, and it may get ugly, but it's worth it for the fun night.

The next special thing that ninth graders get to do is play Deal or No Deal during Casino Night. For the rest of camp, they're trying to earn as many Danbee Dollars as possible by playing casino games. While that is going on, the ninth grade bunks are playing Deal or No Deal in neon crazy outfits! Some of the good prizes include smores, breakfast in bed, and a Topsy's trip! Some other prizes are: a pack of skittles to share, a high five from Mark, and 1 golf cart ride. There isn't really a 'winner' but the goal is to get the best prize possible!

Another fun thing that ninth graders get to do is that during Halloween, the ninth graders dress as their WBY 'look alikes' and perform a skit with funny details about your look alike that's created by their friends.

It is a WBY and ninth grade special event and nobody else on camp is included. It's a fun thing to look forward to throughout your years at camp.

The final special thing that ninth graders have to do is write a song for the WBY. This song will be performed at the end of Banquet on the last night of camp. The song is to the tune of an already existing song, whichever the ninth graders choose. In 2022 the ninth graders did it to "A Thousand Years". Ninth graders change the lyrics to make it about leaving camp and the WBY's last moments in the Danbee bubble. It is usually accompanied by a handwritten letter about camp, and you give the paper to your sorority sister after you sing the song. It is supposed to be very sentimental! Being a ninth grader at camp is so fun because you gain so many experiences and memories that you can't from your other years here. I know personally that I've always looked forward to being a ninth grader, and now that it's finally here I realized that I'm having the time of my life!



BABIES AT CAMP

By Catalina Cabral

Camp Danbee is home to a lot of campers in the summer, but it is also home to many kids who aren't campers including: Nora, Hugh, Wesley, Grady, Luna, and Boston. You might have already seen them around in camp with their parents.

Luna and Boston

Luna and Boston's parents are Laura and Sean. Luna was less than a month old when she first came here. Now, she just turned 5 years old! She loves camp. Her favorite part is the music, dancing, and the plays. Sometimes when her parents are working, she joins the Honey Bumbles for a few activities. When she is not with the Honey Bumbles, she hangs out at pottery, the dance studio, and the gym. Her nanny, Julia, or her mom, Laura, takes care of her. When asked about any challenges Sean said, "One of the challenges is that she can't be in her own space." He also said, "The food is very different from the food at home". There are definitely some challenges but also, there are good sides. Including meeting new people and having new experiences.

Boston is Luna's brother. He was only two weeks old when he first came to camp last year. Now, he is one year old and loves camp. When he is old enough, his parents are planning to send him to Mah-Kee-Nac. His favorite activities are going in the water, listening to music, and dancing. When his parents are working, Luna and Boston's nanny, Julia, takes care of them.

Grady

Grady is six years old. He will be seven in September. His parents are Brandi and Mo. Grady has been at camp for two years now. He loves many about camp, but he especially loves Gymnastics and Gaga ball. When his parents are working, he usually hangs out with Luna or at his cabin. During the day, he goes to a day camp, so he is here in the evenings and on weekends. When his parents are working he can be found wandering around camp!

Hugh and Wesley

Hugh is three years old and Wesley is almost two years old. Their favorite things to do at camp are gymnastics, dancing, and going to the creek.

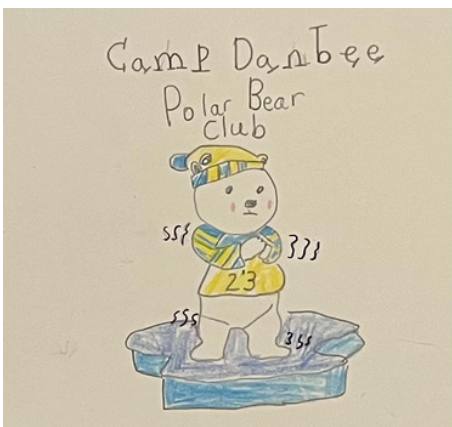
According to their mom, Faith, their favorite activity is definitely going to the lake. In an interview, Patrick said that some of the upsides about raising your kids at Danbee is they spend a lot of time together, the weather is very nice, there are many to socialize with, and there is a large amount of green space to play. When Patrick is working, Faith takes care of them.

