

The

December 2016

# PERFORMER

Informing The French Woods Community

## Alumni Edition



In 2016,  
Jason Robert Brown And  
Andrea Burns Returned  
To Visit Camp



**French Woods**

Festival of the Performing Arts  
[www.frenchwoods.com](http://www.frenchwoods.com)

*In this Issue: • Alumni, Camper & Staff News • Ron, Beth & Isaac*

## THE PERFORMER IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!!!

The Performer is only as good as the contributions we receive from the French Woods community. Let us know what is going on in your life. Your camp friends love to hear what you are doing. Do you have a performance or concert coming up? Have you seen or spoken to French Woods friends? How did your sports team do this season? It's **your** big chance! Write us at **P.O. Box 770100, Coral Springs, FL 33077-0100** or give us a call at **1-800-634-1703**. You can also send us E-mail at **admin@frenchwoods.com**. Visit our web site at **www.frenchwoods.com**. We all love hearing from you!

**1-800-634-1703 in FL 954-346-7455**

French Woods Festival  
Of the Performing Arts  
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## Dear French Woods Families:



It is a time of year for reconnection and everywhere I look I see campers and alumni getting together for the holiday season. I feel as though the holidays are already upon us. We are excited about all of our camp open houses in Florida, NY and around the country and the world! Rose and Isaac have been to countless cities already and run in to campers where ever they go. Come visit us!

Darryn already has been overseas, hiring in Manchester and Ron, Darryn, Chef Ryan and I will continue the hiring fairs in the United Kingdom, Mexico and Australia next month. I am looking forward to visiting with new, returnee and alumni staff on their home turf. We will be posting details on dates and locations on our website soon. There is nothings better than a returning camper or staff member to explain what camp is all about.

We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you soon!

Fondly, 

## A Note from Ron

It's that time of year again. Time to wish all you French Woods Alumni from six to sixty best wishes for the holiday season.

Lots of big plans are in the works for the summer of 2017. We are in the process of completing

public facilities throughout the camp for festival weekends. These will offer modern conveniences for all visitors and can be used by the kids during the summer. The kids can look forward to new cabins, replacing the older bunks on campus. Add these changes to the new facilities finished during the summer and we just continue to get better.



Don't forget that we are continuing to reduce the numbers of kids on the girl's campus. We hope to complete this process this year.

We are anxious to give more of an opportunity to any child interested in theater to get lead roles.

Barbara and I wish all of you the best. Have a great holiday season. We hope to see all of you this summer.

Ron & Barbara

## Alumni News!

In 2010 **Merritt Baer** and **Brian Fenty** reconnected through another French Woods alum and began tossing around business ideas related to theater. Their app TodayTix now claims about 5% of all Broadway's ticket sales. Read more at <http://fortune.com/2016/12/11/todaytix-broadway-theater-tickets/>

**Celia Mei Rubin**, who has been working as a swing in *Matilda* on Broadway will be joining the cast of *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* as a swing this month.

**Karl Skylar Urban**, **Heather Tepe** and **Keenen Washington** were featured in the ensemble in *Hairspray Live!* broadcast on December 7th on NBC.

**Greg Salmon** worked for the past 5 years as the associate casting director on *The Young & The Restless* and before that was in casting on *All My Children*. He is now running an acting school in LA, The Calabasas Acting School for kids, teens and adults of all ages.

**Peyton Luskwho** played Mammilius/Time this past summer in NY Classical Theatre's production of *The Winter's Tale* and is currently in *Falsettos* on Broadway as Jason(u/s).

**Sam Schwartz** and **Courtney Smalley** met at camp and got married this year.

**Eamon Foley** is the choreographer and **Melanie (Penny) Wildman** is the assistant choreographer of *Merrily We Roll Along* at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. Eamon is also the co-founder of Grind Arts Company and was recently featured in an article published in theatermania. [http://www.theatermania.com/los-angeles-theater/news/interview-eamon-foley-merrily-we-roll-along\\_79370.html](http://www.theatermania.com/los-angeles-theater/news/interview-eamon-foley-merrily-we-roll-along_79370.html)

**Lexi Braverman** is making her international debut in the play, *Dark Vanilla Jungle* at the Camden Fringe Festival in London, UK with the Burning Coal Theater Company.

