

The Walt Street Journal

CWW 2024 Newsletter Vol. 3



www.campwalt.com • p: (914) 948-9151 • (800) 657-8282

4 New King Street
White Plains, NY 10604

WALT WHITMAN
EST. 1948
CAMP

A Letter from the Directors



Dear Whitmanites,

As the leaves have changed and camp is now covered in the beautiful colors of Fall, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible summer we shared together. The warm, sunny days of this past season provided us with countless memories that continue to warm our hearts as the temperatures begin to cool. We are grateful for the energy and spirit that each of you brought to camp, making this summer one of the most special yet.

Whether it was enjoying the refreshing waters of Lake Armington, competing on the courts and fields, expressing creativity in our arts programs or hiking the breathtaking trails of the White Mountains, CWW days were filled with adventure, friendship and growth. The laughter and camaraderie that echoed throughout camp left a lasting impact, reminding us why CWW is so special.

As we look back fondly, we are also enthusiastically looking forward.

Planning for Summer 2025 is already well underway! We are excited to share that construction has begun on a new technology building, which will provide our campers with an innovative space to explore, learn and create. This new addition will enhance our STEM programming and give campers more opportunities to develop their skills and interests.

In addition, we are thrilled to announce a significant "COMING SOON"! Immediately following the conclusion of Summer 2025, we will begin the process of tearing down the existing dining hall to make way for a brand-new facility that will be ready for Summer 2026. The new dining hall will be a beautiful and functional space where we can continue to eat, gather and celebrate as a community.

It's an exciting time for Camp Walt Whitman! We hope you enjoy the Fall and look forward to seeing many of you soon at our reunion.

With much CWW love,

SAVE THE DATE

CWW Winter Reunion

December 15

2:00 - 3:30

School of the Holy Child

2225 Westchester Ave, Rye NY 10580

Dutelle Returns to CWW



Steve, Laura, Tucker & Annie

Once upon a time, I spent more than a decade of my life at Camp Walt Whitman. In fact, 1000 Cape Moonshine Road was a more permanent address than any other in my 20s. Now, after more than a decade living in the Pacific Northwest working as a middle school counselor and starting a family with my wife Laura, I will once again be able to share in the pure joy of singing, “I want to wake up, in the morning, where the purple lilacs grow...” around the campfire on the shores of Lake Armington. I am so excited to introduce Laura, and our two children, Tucker (2nd grade) and Annie (3 years old) to the happiest place on earth!

My first summer at CWW was in 2002 when I stumbled upon camp as a summer job and Jancy Dorfman (Jed’s mom) was kind enough to hire me as a cabin counselor in Bunk 1...brag moment...we were the proud winners of the summer’s Golden Toilet Brush! In subsequent summers, I worked as an Upper Camp Unit Leader, CIT Director, Upper Camp Director, Senior Camp Director and even a stint as the Athletic Director. I also spent 3 years working full-time for camp as the Staffing Director. Needless to say, camp played a huge role in my 20s and early 30s! When I left camp to reconnect with Laura (ask me the story about how we met sometime, I promise it’s worth hearing), I never dreamed that I would

be fortunate enough to return to camp in the role of Associate Director with a family of my own. Yet, here we are, Fall 2024, and every night before bed, Tucker asks for a camp story so he can learn all about camp before his 1st summer as a camper himself. Of course, my stories never do it justice, but I try my best!

Camp is like Neverland to me. It is a place that feels like it could only exist in one’s imagination, yet it is very real to those of us lucky enough to visit it for a summer. I believe that the community at CWW is so incredibly special that camp could be moved anywhere in the galaxy and its magic would persist. Now, don’t get me wrong, the big rock on the front lawn is still one of my favorite places on this planet, but it’s the people that make camp so special. The people carry the spirit forward. I am grateful to be coming back to meet all the “new” faces and once again calling Cape Moonshine Road my summer address!

See you soon!

Steve



Steve and Lew from Steve's first stint at camp in the early 2000's

Supporting Morry's Camp Through Camp Walt Whitman's Fun Run & Play-A-Thon

At Camp Walt Whitman, giving back is more than just a tradition—it's a core value that strengthens our community. Each year, we come together to support a cause near and dear to our hearts: Morry's Camp. Through our Fun Run and Play-A-Thon, campers and families alike have the opportunity to make a real difference, helping to transform lives and bring the joy of summer camp to children who might not otherwise experience it.

WHAT IS MORRY'S CAMP?



Junior campers starting the Morry's Camp Fun Run

Morry's Camp is more than just a summer camp; it's a life-changing experience for underserved youth, offering them not only the chance to attend camp but also to participate in a year-round, comprehensive youth development program. Founded in memory of Morry Stein, who believed in the power of camp to inspire, educate, and empower children, Morry's Camp gives young people the tools they need to succeed both at camp and beyond.

