



THE WALT STREET JOURNAL



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7	Whitman Word Scramble
7	Reunion Recap
6	Staff Retirement: Lew Chase
5	Info for New Families
4	Staff Updates
2	Camper Updates
1	Letter from the Directors

IN THIS ISSUE

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White Plains, NY 10604



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Whitmanites,

As we sit in our house at camp this weekend, it's hard to imagine our fields buzzing with activity or the splashes in Lake Armington during morning Polar Bear swim. Instead, the grounds are blanketed in snow, and the peaceful silence of winter has taken over. But if there's one thing we know, it's that the Camp Walt Whitman spirit never slows down—not even in the coldest months!

It was incredible to see so many of you at our winter reunion in December. The smiles, laughter, and shared memories made it clear that our camp family remains as connected and vibrant as ever, no matter the season.

As we shared at the reunion, we're excited about several updates to camp that will be waiting for you when you arrive. This summer, we'll unveil a brand-new technology building, an additional pickleball court, renovations to the Taj bathrooms in Senior Camp, a new Hobie Cat for sailing, a new tennis court hitting wall, and even a few surprises! Each addition reflects our ongoing commitment to making camp an even more special place for all of you.

We're also thrilled to share big news about the future. As announced at the reunion, after this summer, we'll be saying goodbye to our current dining hall which has served us well since it was built in 1949. While it's bittersweet to say farewell to such a historic part of camp, we're eager to begin work on a new dining hall immediately after Summer 2025. This new building will be ready to welcome you in 2026, offering a space



that honors our traditions while meeting the needs of today's CWW campers.

Before we know it, camp will once again come alive with the sounds of laughter, the cheers from our fields, and the joy of friendships both new and old. The countdown is on, and we can't wait to gather together to create another unforgettable summer.

Warmly,

Carolyn & Jed

Carolyn and Jed

Camp after a fresh blanket of snow in January

CAMPER UPDATES



Alice Frushstick was selected to play flute in the band at her middle school. She also dressed as Regan from "The Exorcist" for Halloween.



Flora Trachet is having a wonderful time at home in NYC with her adorable new puppy, Mango! This summer, Flora is likely to write more letters to Mango than to all her family combined!



Asher Decter participated in a school play and played the role of an old villain. He also scored two goals in his final soccer game!



Lomax Miller repurposed some chopsticks as under-cast-scratchers, learned to drive a tractor and went backyard surfing when his town flooded!



Bianca Brandfon visited Mexico where she did a lot of swimming and ate a lot of tacos!



Abby Anderman went for a quick trip to London where she visited the Harry Potter Studios and saw a couple shows on the West End. She has also been rehearsing for her part as Scar in her school musical version of The Lion King!

Leo Noble celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on 11/9/24, and all of Bunk 7B—**Traver Burrows, Charlie Carmine, Jack DiBernardo, Ben Haney, Matthew Hensel, Noah Kogan, Ben Schulster, Drew Shillito** and **Gavin Thatcher** made it to CT to celebrate together!



Bunk 7B celebrating **Leo Noble's** Bar Mitzvah together



Sofie Levine has had an incredible few months! She caught her first fish and celebrated turning eight in style. She started 2nd grade and dove into two exciting art programs—one at Cardboard Studio and another at the Brooklyn Museum—where her creativity is thriving. Sofie also biked around Prospect Park, which wasn't easy, but she powered through like a champ. She's counting down the days until summer and is so excited to be back together with her camp friends for more adventures!



Lael Miller did some surfing and traversed the White Mountains with her step-mom.

More camper updates

CAMPER UPDATES

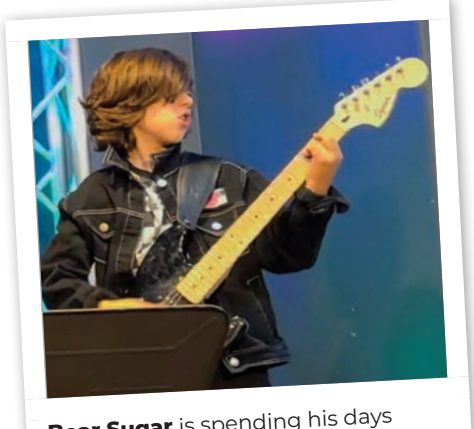


Oliver Barr is enjoying third grade and likes his teacher. This fall he played travel baseball for Project Mill Pono and U10 soccer where his team competed in the NorCal Cup in December. Oliver continues to study Kung Fu where he's working towards his blue-black belt. He is playing basketball this winter and looks forward to skiing in Lake Tahoe.



Charlotte Barr is enjoying fourth grade and is presently reading the Keepers of the Lost Cities series. This fall she played U10 soccer and her team finished first in their division. She celebrated her 10th birthday Oct 29! Charlotte continues to study Kung Fu where she's working towards her blue-black belt. She's looking forward to skiing in Lake Tahoe this winter.

