



Greetings from Camp Kamaji!! We just completed a new promotional piece for Camp Kamaji! It was a collaborative effort on the part of many, in particular our campers and parents. With heartfelt appreciation to so many in the Kamaji community, we chose to use the words of our Kamaji campers and their parents as to the reasons they chose Kamaji as our words could never have fully captured the true essence of Kamaji or offer more compelling reasons than those written by our camp audience.

If it had been possible, we would have used all the 'quotes' sent us but to do so would have made the promo piece unwieldy. Still we want to share here what so many campers and parents shared with us. This month we will feature the campers; and next, the camper parents.

So, in their own words, here is what Kamaji campers have to say:

The counselors are GREAT — they help you learn everything you want to learn!!!!

Where else could I wear the crazy outfits I've collected over the years and feel totally normal in them?

I wanted somewhere where I didn't have to hide who I am just to be in the "popular crowd". At Kamaji, the more you are yourself, the cooler you are.

Camp is the perfect confidence builder, the perfect learning atmosphere, the perfect social gathering, the perfect "quarter past silly."

It's structured enough to where everything is busy and exciting, but you have the freedom to choose what you want to do.

The girls in your cabin are like your sisters. You laugh with them, cry with them, and share all of your memories with them. But they're also better than sisters because you don't fight with them!!

No one judges you at Kamaji so there is no need to be other than the person I really am.

I chose Camp Kamaji because all of the girls looked nice and hilarious (which they are) and because I wanted to be able to do all of the activities offered no where but at Kamaji.

Kamaji looked like the funnest camp of all!

It feels so good to be unplugged from the real world! You don't have to worry about updating your Facebook status, replying to a text message, or missing the latest episode of your favorite TV show!

I am able to choose my own schedule from the wide variety of activities offered. When people ask what I do at camp, I always respond "Everything! You name it, Kamaji has it!"

I thought that camp food would not be good. That was probably the wrongest thought I have ever had! The food is made to perfection! Also I was nervous that some people may not be the nicest; again I was completely wrong! At camp you don't even know you are away from home!

When I first stepped off the bus, I felt welcomed: people who I didn't even know where welcoming me and I felt like I belonged.

I wanted to make new friends — separate from my at-home and school friends.

Kamaji is the only place on earth where I grin ear-to-ear 24/7. Kamaji is like a huge sigh of relief — no one is going to judge me. I get to sail and water-ski every day with my best friends. What better place could there possibly be?

No place I have ever been to has made me feel more at my second home than Camp Kamaji. There is no need to look pretty or show off, your just at home with your best friends.

For the first time I felt like I could just wear anything and it didn't matter.

I know that I can be myself while I'm at Kamaji without worrying about criticism from other girls because everyone is really accepting and friendly.

At Kamaji, it's cool to be crazy . . . it's normal to wear Halloween costumes in the summer, dance on benches after meals, and sing off-key and laugh out loud. . .

I love Kamaji because of the variety of friendships and experiences I can't get at home. Everybody at camp knows each other and accepts you for who you are.

GREETINGS (continued)

The unbelievable food, the caring counselors and the incredible trips are always the leading factors in my decision to return to camp each summer, but they are only small parts of my truly easy decision. The reason I return to camp each summer is because it is the one place where I truly feel at "home away from home".

At Kamaji you know you are not going to be judged by anyone. There are no stereotypes or mean girls to be afraid of. You can always be yourself and laugh until your stomach hurts.

The memories and the friendships made at camp do not compare to those made at home.

There are far too many reasons 'why Kamaji' when I am asked: It's the 'innocence' of camp life – locking the rest of the world out for a short while – my camp friends who have helped become who I am - the never having to worry about whether I fit in and instead just be me – it's non-competitive – and not influenced by the presence of boys. I cannot imagine NOT being at Camp Kamaji!

I don't always agree with my older sister but when she said Kamaji was amazing, I had to find out for myself. And she was right!!