Nora

Nora is the daughter of Annie and Zach, Danbee's new Camp Directors! This is Nora's first year. According to Zach, the first time she came to Danbee was May 2023. She is nine months old and is enjoying camp a lot. While her parents are working her nannies, Amber and Lena, play with her all around camp and keep her entertained. Nora's favorite thing in Danbee is to meet new people and socialize with them. In an interview, Zach said that the main challenges are making sure that she has everything she needs including enough sunscreen, sleep, and food.

POLAR BEAR

By Harlan Greenberg



Polar Bear is one of campers favorite early morning activities. Polar Bear occurs at the lake, usually at 7:15 in the morning. It is on Wednesday and Sundays. The water is sometimes warm but most times it is cold. It is a really refreshing way to start the day. You also have to remember to get your tag and put it on the board so you can get counted for the t-shirt. There is also a song before you jump into the lake. Before camp starts they, host a contest

where whoever draws the best polar bear wins and the Polar Bear t-shirt will have their drawing on the shirt. This year's winner for the contest was me, Harlan Greenberg! I'm a Hornet in Bunk 21. In order to get a shirt you need to jump into the lake five times. I'm really proud of myself because I won the design contest. I can't wait to see people walking around camp wearing my t-shirt design!

SONGFEST

By Lily Morgenthau

Songfest is one of the biggest events to occur here at Danbee. It's a critical event in the Leagues competition. Songfest happens during the last week at camp. It is also where the winner of the whole Leagues competition is revealed.

Firstly, Songfest is not a relaxing event. I'm not kidding. Here's how it works: On the day of Songfest, the two shortest Honey Bumbles, one on Nationals and another on Americans, go for a coin toss. The Honey Bumble who is the shortest gets to call their pick first. Let's say they call heads, and the taller Honey Bumble gets tails. The coin is then flipped. Let's just say the Honey Bumble that was on nationals calls heads and it gets on heads, the National Honey Bumble would get to pick who sings first. There is also a Wel-B-Yon (WB Y) toss for who gets to shower first. Most campers want to be second. After that, you either shower or have Songfest practice.

Let's talk about the dress code. Here's what you need to wear: a Danbee polo shirt, medium to dark tight jeans (preferably), white shoes, and you should wear your hair in a high (slicked back) ponytail. Hair gel is a MUST. Songfest dress code is one of the best, and most fun parts of Songfest.

Here's a walk through of the night: after showering and having practice you will go up to the mess hall and BEWARE they purposely try and make the food extremely messy.



The WB Y also tell you to wear your Leagues t-shirt over your danbee polo to make sure your danbee polo stays white. After dinner you meet with your team and get in order. You will also have numbers written in sharpie on both hands. One for where you are in the marathon (when your event happens) and the other for who you're standing next to during Songfest.

Then you walk down to the theater and have a coin toss for what team will do their songs first. You alternate singing your peps, novelties, and slows. Also, halfway through Songfest there is a skit.

The main point of Songfest is to not smile or laugh. Then both teams sing their peps, novelties, and slows. Before the watermelon is flipped to announce the Leagues winner, the WB Y say "Ohh attention breaker- it had to be done". After that you can socialize with your friends and "Unite" with the rest of camp. After all the songs are sung there's a few minutes before the watermelon is flipped with either an A or an N carved into it!

Overall, Songfest, the closing event of Leagues, is definitely an event that is the most serious and also super exciting. Plus, after Songfest is over you get an ice cream party in the mess hall. Songfest is a memorable event that is a vital part of Leagues. I'm so excited to see who wins Leagues 2023!!!! Personally, as a proud die hard National I am amazed and so incredibly excited that the National's kept their winning streak going. It's now been three years since the Americans won. However, cheers to both teams for doing amazing and trying so hard. It was a fight for both teams. I wonder what leagues '24 is going to look like? So- Who is excited??



LEAGUES

By Iyla Hecht

Leagues is a big camp event every year. Every Monday during camp, you and your friends will be split into two teams: Americans or Nationals. You can bring spirit items or dress in your team shirt. The day is very different from other normal days during the week. Your team gets two different activities versus the other team. Before lunch there is a counselor game. It is worth NO POINTS, it's just for fun. Some games are volleyball, tug of war, volleyball and triple threat.