Eva Scharf and family took a trip to Hawaii where Eva and her dad spent two days hiking the full Kalalau Trail in Kauai, 24 miles in all. They passed the hours and miles talking about campcraft, the merits of doing the AT Challenge and camp in general. We can't wait to see Eva attempting the AT Challenge this summer!



Bear Sugar is spending his days rocking out!



Ben Vondriska joined a new travel soccer team this fall and is having a blast playing teams from all around NYC. His favorite position is striker, and he is the team's leading scorer so far this season! He can't wait to play soccer with his friends at CWW this coming summer.



Isaac Bestreich enjoyed some incredible days of surfing. Now that the weather's getting colder, he's gearing up for as much skiing as possible!



Zoe Wolf changed schools but has been having sleepovers every weekend. **Franny Beil** has been doing a lot of gymnastics. Both Zoe and Franny are soccer and basketball players and love to play one on one against each other.



Sisi Puleo just earned her red belt in Taekwondo. Getting closer to her black belt!



Phineas Cohen has been writing and recording music for his new albums and learning to play the guitar! He's also been avidly cheering on the KC Chiefs alongside 2025 first year camper **Lucas Cohen**.

STAFF UPDATES



Ralph Jooma had a great second college soccer season and a great coaching season.



Nathan Kigerl passed his checkride to get his stringent flight rating and can now start working on his commercial license. He also supported his sister in a fashion show where the design he wore got third place.



Alex Richardson has been busy preparing for graduation and is excited to be apart of a really competitive government internship program coming up.



Mason Rothenberger finished her undergraduate thesis while in Ecuador on her semester abroad and will graduate from the University of Denver in March!



Kedzie Griffin has been working in recruiting operations for the University of Illinois Football Team! With one of the best seasons in recent history, this has made her last year very memorable.



Maria Jose Paez (Majo) presented her thesis in December and is looking forward to graduate in April as an architect. Majo has also had time to hang out with her fellow Colombians **Valentina Alverez, Carlos Medina, Valentina Aguayo, and Ana Manuela.**



2022 Counselors **Savannah Mireles** and **Seth Pace** recently got engaged and will be one of the next CWW weddings to take place!



Whitney Kraft was featured in the AARP magazine for his family's new inn in Vermont. He has also kept busy reffing youth sports around Vermont as well.



Visiting Ireland, **Lizzie Lotterer** met with **Jude Mills, Roger Timon** and **Brian Joyce** at the Butter Museum in Cork.

More staff updates 

STAFF UPDATES



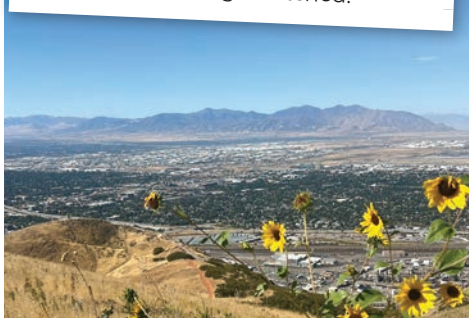
Amy Ritchie, Sana Sawant, Mairead McBride, and Daisy Harper were all able to meet up in Newcastle, England for the weekend.



Ben Hamel spent just over a month and a half traveling after camp. He visited the UK and saw British **Ben Keegan** and **Daisy Harper**. He went on to Spain, then Dublin to visit a family friend and catch up with **Jack McEvoy, Conor Lenihan, and Ivor Larkin**. After Ireland, Ben and Jack flew to Italy to visit **Giuseppe Candiloro**. After his travels, Ben returned home to Australia where he is training for the Port Macquarie half ironman.



Denise Janecke has a new rescue dog named Gracie, who is a 10-year-old Cairn Terrier from Ohio. Gracie loves food, chasing squirrels and lizards, and getting scratched.



Laura Schultz moved to Salt Lake City, Utah right after camp and has been working at a preschool! She loves waking up and seeing the Wasatch mountains every morning and really looking forward to skiing this winter!

Liam Kelly started working as a Behavior Technician with children with ASD! Liam also caught up with **Judes** for some coffee and they have plans to meet up again! The ceramics studio is going strong outside of camp as well.



Sarah Hashman started working as head carpenter for her alma mater's "Little Women: The Musical." In October, She directed one of 5 plays for her alma mater's "New Plays in One Day" Homecoming event. Sarah misses everyone from 14A very much.



CJ Hardiman graduated and started his Masters degree in The Netherlands. During this time he has also had opportunities to visit Germany, France, and Belgium.

INFO FOR NEW FAMILIES

New Camper T-Shirts: All new campers will receive a brightly colored CWW t-shirt to be worn on their first day of camp. Please complete the Shirt Size form on our Forms Dashboard when it goes live in February.

Green CWW T-Shirts: For all campers except for Pioneers, we ask you to purchase two (2) Green T-Shirts w/Logo. These can be purchased from The CampSpot at thecampspot.com

Welcome Phone Calls: In mid June, you can expect a call from your camper's Division Head and their big brother/sister.