With a focus on building self-esteem, leadership skills, and a sense of community, Morry's Camp helps its campers realize their full potential. By supporting this incredible organization, we're giving kids the chance to break down barriers and build brighter futures. It's a cause that aligns perfectly with the values of Camp Walt Whitman—integrity, compassion, respect, and unity.

WHY YOUR DONATION MATTERS

When you donate to Morry's Camp, you're not just giving money—you're giving opportunities. For many of the campers at Morry's, the experience is more than a week away from home. It's a chance to discover their strengths, make lifelong friendships, and learn life skills that will serve them for years to come. Every dollar raised through our Fun Run and Play-A-Thon helps fund camper scholarships, leadership programs, and essential resources that make these life-changing experiences possible. Your contributions help fund year-round academic support, leadership training, and social-emotional learning programs that equip campers with the tools for future success. Through Project Morry's structured programs, participants build the skills, confidence, and support systems necessary to thrive in school, college, and beyond.



Campers running through blasts of color powder to show support for Morry's Camp

THE IMPACT ON OUR CAMP AND FAMILIES



Campers and staff covered in color and silly string tired but still giving it their all for Morry's Camp

For our Camp Walt Whitman families, supporting Morry's Camp is a way to extend the sense of community and compassion that defines our camp. Whether it's through running, playing, or cheering on our participants, the Fun Run and Play-A-Thon unite us in a shared mission of making a positive impact. Our campers learn firsthand the importance of giving back and they get to see how their efforts—no matter how small—can change lives.

It's a meaningful tradition that allows us to take action and demonstrate our values in a tangible way. Together, we are not only helping Morry's campers but also creating a culture of empathy, leadership, and generosity among our own.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE

Project Morry means a lot and it is not too late to still donate. Please donate now at www.projectmorry.org to help another kid experience the greatness and importance of camp.



Campers laking after a successful Morry's Camp Fun Run



From Tech Tent to STEM Building

In 2013, our journey into the world of technology and innovation began with a simple but ambitious idea; to introduce campers to the rapidly evolving field of technology. With Justin Beckerman leading the way, the TECH program took off! What started as only SIGs and electives, has now blossomed into a full-scale STEM program that will soon be thriving in a permanent structure in Summer 2025! This transformation over the past decade is a testament to our community's commitment to nurturing curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving among campers.

From the outset, the TECH program was designed to give campers hands-on experience with the basics of technology. Beckerman's robotics and engineering ability created true amazing projects for campers to complete summer after summer. When Beckerman could no longer return to camp on staff, the TECH program evolved from more than just technology to envelop all of STEM. Joe Merlino, a long time staff member and Technology teacher during the year, knows just how important the STEM program can be. "STEM classes can engage kids in fun and interactive ways, making learning enjoyable. This can spark a lifelong interest in science, technology, engineering and math. This is crucial in a world increasingly driven by technology and innovation." Moving from a tent to a permanent building has Joe ecstatic. "Replacing the STEM tent with a permanent building will allow our STEM

program to better house our equipment, and provide a safe and creative space for our campers at CWW to flourish".

Recognizing the need for a dedicated space to foster this kind of learning, we are excited for a permanent STEM structure on our grounds. This new building will be a hub of innovation. With cutting-edge equipment, flexible workspaces and resources for both beginners and advanced learners, the STEM center provides an environment where campers can build, test, and refine their ideas.

This program is an incredible opportunity for the campers and fits perfectly in the diverse programming that CWW offers. Zara Doyle, our current STEM instructor, understands just why the program is so important to CWW. "CWW already runs a wonderfully diverse program and STEM is an important part of that" Doyle said. "It provides campers with a well-rounded experience, allowing them to learn through hands-on activities in an engaging way they might not have access to elsewhere."

The program's evolution is not just about learning to code or build robots; it's about teaching resilience, creativity, and the joy of discovery. We can't wait to see what our campers will build next summer!



The new STEM building under construction



Campers enjoying their ingenuity and creativity during a STEM class



Campers creating masterful bottle rockets to launch

Alumni Feature: Justin Beckerman



Beckerman on staff at CWW

After spending seven summers as a camper, Justin Beckerman didn't want to be done at Walt Whitman. Beckerman had a unique skill and talent and absolutely loved his camp experience. When the opportunity arose for Beckerman to come to camp for a few weeks and offer SIGS and electives, Justin jumped at the opportunity! From there, the "Beckerman SIG" was always a first choice for the campers.

Beckerman is a large part as to why the STEM program exists today and it's awesome to see he hasn't stopped using the creativity that he has.

What are you currently doing after being a camper and on staff?