After rest hour / lunch, during fourth and fifth you have group games.

You and your age group will get cheered on by

the camp and compete against the other team in your age group.

There are different games in every age group, including: the cup game, the sprints, tennis ball hitting, and softball toss, etc. Before the group game Wel-B-Yon plays the WBY games, it is a group game but only WBY can play. You and your team cheers them on.

The five first Mondays there are normal leagues. The last two Mondays are Marathon and Songfest. During Songfest you sing all the songs the WBY teaches your team. The Americans are red and blue. The Nationals are green and white.

Marathon is a big camp race when the two teams compete in many different challenges.

Right before Songfest ends the winner will be announced with a turn of a watermelon. If nationals win there will be a N on the watermelon but if Americans win it will be A. Then right after you go up to the mess hall for Ice Cream. Of course the ice cream tastes better if you win! They have toppings and the best ice cream flavors and maybe your favorite flavor. This year was a great year and the winner is...

NATIONALS



PATRICK CRAGIN TAKES THE STAGE AS THE NEW THEATER DIRECTOR

By Lila Goldin

"It's not just teaching theater, *per se*, but through teaching theater, teaching them how to be good humans."

Patrick Cragin, Faith Cragin, and their sons Hugh and Wesley have joined the Danbee family this summer, with Patrick taking over as the director of the Theater program.

Patrick had first met Annie and Zach when working at Pocono Springs Camp in 2017. Seven years later, Patrick came across posts on their Instagram about Danbee and was immediately interested.

"So I reached out to Annie before last summer and said, 'If you need a theater director in the summertime, let me know,'" Patrick said. "That summer they didn't, but then this spring, they reached out and asked if I was doing anything this summer. And now I'm here! Happy I made it."

During the summer working at Pocono Springs Camp, Patrick had been a counselor by day and a theater staffer by night. The shift between being a part-time theater counselor to a full-time director created a noticeably different experience for Patrick. Having more freedom allowed him to not only throw himself into the theater department and the musical, but also to spend time with his family.

"Sometimes when you have little kids, you feel like a burden on people. Here I haven't felt like that once," he said. "People are always smiling at the boys and asking Faith how she is doing.

They've always given me permission to not go to evening activities and go help put my kids to bed instead. To have that at my job is just, really a blessing."

While Patrick explained how his family came to Danbee, his sons Hugh, and Wesley came running up to the theater steps to greet him, Faith following close behind. The boys- on their way to naptime- give Patrick big hugs, and he visibly relaxes in the company of his loved ones. Once Faith and the boys head back to their bunk, Patrick launches back into his story, renewed with a burst of energy.

Patrick and Faith met when both were working on a musical in Los Angeles. A friend of Patrick's was a producer and invited him to come over from New York to perform in his original musical titled "O Little Town of Bloomington". At first Patrick was apprehensive to travel all the way across the country for a show, but his friend was able to convince him. Faith had been living in LA at that time, and was also invited to sing in the choir for the show.

"Faith was living in Beverly Hills, and they were housing me in West Hollywood, but the theater was out in Pasadena and most people lived there," Patrick said. "So Faith was the only one who could give me a ride home, and we really connected on those long rides home."

He paused, taking a moment to look around at the campers wandering from one activity to the next in front of him. You could

tell from the wistful look on his face that the story he tells is close to his heart.

"We would talk for hours. It was just an instant, really deep connection." After half a year of long distance, long phone calls, and even longer flights, Patrick made the move from NYC to LA.

"By March of that year, we were engaged. I was like, 'Let's go. I want to marry you,'" he said.

The couple's travels around the country did not end at NYC and LA. From there, they moved to New Orleans, where they lived until the birth of their first son, Hugh. When the pandemic started they made the move back to NYC.

For the time they spent living in NY, Patrick was starting to teach musical theater, dancing, and directed theater instead of performing in it. He was shocked by how much he enjoyed the change.

"It just hit me," he said, using his hands to mimic an explosion. "I asked myself, 'Do I like this more than I like performing?'"

After moving back to New Orleans for the birth of their second son, Wesley, Patrick began searching online for teaching positions and came across an amazing opportunity in Tampa, Florida.

