



Hello Tavor Families!

Happy Valentine's Day for those celebrating, and happy halfway-through-February Day for those celebrating that! So far in Ann Arbor at least, the winter hasn't been terrible, though we have our fair share of snow on the ground right now. My family in Chicago seems to have had it worse than we have, so wherever you go make sure you stay warm!

I know one of the best ways to stay warm is to curl up next to a fire and read your monthly *Tavor Times* newsletter! Though it might not be cold when we have camp, we still enjoy spending some time around the campfire, or *medurah*. At our weekly Saturday night campfires, our *chanichimot* all have the opportunity to express themselves with skits, songs, jokes, or anything they want to showcase for the rest of camp. As a kid, more often than not, I found myself too nervous to perform in front of camp, which is wild to think about considering how now I write a blog every month on the internet.

I think that it's a great testament to the community that camp creates a safe space that *chanichimot* are able to just go up in front of people and perform, however. *Medurah*, beyond again reminding me how funny our *chanichimot* are, shows me how much they care for each other. Not to say that *chanichimot* didn't care about each other back in my day, but it feels differently watching from the perspective of someone on staff. I'm sure that my *madrachimot* felt the same way back in 2010 as I did in 2019, watching their *chanichimot* come out of their shells not just to make camp laugh, but to contribute just a truly genuine positivity to the environment and the space.

That's precisely what makes camp so special: people try to make life better and more vibrant for each other. In the winter months, when midterms are in full swing, and the sun doesn't come out much, this is the memory I try to channel. Thinking of camp, regardless of the weather, always makes me feel warm. In this sense, we carry the heart of the campfire, of the *medurah*, with us, and when things feel particularly cold or hard, knowing it, as the spirit of camp, is there to light our way and warm us. With that in mind, stay safe, stay warm, and I hope we are greeted with a breath of Spring soon!

Shabbat Shalom,
Nathan