



Hello Tavor Families!

Welcome to Nathan's Notebook, your weekly recap of some of the fun things that your kids have been up to at camp! For a quick intro, my name is Nathan Wojcik, and I've been going to camp since 2010. I am going into my senior year at the University of Michigan (they grow up so fast, don't they?), and am originally from Evanston, IL. Camp has shaped my life amazingly over the past decade, and I can't wait to bring you news about the experiences that your kids are having here!

Anyway, enough about me! We've had a busy week at camp! Always a flurry of excitement, the first week has provided us with some great highlights! After throwing Naomi, our rosh, into the lake after lunch on the first day, the chanichimot capped things off with a tochnit erev (evening activity) of visiting each of the four seasons!

Check out the winter sledding and romp through the fall leaves!



Wednesday night brought the chanichimot's deepest wishes come true with our annual Wish Night! The chanichimot learned quickly to be careful what you wish for, as the madrichimot (counselors) had a knack for taking them quite literally. All in all, trips to the moon were granted, soccer was played, and we went through a time machine to return to our dearly beloved Goldie's for a scoop of ice cream, which quickly became a series of small Gold D's cut out and dropped to the floor.



Thursday had the chanichimot swept away in our Island Castaway-themed Special Day! Creating an entire new world, the chanichimot built shelters and faced challenges that the island presented, such as some pesky, riddle-asking raccoons, an ancient language in need of decoding, and some pirates who docked back from the stormy seas to caution against digital piracy! After the groups ran into each other, they were taken in by the mysterious island director, who revealed that the island contained a 5-star resort! However, the island director was hiding a dark and mysterious secret... But if you want to know what it was, you'll have to ask your kids when they get home! All in all, turning camp into Shark Tooth Island proved to be a magical experience, or as we like to call it at Camp Tavor, Kesem!



It is this idea of Kesem that I want to leave you with. At camp, we define it as the things that tzevet makes for kids that they have no idea where it comes from. Kesem is, at its heart, about community. It is about making life exciting in ways that the chanichimot have never expected would be possible. Wish Night and Special Day are two forms that Kesem takes. My favorite form, however, takes place on Saturday nights, when camp joins together for the Havdallah prayers. I never really learned the prayers as a kid, but as soon as everyone else started

singing, the words just kind of flowed back to me. Throughout the songs, my confidence would grow until by the last week I knew every word. As my knowledge increased, so did my volume. Kesem doesn't have to be world-changing, like creating a whole new universe, but instead can simply be the ways that people enable us to be our true selves. It felt, and still does feel, like magic. Like Kesem. I'd like to end with a challenge, to consider the times in your own lives where you feel a bit of Kesem; a bit of magic created by the community that you can't explain, but that makes you feel a sense of care and belonging, and share that with your kids when they get home.

Shabbat Shalom!

Nathan

PS Don't know what these Hebrew words mean when you talk to them after camp? We'll define some here every week!

Kvutsah- the people in your child's age group. The others who are their age

Shichvah- the name of the age group for that summer, such as Amelimot, Chotrimot, Bonimot, Garinimot, Bogrimot, or Madatz!