He works as the Director of Performing Arts at Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School, where his classes focus on musical theater, piano, dancing, guitar, and more. As Patrick started to explain his job, he emphasized his words through his

hands in a way only someone with a lifetime of theater experience would.

"I legitimately love every minute of that job," he said. "I love being able to create a program from the ground up. To have a vision of what something could be and then get the students on board for that."

Patrick hopes to bring some of the magic and lessons of working at camp back home for next school year.

"[I had to learn] how to let other people do what they do best to help create the show. I don't have to do it all by myself, and having a staff has really helped me learn that," Patrick said, gesturing to the theater behind him- where his staff had been working throughout the day.

The same way that Danbee has been a constant in camper's lives, theater has been a constant in Patrick's. Since first taking part in a play in sixth grade, Patrick said it was "game over." He never stopped auditioning and chasing his dreams in musical theater.

That passion for theater was so strong nothing could top it, except for passing on his knowledge to the next generation of actors and actresses.

Patrick and Faith's family is growing this year. Not only with the addition of the Danbee family, but also with a baby girl. Having spent all this time surrounded by the power of hundreds of young girls, Patrick said that he had been "getting very excited to have a daughter."

As the summer went on, Patrick and his family grew more accustomed to the spirit and traditions of Danbee.

Although it was a quick adjustment, Patrick did not take any of the summer for granted.

"Thank you for having me here and trusting me to teach these kids," he says, addressing the camp as a whole. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity and honored to be at Camp Danbee."



THE LAKE IS JUST AS FUN FOR STAFF

By Wynne Guerra

At the lake there are a variety of activities that you can choose from. Some examples are paddleboarding, sailing, fishing, kayaking, waterskiing, and canoeing. The lake also has a trampoline, a slide, and a new feature called the Thunder Dome for lake parties or free swim. Some campers say that the lake is their favorite activity at camp but what

they don't know is that the lake can also be some of the staff's favorite place/activity at camp too.

I interviewed one of the lifeguards who is a Queen Bee counselor named Ella. Ella told me that during the day the lifeguards have many opportunities to jump in the lake and have fun. Some chances are in between periods and during snack time. Ella told me, "During snack time, in between 4th and 5th period, is normally the time when we can jump in, have fun, and use the inflatables." Ella also told me about the time one of the lifeguards lost her watch and people had to go diving for it.

The same thing happened to Brandi, Mo's wife, but instead of losing a watch she lost her prescription sunglasses. Sadly, nobody found the watch or sunglasses.

One of Ella's favorite things to do at the lake is diving for pottery which she does all the time. Ella said, "The lake is a place for me and my friends to hang out and talk about what is happening. We love to swim and jump together and have so much fun."

MARATHON

By Sami Kabakov

From running to making beds or cheering for your team, marathon has it all! There is no activity that's left out of the race! Marathon is an awesome way for you to showcase your talents even if it is weird, like being able to say the alphabet backwards or being able to wrap ankles super speedy.

In marathon there are six teams, three for the Americans and then three for the Nationals. The teams for the Nationals are white, lions and of course green, and the teams for the Americans are red, bears and blue.

Each team has a baton, a short stick or tube passed from runner to runner in a relay race. The batons are color coded to fit your team. If you drop it then you have to retrieve it before you can continue your event.

Before marathon is Lazy
Morning, gifts and last but
definitely not least,



is Silent Lunch. During Lazy Morning you get to sleep late or watch cartoons in the gymnasium. Gifts is where every seven weeker gets a gift depending on how many years they have been at Danbee, but you have to be a camper at Danbee for at least three years to get your first gift. Silent Lunch is where the Nationals sit on one side of the mess hall,

Americans sit on the other side and Leadership staff will try to make you laugh or talk. If you make noise then your team will lose points.

In a marathon you can do anything from bouncing a tennis ball 15 times to doing a handstand in the pool then swimming a lap in regular clothes. You can also do things like running or reciting the pledge of allegiance turbo fast. If you feel like you aren't that good at anything that is offered you can always do something small and practice a lot and maybe you will discover that you are really good at something funky like a three legged race!