I LOVE LOVE LOVE Kamaji because you make friends who will last a life time. You love your friends so much that you plan your vacation times visiting them. Kamaji is my second home and I love it so much. It's the best experience ever!

Kamaji is different because of the people. They are what makes Kamaji the best in the camp in the world. I came for summer camp — I stayed for the counselors, friends, and directors.

Camp Kamaji is a place where I know I am welcome — no matter who I am, no matter where I am from, no matter what problems I might be having in my away-from-camp life. At Camp Kamaji I can be myself and go absolutely crazy (in a good way) and know that nobody will judge me. Camp is stress-free; I know I can talk to anybody instead of keeping things bottled up inside of me. The many caring people and staff at Kamaji are there to help me so stress never ever has a chance to build up. Camp allows me to forget the problems I have while at home and school. Instead, it's all about simply having fun with a bunch of really great friends, counselors, and directors — the people I can count on to be there for me, the people who make certain I am happy. Camp is a place where I get to be the best me.



—THINGS WE CAN'T FORGET—

FIRST SESSION: abbrevs . . . watching 4th of July fireworks from Kamaji's docks . . . fandits . . . "Are we there yet?" . . . The Point . . . bomb diggity bomb . . . stargazing . . . Bailey's bagels . . . Rip's 'mansion' . . . Llama Beat . . .

SECOND SESSION: The Kentucky Zerbe . . . THG game . . . "Do you know Miss Molly Dolly?" . . . Pranking Pine Manor . . . Solja Boy . . . Spirit Stick . . . GLEE . . . dancin' in the rain . . . "WHOA!! Déjà vu!!" . . . Bear phobia . . .



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www.kamaji.com

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—2011 RETURNING CAMPERS—

Since the last issue of the *Rainbow Connection* went to press, the following Kamaji veteran campers have signed up to return to Kamaji in 2011: **EMMA BARNES** (returning for her 2nd summer) of St. Louis, MO; **KATIE DOCK** (2nd summer) of Potomac, MD; **ILANA DUTTON** (4th summer) of Chicago, IL; **KAYLA DUTTON** (2nd summer) of Chicago, IL; **NICOLE KUPER** (2nd summer) of Chicago, IL; **MOLLY WEINBERG** (2nd summer) of Chicago, IL; and **SHULIE WEINBERG** (3rd summer) of Chicago, IL will be first session campers; and **MICHAELA "KAYLA" DESTEFANO** (2nd summer) of Evanston, IL; **ANBRIANA GUY** (2nd summer) of Chicago, IL; and **ALIJAH ROBY** (4th summer) of St. Louis, MO will be second session campers. Needless to say we are "over the top" to know that you all will be back with us at Kamaji in 2011!!



—2011 NEW KAMAJI CAMPERS—

Since the last issue of the *Rainbow Connection*, the following girls have signed up to be first year Kamaji campers in 2011: **CLARA AEDER** (4th grade) of Chicago, IL; **ELEANOR COOK** (4th grade) of St. Louis, MO; **FERNANDA ELIZONDO CAGNOSSO** (3rd grade) of Monterrey, Mexico; and **SALLY SNEIDER** (4th grade) of St. Louis, MO will be first session campers; and **SYDNEY KAPLAN** (4th grade) of Deerfield, IL and **CHLOE JACOBS** (6th grade) of Wilmette, IL will be second session campers. We are delighted to welcome you into Kamaji's summertime family and look forward to spending Kamaji's 98th season with you! WELCOME!!!

—2011 ENROLLMENT UPDATE—

As of March 1st Kamaji's 2011 enrollment numbers continue to grow. Needless to say, we are thrilled that we have an 85% return rate of 2010 campers AND lots of new campers joining us in 2011!!

If you are planning on returning to Kamaji this summer and have not yet sent in your enrollment form, we urge you to do so now!! Your parents can go to www.kamaji.com and enroll you on-line. It's quite simple and easy . . . and fast, thereby guaranteeing you a camper spot for Kamaji's 98th season.