**Tiger Brown** is in the National Tour of *Elf*.



One of our older campers recently posted on Facebook I hope rather 'tongue in cheek': "Why did my mom sign me up for the Race for the Arts?" So campers, please keep reading as we explain both why is it important that you participate in the Race for the Arts and why you should ask your parents to sponsor you. (It's more than getting the T-shirt!)

The 4K Race for the Arts falls under the HFWAA (Hancock-French Woods Arts Alliance), a 501(c) 3 public not-for-profit organization that was initially started by the Schaefer family. Take a look at the website [hfwa.org](http://hfwa.org). And here is the answer to the question above: 100% of the funds raised from business sponsors and parents are awarded as partial college scholarships to deserving, needy students committed to a career in the arts **who are also your French Woods counselors**. Interested counselors fill out a rigorous scholarship application and HFWAA strives to give those chosen a hand up rather than just a handout. Food for thought: Part of the *true magic of camp lies in the relationship between children and their counselors. Children who have been cared for all of their lives by "old" parents in their thirties and forties, or by "ancient" teachers moving through their forties and fifties, are delighted by the novelty of sharing adventures as well as their apprehensions and being cared for by appealing young adults in their late teens and early twenties.* Those young adults are an intergral part of making the French Woods summer experience a great one.

This summer 2,247 campers and counselors did participate in the HFWAA Fifth Annual 4K Race for the Arts. Four races were held, one during each 3-week session on the French Woods Festival of the Arts Campus. Dozens more children and staff volunteered - giving out water, as timekeepers, photographers and cheerleaders! It is a great time. Every race participant and volunteer received a Race Wristband. There was no charge to run the race, but we did design a commemorative t-shirt celebrating the Race for the Arts. **Unfortunately only 20% of the campers were sponsored.**

In this special Alumni Edition of *The Performer*, HFWAA gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our 2016 Race for the Arts sponsors. We hope that many of you will consider joining them for Summer 2017!

### WRISTBAND SPONSOR (\$2,500 - \$4,999)



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The DiCarlo/Plank Family

### WALKER SPONSORS (\$300-\$499)

Ross Electric • The Backer Family • The Danforth Family

**For more information about becoming a Business or Parent sponsor for Race for the Arts 2016 please contact Rose at either 607-637-8404 or [rose@hfwa.org](mailto:rose@hfwa.org) or [rose@frenchwoods.com](mailto:rose@frenchwoods.com)**

**Charlie Rosen** arranged a full symphony version of The Flag Song from Stephen Sondheim's *ASSASSINS* for The Dramatists Guild with **Ansel Cohen** also playing cello.

**Josh Gelb** just directed *The Black Crook at Abrons Arts Center*, which was a *NY Times* Critic's Pick.

**Cole Doman** was just in an episode of *Modern Family*.

**Steve Rosen** just starred as Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at the Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, NY.

**Harris Milgrim** is on Broadway in *Cats* playing Munkustrap.

**Jake Scott** was selected to intern as a Casting Director in NYC, and help cast an equity production of *Death Trap*.

**Steven Colburn** is an Agent Trainee at United Talent Agency in LA.

## Staff & Camper News

**Audrey Stecher** is playing the role of Ti Moune in the Florida Academy of Performing Arts production of *Once On This Island*. Audrey also received a Superior rating at the Florida District 9 Thespian Festival for her role as Gertrude McFuzz in the large group musical production of *Amazing Mayzie/Amazing Gertrude*.

**Sophie Smith-Brody** recently was cast as Mabel in LaGuardia High School's production of *Pirates of Penzance*.

**Eli Jacobson** recently appeared as the Pilgrim and Lurch understudy in *The Addams Family* at the Dreyfoos School of the Arts.

**Sarah Rose Skolnick** was cast as Sebastian in her 8th grade production of *The Little Mermaid*, which will be performed in Hebrew.