I have not stopped innovating! After recently renovating a house/shop with some fun automation, efficiency and energy upgrades, I recently built and automated a geo-thermal greenhouse and aquaponics system as well as a large solar array and battery to help my projects be more resilient and environmentally friendly. For work, I am a reusable packaging engineer and currently have two patents. One being a fire safety feature on semi-automated storage totes. This one was fun as I built a giant 18 cubic foot 3D printer to prototype it! I typically work with customers and companies to optimize supply chain and warehouse operations with everything from custom postal tote style containers to large injection molded bulk boxes.



Beckerman showing off his creative project as a camper

How many years did you spend on staff? What was so enjoyable about teaching TECH at camp?

Teaching and wearing a few "hats" for 7 years on staff was such a beneficial and fun experience! I saw how operations worked while still learning new things and helped make camp a special experience for everyone. Bringing technology and science to campers in an explorative and

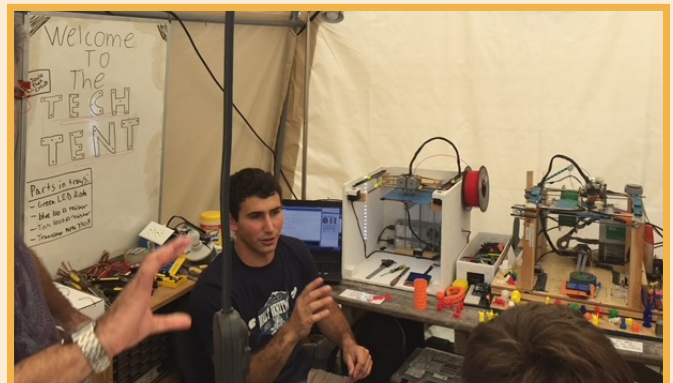
slightly unusual way was always exciting because you never knew what would take shape each session. Although I always had projects and experiments lined up, I would listen to the interests of the group as we started each activity.

Where did your interest in building and creating things come from?

My first word was "garage door" because I liked the way it moved and I ended up taking apart its motor a few years later with my Dad. I would collect everything from wire to yard flags and string things up like rube Goldberg systems and just experiment with everything I could get my hands on. Over time and with a table full of parts at home, I got more and more into taking things apart and creating! Family, teachers and friends would always feed my curiosity by giving me new broken things to experiment with. I would also see things and offer to fix them as I enjoyed the challenge and learning.

Of everything you made, what is something that you will always remember?

My first year as a camper was amazing as the Dorfman's were very supportive of my hobby and allowed me to work at it with supplies they had on hand and broken items around camp. Taking things apart with some friends and then learning all about them was something I couldn't stop doing even as a junior camper! That first summer, I had to visit the Health Center for a day or two and a nurse noticed me wanting to make the broken string lights work again. Maintenance, being next door, had all the parts and tools I needed. I used an old pitching machine turned generator to light up the bulbs again! The nurses, staff, and campers had fun trying it out and seeing the results. It was so memorable because everyone was so supportive not



Beckerman teaching the importance of technology in the Tech Tent

Alumni Feature: Justin Beckerman *continued*

only because they knew it would help me feel better, but it was also a learning experience for them!

How does it feel to know that you started a program at camp that has blossomed into an everyday STEM opportunity?

I'm amazed that the program has evolved from just a week of SIGS and electives. The TECH tent was a huge step in giving a summer home for all the supplies and tools. Having this program at camp gave a unique view of the partnership technology can have with the environment as we would dive ROV submarines in the lake, wind push our experimental turbines or have solar bugs crawl across the basketball courts. Giving the program a full-time location will allow it to blossom even more! Having the space and comfortable setting to encourage curiosity is just as

important as the activities, tools and friendships to fill it!

For current campers who have a passion for STEM, what advice would you give them to be able to follow their dream?

You can do anything you put your mind to! Be ambitious, passionate and keen to learn but always make it fun even if you are challenged or stuck. Always ask the tough questions and don't take no or maybe for an answer. Most things take time to learn so be patient. There's a first for everything and for everyone, you just have to put your mind to it, sometimes even taking comfortable steps back to get there eventually on a solid foundation. With curiosity leading the way, it's amazing what you can discover as it may be your first experience with something or truly an innovation!

What Do You Meme?

- **Send us your best meme caption for this photo**
- **Submissions must be sent in by December 15**
- **Email submissions to matt@campwalt.com**
- **Winning caption will win a cabin pizza party**

CWW Word Search

How many Hike words can you find?

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

AVALON

FRANCONIA RIDGE

MORGAN

BLUEBERRY

JEFFERS BROOK

PIERMONT

CANNON

LONESOME LAKE

RATTLESNAKE

CUBE

MOOSILAUKE

WASHINGTON