If you know of any families that may be looking for a summer camp for their daughter, please have them get in touch with mike@kamaji.com.

—2011 KAMAJI PARENT HANDBOOK—

We are super busy preparing HEAPS of information about the upcoming summer and how to best get ready for it. The **2011 KAMAJI HANDBOOK** containing all this info is heading toward the printers . . . and should be in the mail to your parents for sure this month!!



In the meantime, if you want to get a jump-start on looking through forms for next summer, most of these are already posted on the Office Page link at www.kamaji.com. Simply scroll down to Camper Forms and you'll find several forms for the upcoming summer. Please continue to check back for the posting of **Camp Kamaji's 2011 Clothing Information!!**



—2010 KAMI SISTERS—

We thank all those returning Kamaji campers who volunteered to be Kami Sisters — connecting returning with new Kamaji campers. Know that if Mike has not yet written you to assign you a new camper, it does not mean he will not do so in the near future. As we receive new camper enrollments for this next summer, we will continue to assign Kami Sisters . . . so please be patient!!

To those of you who have been asked by Mike to be a Kami Sister, we ask that you be in touch with your Kami Sister often! Remember how you felt as a first-time Kamaji camper? Remember the questions you had and how great it was to hear from someone who had been there and could

relate to how you were feeling??!!?? Remember traveling to Kamaji for the first time? the first meal? the first evening? waking up for the first time at camp? Think how much better it felt to have someone "check in" with you once you were at camp those first few hours/those first several days? Let your Kami Sister know you care!!! Thanks!

Again, we are asking you to consider the enormity of the commitment you're making. If you feel you can't make the commitment please let us know now. We promise not to ask any questions should you tell us you're not able to commit. We'll simply ask someone whom we've not yet asked to be

the Kami Sister instead (there are many out there who really do want to be Kami Sisters!). Really, it is no big deal to do this - however, it is a HUGE deal if you don't let us know...if you don't write or call . . . if you let down a new camper . . .

[Mike@kamaji.com](mailto:mike@kamaji.com) is the contact person at camp with questions and/or concerns about Kami Sisters.

NOTE TO ALL NEW CAMPERS: In return, we expect the new campers to keep in touch with their Kami Sisters, too. If you have not yet been contacted by (or have lost contact with) a veteran Kamaji camper, please let us know now.

Kamaji's RAINBOW CONNECTION

March 2011

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KAMAJI STAFF 2011

Staff contracts continue to come into Kamaji's winter office. Folks who will be joining us as Kamaji Staff for the summer of 2011 include the following . . .

Veteran Staff folks returning in 2011 —

LINDY BEHAM, age 20, is originally from Highwood, IL but is currently a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she is a Spanish Major and working on her Criminal Justice certificate. When she's not studying Lindy loves road trips, sailing, dance parties and cooking. This summer Lindy will be back for her 10th summer and work as a cabin counselor and sailing/waterfront instructor.

CLAIRE COLLINS, age 16, is from Bay City, Michigan and is back after a summer's absence for her third year at Kamaji to be a CIT. Claire loves hanging out with friends, horses, theater and of course, the red tribe!

LAIN SCHWARBERG, age 17, is from Kansas City, KS where she is a junior at Pembroke Hill High School. Laine enjoys playing volleyball and soccer, making brownies and choreographing new water ballet routines! Laine will be back in 2011 for her 8th summer at Kamaji and will work as a junior cabin counselor and swimming instructor.



New to Kamaji's Staff in 2011 are —

JUSTIN DARNELL, age 19, is from Celina, TX and is currently a freshman at El Centro College where he is studying Baking/Pasty and Hospitality and Food Service Management. Justin's hobbies include reading, working on music or tooling around in the kitchen! This summer Justin is going to put all those culinary skills to test in Kamaji's kitchen as an Assistant Cook.