This year a new record was created by the Nationals for earning first place by the white team, second place by the green team and third place by the lions which were the Nationals Teams. The American teams then came in fourth place, fifth place and sixth place, which gave the Nationals many points.



EIGHTH GRADE VAGS

By Lily Schnetzer, Lila Katcher, Emily Goldstein, Jordana Delgado

Every year at Danbee, Queen Bees through Wel-B-Yon go on VAGS. This means that eighth graders went to Boston, as they do every year. Ninth grader Hayley Silvers, has said Boston is the best trip for camp she has been on!

We departed on Tuesday August 2nd, at 8:15 a.m. for Hampton Beach in New Hampshire. We arrived at the beach and set up. We had some free time to walk around the beach boardwalk. Our favorite part at the beach was Playa Bowls and shopping.

We headed to Faneuil Hall for dinner and shopping. It included stores like Crocs, Urban Outfitters, Sephora, Pink, Its Sugar, and Black Dog. The food was absolutely phenomenal. We enjoyed many plates such as fried rice, pizza, ice cream, cheese corn dogs, tacos, sushi, and boba tea.

After a long eventful first day in Boston, we slowly arrived at the hotel where we went swimming in the indoor pool, made use of the printer, bought many snacks, and cuddled during horror movies.

The next morning we woke up and got ready for the day. The first thing that we did was the science museum. We saw many exciting things, such as real monkeys, a playground set including a bed of nails, swings, and a seesaw. There were many illusions, an animal care center, and an amazing gift shop.

After we all met up at the entrance, we boarded the bus to head to Newbury Street and Eataly. We finally arrived at Eataly and separated into our walking groups to eat and browse around. We enjoyed many delicious dishes such as freshly made pizza and pasta. We finished dining and we walked over to Newbury street, where the first stop was Brandy Melville. The store was filled with many Danbee girls, as it is a very popular store. Then we split into our walking groups and browsed around the street. There were many stores such as CVS, H&M, Sephora, Glossier, Shake Shack, Starbucks, Trader Joes, Nordstrom, and many little boutiques. After the street we headed to the Duck Boat where there was a funny tour guide and many souvenirs. After the Duck Boat we headed to dinner at The Chateau and had many great forms of pasta and chicken parm.

After our yummy meal we left dinner and went to the hotel.

The final day started with a hotel breakfast and packing up all our souvenirs and changing into our bathing suits for Water Country water park. After watching *Toy Story 3* in the bus we arrived at the water park. We had lots of fun going in the wave pools and going down the water slides. It started to pour when we were in line for our lunch. Our counselors told us that we had to get changed and head to the bus, so that is what we did. When we were all on the bus, Emily (our group leader) told us that we were going to go to the mall and watch the new Barbie movie! After walking through the mall and we arrived at the theater and the movie began. We enjoyed the movie a lot, and we headed over to the food court in the mall and enjoyed Japanese food, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, and boba tea. We ate and departed back for camp. After watching *Toy Story 4* on the bus, we arrived at camp and did the dreaded walk back to acres.



WHAT DO CAMPERS DO IF THEIR PARENTS AREN'T AT PV?

By Hayley Silvers

On the third weekend of the Danbee summer, parents come to camp and visit the campers for a day. On visiting day campers wake up super excited to see their parents. Campers have breakfast in bed awaiting the arrival from their parents. As soon as they see their parents they run into their arms. Over the day campers and their parents start off by going to morning assembly and hearing what a normal Danbee day is like. Campers then bring their parents to their morning activities.

At lunch families line the hill and eat cookout food. This year, it was pouring rain so most camper's parents took them off camp until the weather cleared.

If campers don't have a parent come, they get to go to the mall. We went to a mall in Albany, which is about an hour and a half away.

This summer, campers that went to the mall got lunch at the food court and got to go see the new Pixar movie Elemental.

Overall the movie was great, campers also got to get candy and popcorn. Following the movie, campers split into groups to then walk around the mall to go shopping. As campers loaded the bus to leave the mall, they texted their friends and family goodbye till their next phone call and returned home to Camp Danbee.

DANBEE EMPOWERMENT LASTS LONG AFTER CAMP

By Lila Goldin

In 1999, Lexi Rudolph, then Alexis Dauber, wore her marshmallow suit and danced in the mess hall with her Wel-B-Yon sisters. Now, Rudolph wears a real suit and works as the Senior Vice President of Booking at NBC News.

