

Toronto Star March 2019

KAWARTHA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE RANKED NUMBER ONE!

Recently Sloane Public School students from Toronto were able to attend the top ranked camp in Canada, specifically the Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre. The school has had a long standing relationship with the camp and has nothing but great things to say about the staff, food, facilities and programs. New administrator, Karen Thomas, from Sloane P.S. was able to come to visit on the second day of the trip. She commented, "The staff was knowledgeable and patient, breaking new skills into manageable steps so our kids could succeed." She went on to say, "The tone of the camp was positive and staff looked for good things to comment on. They managed transitions well. Funny stories and songs helped kids move from one thing to another and kept them on track."

Rave reviews for the food and kitchen staff

This was the first experience at Camp Kawartha for teacher Wendy Coombe. She excitedly reported, "The food was locally produced and was so healthy. The salad bar was loaded with fresh vegetables and was a hit with the kids. The soup was terrific too but I think the porridge was my favourite... oh dear, everything was so tasty! The kitchen staff did an amazing job preparing the meals with care and their hard work was noted." The homemade meals prepared by kitchen staff (Consuela, Tina, Dave, Connor...) were made with great care and consideration. Additionally, they had a wonderful way of interacting with the students! The variety of food was impressive and special dietary needs were taken into account. The cupcakes were absolutely magnificent.



The kitchen crew at Camp Kawartha are a friendly bunch. They deliver service with a smile!

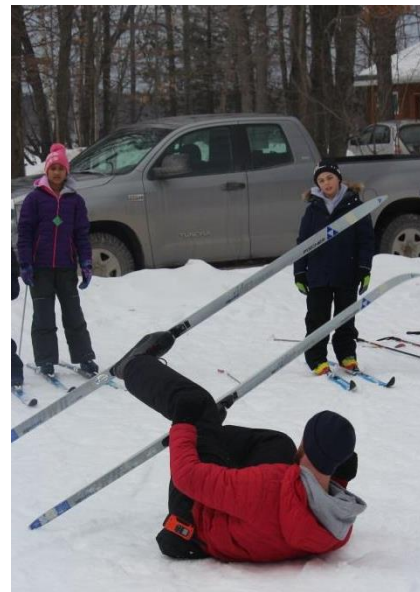
Veteran Sloane staff member, Spencer Leong, made his sixth journey to Camp Kawartha this year. He was acknowledged for his service and given a name plate on the teacher recognition plaque. Spencer exclaimed, "The staff was very patient and welcoming with our students. They provided interesting and engaging content. Regardless of the activity, they were enthusiastic. The fulltime staff and the students from Queens University all helped to provide excellent programming and most importantly, a safe experience." This is one of the reasons why the camp is ranked number one in the country. There is a wonderful variety of programs to choose from and they all have curriculum connections. Neil, head of the Program Department, is committed to ensuring the students have the best possible experience. He listens intently to discover the needs of the school and then sets up an amazing experience for all.



What a nice way to say thank you to the supervising staff who give their time and energy to make a trip like this happen.

Grade five teacher, Ruth Procopio, can't stop talking about the wonders of the Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre

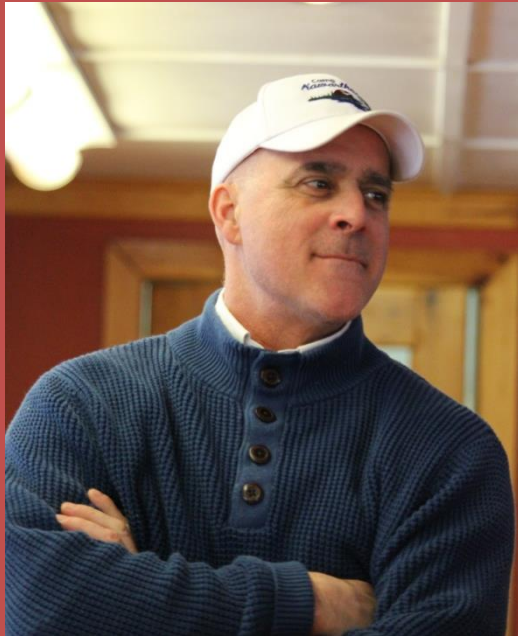
This was Ruth's first trip to the camp. She has repeatedly been praising the camp for all of its merit. "The trip was an incredible opportunity for students who have grown up in an urban setting to experience nature and the environment. Students got to be active and do things they have not previously done or had access to. The curriculum was embedded in all activities and was engaging for students. For some students, the kinesthetic learning was valuable and enabled them to be success."



Excellent tips on how to glide and how to fall safely and get back up again.



Douglas Penfold, organizer of the trip, raves about the booking procedure with Shawna from the office. "What an easy and smooth process!" he retorted. "The information handbook makes things straightforward and Shawna was there to answer any questions. She is so sweet!" Douglas also has good things to say about the leader at Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre. "Jacob Rozenburg, the director, has so many talents. Regardless of how busy he is, he always finds time to make us feel welcome and to impart some of his outdoor education. For example, he always teaches students about birding. What a great guy."



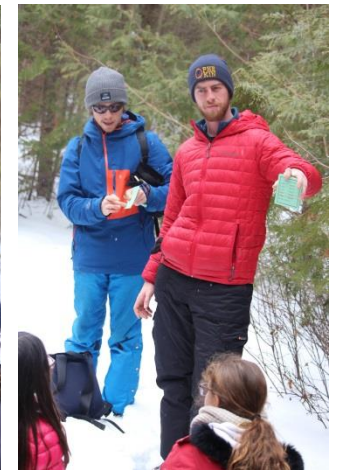
Director Jacob could not be nicer even if he tried!
Passionate, hardworking and intelligent!

**Coollest
musician ever
at Camp
Kawartha.**

**Talented musician Glen has
the best lyrics about nature
and a keen sense about how to
engage children.**



The Sloane staff wanted to say a special thank you to the maintenance crew who worked hard to keep things operational. The fires burning in the fireplace were so lovely.



Kudos to all program staff... you taught Sloane students so many things in such a short amount of time. This learning will stick with them for the rest of their lives. So thankful to all of you for your incredible patience with our students and all their special needs!

Sara Chan, a new teacher at Sloane, and a first timer at camp, had positive things to relate after the experience. She wrote, “Camp Kawartha had amazing facilities that allowed students to explore the indoors and outdoors safely. Students were absolutely thrilled to roam the cross country trails with the ski guides. Snowshoeing through dense snow and forested areas really gave students the chance to appreciate their surroundings. Creating art from their natural findings in the style of Andy Goldsworthy was just plain creative fun. Overall, this was an amazing experience that the students were lucky to have. I wish I had visited Camp Kawartha in elementary school!”

Camp Kawartha has the strangest and best icicles!