MATT DREWS, 22 years old, is from Centralia, IL and is a sophomore Culinary Arts student at Kaskaskia College. For fun Matt loves sports, video games and hanging out with his friends. This summer Matt will join us for his first summer as an Assistant Cook.

LAUREN MOSS, age 21, is from Piedmont, Oklahoma. Currently she is at Mercyhurst College studying Psychology with an Art Therapy minor. Lauren's hobbies include rowing, anything outdoors, sketching and running. This will be Lauren's first summer at Kamaji working as a Cabin Counselor and Canoe/Kayak Instructor.



STAFF NEWS

We have the following positions still available:

1. Senior cabin counselors (college-aged +) who can teach one of the following: Archery, Art, Drama, Fishing, Photo, Riding, Wall/Ropes, Tennis, Swim and Windsurfing.
2. Wilderness Trip Leaders (3)

Note: While the cabin counselor positions must go to women, the other positions listed about can be filled by either men or women.

Note²: While it does seem that we have many activity teaching positions available, most of the activities just have no more than a couple of positions left to fill. So if you are interested in working at camp this summer (ahem Morgan Hubele, ahem ahem Levis/Carroll/Stevenson), or have a friend you would like to refer, please contact kat@kamaji.com ASAP!

We are still looking for a **doctor** to fill the **last camp doc slot** in Kamaji's 2011 calendar – **beginning Saturday July 9th and ending Saturday July 16th**. If you or your folks know of a doctor (specialty not important!) who, along with her/his family, might enjoy spending a week 'on vacation' in the Northwoods of Minnesota, please let us know or have them contact kathy@kamaji.com or mike@kamaji.com. Too, we're happy to give you the names of current and past camp doctors as references as to what the experience is all about ☺.

— KAMAJI REUNION SCHEDULE —

A late last minute Camp Kamaji reunion is planned for 7 pm on Tuesday March 8th in Monterrey, Mexico when **ELISA AND REBECA VARELA LOZANA's** family opens their home at

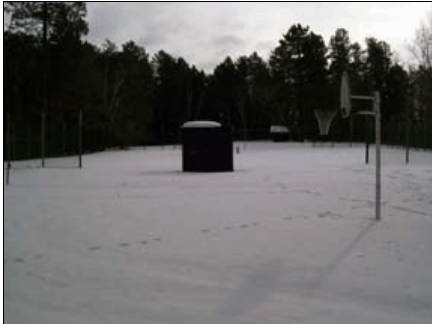
Corinto 401
Jard. De San Agustin
San Pedro Garz Garcia, N.L.

to Kamaji camper families and friends!! If you live in the area, please RSVP Mike@kamaji.com and let him know if you are able to attend!!



— A KAMAJI THANK-YOU!! To . . . —

. . . **KENDALL "KK" KUZMINSKAS** and her family for opening their home this past month to Kamaji, its Directors, campers, staff and prospective camp families. Your generosity and warm hospitality are so appreciated.



— RANDY'S RAMBLINGS —

The month of February was the month of extremes! We started out with very cold temps all the way down to 30 below zero and then last week had four consecutive days topping out at 30+ degrees. THAT is a 60 degree variance, believe-it-or-not. BUT our taste of 'spring' did not last long; as we ended the month up here the short-lived/enjoyed nice weather is now over. It's back to temperatures in the single digits during the day and well below zero at night.

I continue to be busy with installing the tongue-and-groove pine paneling in the new 'Swamp' — just one more room to complete. The plumbers came and put in all the water lines and installed the two shower stalls early in the month. They will return when spring comes to hookup to the main water line and attach to the septic tank. After walls are done I will install the doors and add trim work. Can't do much painting until after the weather warms up (whenever that will be??!!). I have been thinking I might even add tile flooring in the two bathrooms. Kamaji's Rainbow Boys will be living in the 'lap of luxury' this summer as their new living quarters truly are anything but a swamp!!