Booking in broadcast news is the task of identifying and arranging for a guest to appear on the show. Rudolph oversees a team of bookers for NBC, and makes sure that every single show or feature piece has the proper guests. Considering that NBC has a wide variety of content, this is no small feat.

"I always say it's everything from Syria to syrup," Rudolph said. "You're booking big breaking news,



or people like the President, but my team is also responsible for booking the summer concert series."

Rudolph has worked at NBC for almost 20 years. Starting as an intern in college, she threw herself into the job and worked her way

up to where she is now. However, she did not start out her internships with an interest in Booking.

"I didn't even know what booking was," Rudolph said. "I got into the page program for the Today Show

and I was the greenroom page. I was responsible for running the guests around, hair, makeup, and wardrobe, and I just thought- this is amazing.”

Although she went into the page program knowing she loved news but unsure what facet of news was the path for her, meeting the guests as a page and watching the booking producers with the guests made Rudolph realize that booking- the last thing she would have thought of- was the job for her.

“I love interacting with people, and bookers are responsible for the human side of news,” Rudolph said. “You see the stories and the headlines, but we are dealing with the *people* at the center of it.”

Through the years at NBC, Rudolph has taken on different responsibilities as her position became one of empowerment and management versus one of going out into the field.

“There’s a lot of empowering my team, because my whole career has been in this world and I know it’s hard. I know what it’s like to travel right into the aftermath of a devastating tornado or talk to the victims of something horrific,” Rudolph said.

In order to give her team the best resources and skills possible, Rudolph advises to dig deeper into the person-to-person aspect of their communication and not interviewer-to-interviewee.

“It’s often just regular people who are thrust into the news. Something happens to them or in their town and all of a sudden they are the story. [It’s important to] realize that they are people too and find ways to connect with them,” Rudolph said. “I always say that the best bookers are the ones that are able to connect on a human level.”

Empowering others is an important part of her daily life, but self-empowerment was a skill that she learned long ago, from her time at Danbee.

“I still have memories of sitting in the mess hall and Wel-B-Yon coming in with a song and just thinking, wow, these girls are amazing,” Rudolph said. “Looking up to them, and seeing those friendships, I remember I couldn’t wait to do it. And then just getting to be the Wel-B-Yon and knowing that people look up to you. It was just a really cool experience.”

At the opening campfire, Jay always says that each year is a little different than the last. “Danbee but different,” we call it. This has been proved true from the stories Rudolph tells from her summers at camp. Traditions from years ago that stand strong even today show that the Danbee Girl experience hasn’t changed though time has passed.

“Traditions are everything. Those are the skills that you’ll need your entire life. I’m so glad to hear that Danbee has held onto so many of their traditions,” she said.

Rudolph reminisces on some of her favorite nights from camp, including Banquet (hers being *The Little Mermaid*), Casino Night, leagues break, and Songfest. But the memories that she holds the most dear are the ones with her friends. After her Wel-B-Yon summer, Rudolph went on to room in college with a fellow WBY from ‘99 and even lives in the same town as one of her friends from camp.

“With Danbee, it was all about the friendships. I would say that out of the friends that I have, there’s something special about [camp friends].”

Even decades later, Rudolph clearly remembers the empowering aspect of being a part of an all-girls camp. “The girl power was real,” she said.

Now, Rudolph lives in New Jersey with her husband, two daughters and one son. Her kids are not old enough to attend camp yet, but she plans on sending them once they are.

“I’m so grateful for my time [at camp] and I’m very jealous of my kids that they will have that camp experience,” she said.

Since before Rudolph attended Danbee, through her summers, and even now, the all-girls empowerment has remained unchanged. To the readers of *The Beeline* and all Danbee girls, Rudolph advises to “stay true to yourself and lift up others.”

“Everyone loves to be recognized, and to get that pat on the back,” Rudolph said. “You want to be the person who is helping others shine, and helping others get that pat on the back. Then, when it is your time to shine there will be others waiting to lift you up and empower you.”



Lexi Rudolph in front of NBC Studios.