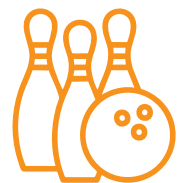
WEDNESDAY
April 23

**New Parent
Zoom Meeting**
(Evening, time
TBD)



SUNDAY
May 4

**New Camper
Bowling Event**
1 - 2:30 p.m.
White Plains, NY



Lew Chase, Fare thee Well

BY STEVE DUTELLE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

It's summer 1990 on the backroads of small town Wisconsin, somewhere just outside East Troy. The distinct roar of Lew Chase's Harley Davidson echos across the fields. He's on his way to see what will become one of over 1,000 Grateful Dead shows he will witness live in his lifetime. So much life ahead, and for him, Walt Whitman is still just the name of a poet.

It's May 2007 at Camp Walt Whitman, and the smell of fresh cut grass and pine from the cabins I walk past fills the afternoon air. I am on my way to find Lew Chase, the man responsible for that freshly cut grass and newly installed pine panelling. I'm up at camp early to give Lew a hand before the summer's pre-camp crew arrives. There is a LOT to be done before June, but I can assure you that is no fault of Lew—it's just how this whole camp thing goes. There is always something that needs Lew's attention.

Then ... whooop ... out from under a cabin, dressed in coveralls and boots, climbs the man I'm here to find. I call out to him as he climbs into the driver's seat of the gator. Without a look back, he tells me to hop on. With that valve turned on, the water has returned to every plumbed building at camp once more. (That's 70+ buildings, in case you were wondering.) Check that one off, it's back to the maintenance shed to see what's next.

Lew Chase was a staple at camp for as long as I've known

camp, and for as long as most of us still wandering around the grounds can remember. (He won't let me tell you just how long it's been, but the rumors and stories point to significantly more than a quarter-century.) He was the beating heart that kept it going year after year.

During the seasons of sticks and mud, Lew battled through sb-zero weather and torrentially rainy days to tackle the "behind the scenes" projects that many of us never truly appreciated as we bathed in the rewards (quite literally in cases of cabin bathrooms and shower houses he built!).

When the campers and staff arrived for the big show every summer, Lew once again faded into the background. Quietly going about his work and leading his summer crew.

The Facilities Director title never did Lew justice. He's so much more than that to camp. He oversaw the building of the Senior Camp Cabins, the Bill and Jancy Dorfman Center, the Pavillion, Chick Hall, The Health Center, The Welcome Center, Lilac Lane, multiple main camp cabins, and the building of our pool, just to name a few.

Lew's been Mr. Can-Do for us. A friend, a mentor, a rock. He's grown from a dad with two young kids to a proud grandpa. Bill and Jancy relied on Lew long before Jed and Carolyn took the reigns, and he has put their plans into action to make camp the

PLACE it is. It's been said that CWW could be picked up and dropped anyplace in the world and still be CAMP so long as the people and culture persist.

Well, Lew Chase was one of those people for more than a quarter-century. In February, he's retiring.

I'm shook just writing those words, so I've asked Lew for his help finishing this up...

What is something you want us to know about you that you wouldn't tell us if you weren't retiring? Careful here, buddy, this is a family program, remember!

Seen over 1,000 live Grateful Dead shows!

Favorite building at camp (past or present)?

Legoland, without a doubt. What a great way to help kids having a hard day, or after a tour while parents talk!

What will you miss? (and you can't say "everything")

The staff. Especially the ones who travel across the world to be at camp. I've met some of the most amazing people



Lew Chase and Steve Dutelle

because they were brave enough to travel all this way to my doorstep. I'm so grateful for those friendships. What I wouldn't give to have them all here for one more sit around the fire pit before I go.

There's a part of me that will always hope to see Lew driving into camp. Even if he jumps straight on a John Deere and heads to the upper sports complex to mow the fields ... not stopping to chat, just giving a slight wave and flashing that beaming smile as he passes by.

Lew Chase, you will always be a part of Camp Walt Whitman's heart and soul. Thank you for giving yours to us for so many years. Enjoy the next chapter, dear friend. You've more than earned it!

*... Never had such a good time in my life before
I'd like to have it one time more
One good ride from start to end
I'd like to take that ride again ...*

"Might as Well" —Grateful Dead

REUNION RECAP

We had so much fun seeing your smiling faces at our December reunion! Thanks for coming out—we'll see you soon!



WHITMAN WORD SCRAMBLE

1. PAMC
2. WHTAIALWMN
3. LSKBATEABL
4. KAEL
5. TNAURE
6. CIMAFPRE
7. WMIMNIGS
8. SNKCAS
9. ANVETURED
10. GNITPAIN
11. RIPFENSHID
12. LAMHSMWARLO
13. IKHGNHI
14. AMOTKWER
15. SSESUNGLAS
16. RSUETARE
17. TSRAS
18. PACIMNG
19. AIVTTCIY
20. OSWDHPOO