As for my year 'round maintenance assistants – Patch, Oreo and Bailey – they are fed up with the cold. Their play time is cut short by the cold and I often find them curled up all together under the Staff Lounge where they try to keep warm – out of the biting cold and wind. Still, should a trespasser stray into camp – human or animal – I know I can count on my assistants to scare them off!!



Well that's enough rambling from me, until next time.

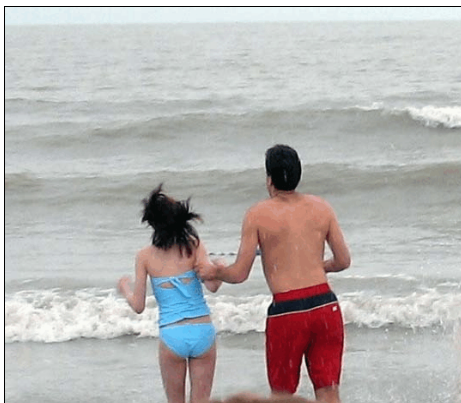
*Randy
and Patch, Oreo and Bailey*

NEWSBITS

This section of the *Rainbow Connection* is devoted to special events in (current and former) campers' and staff member's lives. If you have any NEWSBITS, please email info to kathy@kamaji.com.

"Congratulations!!" to . . .

. . . **MEGAN RIVKIN** (Lincolnshire, IL '08-'11) who took the plunge into icy Lake Michigan last weekend as part of a fundraiser for Special Olympics. A member of the team led by a member of the Chicago Blackhawks (John Scott), Megan was the youngest member of the team and raised the most (over \$1,500). Not only did she survive her dip, she commented that it really wasn't much colder than swimming up at Kamaji!



Megan and Her Dad Taking the Plunge

. . . **SUSANNA KIBEL** (St. Louis, MO '07-'11) who was chosen for her field hockey club's U14 team to play at the national indoor tournament in Virginia in March.

MALISSA LINDSEY (Chicago, IL '10-'11) who made the B honor roll and she had her first solo cello performance at Providence St. Mel and will be performing at the school's Open House on March 6th.

. . . **REAGAN MITCHELL** (Kansas City, MO '10-'11) and **GRACE GREEN** (Mission Hills, KS) who played on the Pembroke Hill School fifth grade girls' basketball team - the Raiders! Congrats Reagan and Grace on you and your teammates winning the championship game played on February 28th!

. . . **GRACIE SCLAMBERG** (Highland Park, IL '11) who will be playing Alice in the Children's Theater Company's *Alice in Wonderland* in May.



. . . **JACQUELINE STEEL** (Winnetka, IL '10-'11) who, over Presidents' Day weekend, participated in the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo & Ensemble Contest (a major annual music contest held in the Chicago North Suburbs area which draws a huge number of music students). Jacqueline performed in both the Solo and Ensemble violin divisions. Her performances were the culmination of months of hard work as she mastered two separate violin pieces as her ensemble piece she learned to play as a duet with a partner. Bravo!

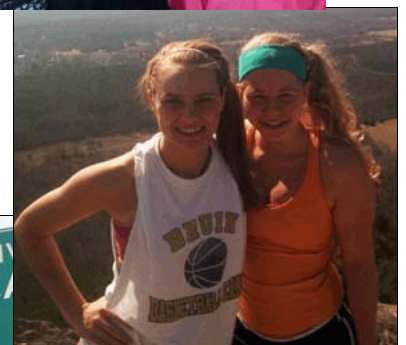
. . . **SHERITA RAY** (St. Louis, MO '05-'11) who played freshmen volleyball last semester and is managing the freshmen and junior volleyball teams for Rittenour High School this semester. Sherita is also member of the choir - all the while maintaining a 3.5 GPA.