**Ariel Skolnick** was cast as Lumiere in her middle school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

**Skylar Sherman** is appearing in *Rising Stars* as a freshman at LaGuardia High School.

**Sadie Sherman** is appearing as the witch in her school's production of *Into the Woods*.

**Sylvie Sherman** was accepted into the pre-professional program at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

## 2017 Broadway Show Trips

It has become French Woods tradition to offer our campers the opportunity to attend a Broadway Show in New York City. Often the campers are treated to a talkback with the cast. This summer we will feature the following:

### Session 1 *Dear Evan Hansen*



For a limited number of Session 1 campers ages 12 and up - on Sunday, June 18, 2017 we have tickets to see the new Broadway musical production - *Dear Evan Hansen*. The all-inclusive cost is \$160 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner.

### Session 2 *War Paint*



For a limited number of Session 2 campers on Sunday, July 9, 2017 we have tickets to see the hotly anticipated new Broadway musical - *War Paint*. The all-inclusive cost is \$160 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner. There is no age restriction.

### Session 3 *Hello, Dolly!*



On Sunday, July 30, 2017, we have tickets to see the Broadway musical revival, *Hello, Dolly!* The all-inclusive cost is \$190 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner. There is no age restriction.

**If you are interested in having your child attend, please complete and e-sign the permission slip and credit card authorization found through CampMinder on your Camp Intouch dashboard under Forms and Documents.** These are amazing shows and we anticipate selling out quickly.

**Zach Asnis** will be performing in The Applause New York production of *Rock of Ages* in January.

**Thomas Manchester** has been cast as Renfield in Fieldston's production of *Dracula* performing in January.

**Grace Riedy** played the role of Jo March in her middle school's production of *Little Women* and will be playing the role of Sour Kangaroo in her high school's production of *Seussical*. She also will be performing in a revival of *A Very Merry Unauthorized Children's Scientology Pageant*.

**Lucas Mira-McKenzie** played Harold Hill in Gas Lamp Players Academy of the Performing Arts theater workshop of *Music Man Jr* and recently was cast as Oliver in Gas Lamp Players Mainstage Production of *Oliver!* Performances are scheduled for February 10-12 in Glen Ridge, NJ.

**Kate Stiene** is playing the role of Miss Hannigan in A Class Act's production of *Annie, Jr* in New York City.

**Adam Kaplan** will be playing the role of Demetrius in the Dwight School production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Gabriela Ettinger** is playing Shprintze in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, MA.

**Makayla Flowers** is playing the role of Fan Scrooge and a Londoner in *A Christmas Carol* at the Meadow Brook Theatre.

**Arden DiManno** recently played the Caterpillar in *Alice in Wonderland*, the Camp Counselor Stephanie in *Full Moon* and Cinderella in *Princess Play* all productions at Riverside High School in Leesburg, VA.

**Alex Carnot** is playing Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher* at George Town Day School.

**Annie Ross** is playing Olive Ostrovsky in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at the Children's Acting Academy.

**Deandre Sevon (Leatherbury)** and **Juliet Perel** sang the national anthem at the November 17th Miami Heat game.

**Nick Smith** was cast as Valjean in his school's production of *Les Miserables*.

**Paloma Aisenberg** recently was inducted into the National Honor Society.

**Maurice Bensmihen** and **Juliet Perel** have been cast in a production of *Violet* in South Florida.

**Sophie Glenn** is playing Mitchie in *Camp Rock the Musical* at interACT Theatre. She also has been cast as Bet in *Oliver!* at Deerfield Middle School.

**Aaron Farenback-Brateman** is coaching college audition prep classes for aspiring theater degree bound high school students.

**Matt Stern** is joining the BFA Musical Theatre Faculty at Emerson College and will be teaching Music Analysis for the junior MT class.

**Emma Iskowitz** is attending both Hebrew University and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Check out her blog at [theodysseyonline.com](http://theodysseyonline.com)

**Cosimo Lopez** has been performing at the Bitter End Cafe in Greenwich Village.

**Tristan Knauf** recently performed as Balthasar, one of the three wise men, in his class holiday play in Ft. Lauderdale. A shout out to **Ron Schaefer** who was seen in the audience.

Special thanks to **Annie Ross, Jillian Coleman, Jonah Wassersug, Olivia Gunthert, Zoe Gunthert, Marin Lily Mitchell, Rico Froelich, Jenna Brause, Jason Brause, Zach Asnis, AJ Civello, Maurice Bensmihen, Sophie Smith-Brody, Elise Shangold, Darah Barenhotz, Carlyn Barenholtz, Aaron Farenback-Brateman, James Robinson, Nikki Weinberg** and **Eric Brown** for helping out with our New York and Atlanta based fairs.

## On the Go...

In the next few months, French Woods representatives: Isaac, Rose, Brian, Scobes, Natalie, Aaron and more will be at camper recruitment fairs in and around Boca Raton, Boston, Brooklyn, Chicago, Cleveland and Columbus OH, Dallas, Ft. Lauderdale, Geneva Switzerland, Greenwich, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Madrid, Maryland, Mexico City, Milan Italy, New Jersey, New York City, Orange County, CA, Orlando, Paris France, Philadelphia, Rome Italy, Vail, Westchester NY, Washington, DC, Wilmington, DE. Go to [www.frenchwoods.com/blog/](http://www.frenchwoods.com/blog/) to see when and where and come by and visit! We'd love to have your help. You are our best recruiters!

# December Birthdays!

1 Cole Childers	Samuel Landa	Daniel Hansen	Lily Farris	Joelle Sacks	Jocelyn White
Dimitrii Kiriachok	7 Achilles Kinney-	Daria Balashova	Lola Arenger	Lucas Sosnick	Leah Hayem
Dmitry Dobryakov	Walton	Ethan Steck	Olivia Kerrane	Mina Moore	Saachi
Julia Levin	Amelia Nunez	Jessica Woodlee	Paul Wilhelm	Riley Thorpe	Hiranandani
Jumana Haddadin-	Caroline Itzkoff	Joshua Triffleman-	Theo Sobczak	Sacha Israilovici	26 Amelia Kligman
Cameron	Greer Udelson	Miller	Tyler Ross	Sophie Glenn	Fay Rubin
Maya Ifrah	Himal Shrestha	12 James Calderone	Xariana Walton	Walker Dove	Holland Drew
Mina Moore	8 Alexa Steckel	Jessica Pasternack	Ysee Gaillard	Yisraela (Ella)	Jackson Steinberg
2 Marta Parravicini	Alina Mirman	Justice Blake	16 Anthony Flanders	Melman	Tyler Kelley
spencer weinshank	Ana De Olloqui	Kai Mandel	Benjamin Gregory	21 Christ Eh	27 Charlotte Wolf
3 Darya	Anne Lois	Max Lebrun	Cara Cobden	Evgenia	Jordan Spector
Daneshmand	Bullington	Orso Salavadori	Harry Grad	Graevitckaia	28 Elise Margnat
Delilah Brien	Avery Prokopowicz	13 Benjamin Denmark	Kristine Yang	Gracyn Roberts	gerniqua smith
Dylan Antonioli	Daphne May	Brady Klein	Sydney Roth	Jacob Loeb	Kimberly Norrell
Grace Wess	Gigi Manley	Ellyn Drysdale	Victor-Emmanuel	Joshua Ehrlich	Leah Swithers
Isaac Newman	Maren Frey	Henry Crater	Botteri	Leonardo Israilovici	Lindsay Marcus
Madison Gregory	Myles Roven	Isabel Newman	17 Allyson Hartstein	Max Provenzano	Sasha Ogievetsky
Nina Dennis	Natalie Mahoney	Liana Stoll	Jonathan Kay	Paloma Traeger	Savannah Sawyer
Nora Silverstein	Sophia Davis	Lyndzee Walker	Kia Rogers	Paul Paluel-	29 Alize Selcuker
Sebastian Miyao	9 Alivia Jablin	Maya Jaffe	Lilly Bowman	Marmont	Isabella Romano
4 Charlotte Price	Naja Wiley Mandel	Paul McDonald	Nasir Clark	Sofia Janssen	Jayvon Bullock-
Isabel Braun	Ryan Martinez	Ronan O'Comartun	18 Adam Meliani	Zuri Dennison-	Lewis
Jacob Wilder-	Sophia Liu	14 Alexander Segarra	Emily Schwartz	Lane	Jordan Sheldon
Leventhal	Sophie Picciotto	Cameron Glass	Jordan Pinsky	22 Abraham Sekeres	Shana Litt
Kate Eisenpresser-	10 Anneka Shepherd	Elena Cacho	Natalie Servodidio	Cassandra Adler	Valentina
Davis	Auden Sorensen	Isabelle Butera	Sophia Nisonoff	Laura Weinstein	Tomassini
Michael Lundy	Eva Wendel	Isha Patel	Zoe Glimcher	23 Jackson Pavlik	30 Dylan Messana
5 Alex Greenblatt	Jade Wanyi	Jackson Choran	19 Alexanader	Jalyn Robinson	Isabella
Cameron Branson	Rothbaum	Jeremy	Denisov	Lucille Hampel	Grundmann
Cameron Coates	Jake Fritz	Schoeneborn	Ines Deleval	Nadine Osborne	Skylar Seides
Maria Vorobyeva	Lawrence Flinn	Mateus Meinberg	Jessica Olin	Zachary Degen	31 Francesca Gamba
6 Evelyn Burt	Madison Carty	Paganini	Myo Pine	24 Celeste Borletti	Juliet Donenfeld
Isabella Tomizawa	Serena Shane	Ruby Poses	Navid Ghodsi	Darien House	Mike Pierre
Rincon	Sofia Kissel	Vivian Whoriskey	Rachel Lin	Hudson Flynn	Olga Davydova
Nina Smith	Thea Hecht	15 Cassi Silver	Yiolanda Atalioti	Samantha Dolloff	Zach Eisenman
Olivia Knego	11 Aaron Triffleman-	Grace Horton	20 Eliza Greenwald	Zach Silver	
Samantha	Miller	Kaya Arenger	Ethan Sosnick	25 Jack Silber	
Greenaway	Anabel Lallouz	Lily Baumwoll	Harleigh Fried	Jas Ibrahim	

## Just Registered!

Aaron Waldman	Carla Riccobono	Eli Ullman-Kissel	Isaac Presberg	Lila King	Pierce Schetter
Abbie Jacobson	Caroline Humphrey	Elizabeth Chin	Isabel Braun	Lucie-Rose Cohen	Presley Herthel
Abby Gormin	Caroline Morrissey	Elizabeth Khaychuk	Isabel Newman	Macy McGrail	Rikki Teicher
Alejandra Goldszmidt	Caroline Morrissey	Ella Friedman	Jack Gormin	Madeline Borowsky	Rubymae Colson
Alexa Muchnick	Casey Cuinn	Elliott Ewell	Jack Kadleck	Mallory Woodard	Sam Melville
Alexandra Hugel	Charles Kerzner	Emerson Davis	Jackie Kaskel	Margaret Bugos	Samantha Semsel
Alexandre Jaigu	Charles Morris	Emily Gerstein	Jackson Pavlik	Margaret Meehan	Sammi Schneider
Alienor Albrand	Charlie Baker	Emma Wiegandt	Jackson Steinberg	Marley Saal	Sara Moore
Allison Hecht	Charlotte Mangelsdorf	Ethan Palmer	Jacob Baker-Spitzer	Mary Kate Blum	Sarah Kirtley
Angelika Skrabe	Chaya Friedman	Eva Yoshikawa	Jacob Steinberg	Maryana Lekanova	Sarah Tabak
Anna Katz	Chelsea Backer	Evan Changar	James Lambert	Maxwell Cohen	Sasha Herthel
Anna Kief	Claire Coven	Evan Dell	Jamie Consolino	Maya Campbell	Seojin Moon
Anna Stumberger	Claire Humphrey	Fiona Johnson	Jane Kegel	Maya Gringauz	Simon Wolfson
Anne Lois Bullington	Clara Young	Francesca Cruz	Jenna Waisuisz	Maya Henkin	Sofia Solomon
Ara Lopez	Cosima Pascarella	Frank Nieman	Jessica Tansey	Mazie Chamberlin	Spencer Kamens
Auden Sorensen	Cosimo Lopez	Gabby DeShong	Jessica Tansey	Mia Lerin	Susana Steinberg
Audrey Patterson	Cuinn Casey	Gabriella Baldacchino	John-Luke Lindstrom	Michael Lundy	Sydney Kaufman
Ava Marie Trombino	D. Steele Hamme	Gabrielle Bubrick	Jonathan Hansen	Mika McCaffrey	Taylor Rubenstein
Ben Steinberg	Daniel Hansen	Gabrielle Stallwood	Julia Davolio	Mollie Kuritzky	Thomas Baker-Spitzer
Brady Klein	Daniel Rosales	Gabrielle Yurin	Juliet Donenfeld	Molly Jacobson	Truman Steinberg
Brandon Stolz	Davis Pennell	Genesis DeShong	Kaelin Schetter	Naomi Herthel	Victoria Margulies
Brendan Caldwell	Demi Singleton	Gia Waisuisz	Kai Sorensen	Natalie Khaychuk	Violet Young
Bridget Campbell	Dylan Antonioli	Haley Kampner	Katie Donenfeld	Nicole Van Meter	Vivian Ewell
Brionna Trilling	Dylan Mendez	Hannah Sterkel	Kennedy Sanchez	Noah Scher	Will Varga
Callie La Testa	Dylan Mendez	Harrison Lundy	Kiley Tefft	Payton Schetter	William Kramer
Cameron Klein	Eleanor Chamberlin	Henry Rauch	Laniyah Diaz	Penny Willoughby	Yulia Dolganova
camila goldszmidt	Eleanor Lazaroff	Hope Coven	Lennor Newman	Phoebe Mugford	



## Isaac's Corner

It is not easy for parents to make the decision to send their children away into the waiting arms of strangers who promise to take good care of them — people who promise to expose them to the arts and show

them the wonders of nature, fun, new skills and friendships. As a parent of two children, even I struggled with the idea, and I have been around summer camps my entire life.

The world needs the next generation to be more tolerant of each other's views, ideologies and beliefs. Summer camp is an opportunity for children to be exposed to the best of the human character. Carefully selected role models are dedicated to showing your child how to have fun, learn from others and make friends and communicate in person rather than online. Camp allows kids to meet people from all over the world, every race, culture, and socioeconomic level. French Woods is a second home to campers from 40 US states and 40 international countries.

There is something magical about a summer camp experience. Each camp is different - not merely because of geography or location or even the activities offered, but because of the traditions and people who have touched the camp. Each camp has hidden treasures of history and traditions that give its own character and identity.

Every staff member and alumni camper have memories associated with their time at their camp — memories that stay with them for their lifetime. Most people remember with fondness their counselors, cabins, camp food, activities, shows they appeared in and special happenings of their time.

Camp is an independent experience that shapes one's character and life — a controlled, safe environment where children and youth are able to make their own decisions about simple things (what activities they want to do, how many s'mores they want to make, or what clothes they

are going to wear) and about important things (who they will hang out with . . . who will be their friends).

Camp is a place where kids interact with people face-to-face and, at the same time, learn about themselves and others at an evening activity, under the stars, or sitting around a dining hall table. Children find a world filled with possibilities unavailable to them in everyday life.

Camps give kids a chance to practice being the best they can be. They experience a place designed to create happy memories and encourage self-expression. They have the opportunity to climb towers, ride horses, express themselves on stage, and even experience the success of winning the big game! (Yes, even at French Woods.) It stays with them forever. Kids will learn from a full range of emotions and human experiences including homesickness, friendship, disagreements, team work, frustrations, jubilant success, and more.

As parents, our hopes and jobs are to ready our kids to be productive, independent, and capable people — to prepare them to thrive without us. Camp offers a way for kids to start developing those skills in the best possible and safest environment.

There is so much competition for our children's time in the summer — sports practices, summer school, well-deserved family vacations. But let's not forget the value of a camp experience — camp is a gift we can give our children that they will benefit from and remember forever. If ever there was a time when the world needed a generation of future leaders who understood the intricacies of living in a community, having tolerance, and being open — that time is now.

Rose and I wish everyone a great holiday season and ask you to please stay in touch.

Remember, as of Christmas Day, there are only 165 days until the start of session 1 and 184 days until the start of Session 2.

Hoping to see many of you at our upcoming Camp Fairs and Open Houses,

*Isaac*