. . . **LURIE BUSH** (Overland Park, KS '11) who competed in the regional Science Olympiad Competition where she placed first in the event "Can't Judge a Powder" and 6th in the event "Crime Busters". Her team placed first overall. Next up is the state competition. Stay tuned.. .

. . . **ANNIE BORTON** (Portland, OR '95-'00, '04, '10), between her last job and applying to grad school, is bumming around South America for three months on a trip she's calling *Born a Ramblin' Anne*. Anne will be returning from her trip just in time for camp . . . but alas she's not signed a contract. So please deluge Annie (with incessant e-messages urging her to return to camp this summer.

KAMAJI PAPARAZZI KAPTURED

Over the past month the following Kamaji folks were captured by anonymous Kamaji-camera-wielding photographers:



MARCH POEM

LANIE COHEN (Highland Park, IL '09-'11) submitted the following poem written by Angelica N. Brissett:

Friends For Life
 We are Friends
 I got your back
 You got mine,
 I'll help you out
 Anytime!
 To see you hurt
 To see you cry
 Makes me weep
 And wanna die
 And if you agree
 To never fight
 It wouldn't matter
 Who's wrong or right
 If a broken heart
 Needs a mend
 I'll be right there
 Till the end
 If your cheeks are wet
 From drops of tears
 Don't worry
 Let go of your fears
 Hand in hand
 Love is sent,
 We'll be friends
 Till the end!!!!



KAMAJI PAPARAZZI KAPTURED continued



IN CLOSING . . .

As this edition of Kamaji's **Rainbow Connection** goes to print, today's high temperature of 21° F (-6° C) at Kamaji is plummeting to a low tonight of -14° F (-25° C). Hard to believe that the official start of springtime is but a mere 20 days from now. Yes, spring officially arrives on March 20th at 6:21 pm (18:21 hours for those of you who follow 'military time') Camp-Kamaji-time!! But it seems that Old Man Winter is not gracefully giving up anytime soon; in fact, from the looks of it, Mother Nature may have to wrestle winter's vise-like grip away. After all Kamaji's 'countdown clock' shows only 108 days remaining before the busses pull up the Kamaji drive for the start of camp!! So I say 'give it up Winter and let Spring in'!!

So with summer "just" around the corner, we are knee-deep in preparations for Kamaji's 98th season. Randy is putting the finishing touches on the new 'Swamp'; Kat is spending a lot of her time completing staff hiring; Mike is zig-zagging his way across the USA and Mexico as he recruits new campers; and Kathy holds down Kamaji's off-season (St. Louis, MO) office. Immediate camp preparations include continued staff hiring, updating the Kamaji Parent handbook, designing Kami Wear. . . and the list goes on and on and on(!) as we ready Kamaji for the upcoming summer!!

As mentioned earlier, we have openings in both sessions for campers so please pass on the word about Kamaji!! Thank you!!



The next issue of Kamaji's **Rainbow Connection** will go to press on April 1st!!

Chairs and Benches Up!
Kathy, Mike and Kat

P.S. The March Birthday List can be found on Page 8!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Taylor Ingram	16	Jordan Blonsky
4	Elizabeth Green	16	Jamie Spitz
5	Lily Stein	22	Maddie Thall *
8	Natalie Ringel *	24	Sarah Davidson
8	Frankie Burik	25	Adriana Miron
8	Natalie Perlman	26	Zharia Bell
9	Hannah Lerner *	27	Shaina Wasserman
9	Paris Rosenthal	27	Monica Long Davis
10	Michaela DeStefano	28	Alison Agather
10	Lila Moss *	28	Hannah Kissel *
11	Leah Shulman	28	Olivia Martin
12	Annie Rose Winkler *	29	Kayla Kraft
12	Kayla Marsh	29	Mia Redington
13	Haley Horowitz	31	Emma Hanig
13	Andrea Wywiorski	31	Anne Meisner
14	Emma Cusack		
14	Alexandra Terlesky		
15	Tyler Morton		

* New Camper 2011
** New Staff 2011

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY