

CAMP IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

The **PERFORMER** May 2018  
Informing The French Woods Community

Summer Performance Schedule Enclosed!



**French Woods**  
Festival of the Performing Arts

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## There are still some Tickets Available!

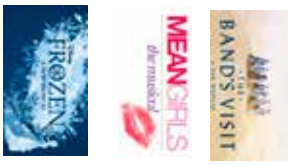
It has become French Woods tradition to offer our campers the opportunity to attend a Broadway Show in New York City. Often the campers are treated to a talkback with the cast. This summer we will feature the following:

**Session 1 Bands Visit**  
For a limited number of Session 1 campers on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 the all-inclusive cost is \$180 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner. There is a show for campers ages 12 and older and tickets will be sold out shortly.

**Session 2 Mean Girls**  
This show is sold out. If you would like to put your camper on the waitlist, please call us at (607) 637-8404

**Session 3 Frozen**  
On Sunday, July 29, 2018, The all-inclusive cost is \$240 and includes ticket, transportation and dinner. There is no age restriction.

**If you are interested in having your child attend either Bands Visit and/or Frozen, please complete and e-sign the permission slip and credit card authorization found through CampMinder on your Camp**



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

French Woods Festival  
of the Performing Arts  
SUMMER OFFICE  
PO Box 609  
Hancock, NY 13783



## Camper & Staff News

**Lily Bowman** recently performed at Packer Collegiate's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

**Charlie Zuker** recently performed in the Theatre Aspen production of *School of Rock*.

**Soren Roeser** played the role of Captain Georg von Trapp in his school's production of *Sound of Music* this year.

**Aviv Cohen** will be singing the American and Canadian National Anthems in a Toronto Blue Jay game Memorial Day Weekend.

**Mitchell Dubin** is nominated for two Gene Kelly awards in Pittsburgh for his Music Direction and for Best All Student Orchestra for the High school performance of *Les Mis*.

**Chance Bachochin** recently performed as Cleante in *Tartuffe* following his performance in *Heathers* at his school.

**Bianca Day Feiner** can be seen as Bebe in *A Chorus Line* and singing lead vocals for the band *Gravatonik*.

**Annie Ross** will be performing as Peter Pan in *Peter Pan and Wendy* at the Cultural Arts Playhouse.

**Brian Worsdale** recently conducted *City Trees* on his final concert with the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Symphony Orchestra at the Riverside Church in Brooklyn. All our best as he moves to Pittsburgh where he will take on a new role as music director with the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras.

## Isaac's Corner

### An Open Letter to Parents From Your Kids' Camp Counselors

Dear Parents,

Thank you. Thank you for trusting us with your whole world, because we know that's what you've handed us — your whole world, and your trust along with it and we're grateful.

You should know, we think your kids are the coolest. The coolest. With all their quirks and their gifts and their challenges and their unique qualities, we think your kids are just the coolest, and we're excited to be their friends. For the time we have them, your kids are our life.

We're here because there's no place we'd rather be this summer than with your kids. We're here because we LOVE this. We train for this. We live for this. We work for it. We're exhausted by it. We're energized by it. Because we understand your kids are worth it. Every bit. Deeply, deeply worth our time and our interest and our effort... and our prayers and our hopes, too. Even now, even before we've met them, in these weeks we use to prepare for their arrival.

You will find a clothing list as part of the *Parent's Guide 2018*, and you can also see it on your forms dashboard on your Campln Touch account. **Some Tips:**

- Put your child's full name on everything you send. You can find Label Daddy on your Campln Touch dashboard. At the end of the summer, we will mail home anything that gets left behind, but only if **it has a camper's first name and last name on it**. Please, no abbreviations or initials.

- Please use a soft sided duffel bag, backpack, or suitcase, to make storage easier.

- Remember to pack rain gear and something warm for cool mornings and evenings, especially in the first, fourth and fifth sessions.

As far as the little things go, flashlights, cameras, sports equipment, frisbees, playing cards, books to read at rest hour and other games that don't require batteries are fine. If your children are taking dance classes they will need appropriate shoes for the classes that interest them. Horseback riders need long pants and shoes with a heel. For those interested in theater, one dress outfit often helps. While iPods, iPads etc... may be fun, these small items are easily misplaced and camp cannot be held responsible when they are lost. Cell phones will not work at camp, BUT if you bring one to take photos and/or listen to music - make the wallpaper your child's name!

*So tell us about your kids when you spend those hours filling out the forms. Tell us what you want us to know; the more, the better. They need, yes. Of course, tell us what your kid needs. And then tell us what she likes, too. What makes him smile. What makes her talk. What lights him up. What tricks and tips we might use to encourage, to help, to protect, and to love. And know this: we're listening. We're reading your words. We're studying what you say. And we're not judging — not you, not your kid. We're here to be your partners. Because we want to make a difference for your kids who become our kids for a short time, even if we never get to see what that difference was.*

What we most want you to know, though, is this. You parents are our heroes. And your kids are amazing. Like, really, really great. Your children change us. They make us better. And we're grateful.

Sincerely,



## Packing!



horseback.

At breakfast that morning we'll announce a theater orientation where we explain all the details of the theater department for that session. We'll go over how and where to audition. Be sure to audition for the musicals; so long as you audition for the musicals in your age group, you are guaranteed a part in a show! You may have more than one theater audition that you are eligible to go to on that day. Go to as many as you can, because that way you have the best chance for a better part (since you're auditioning for so many different roles). In addition to the Musical Theater Auditions, we have a separate audition for each session's dramas. For that audition, you don't prepare a thing. We'll give you a part of a script to read. You'll get a chance to go over it while waiting for your turn to audition and after you read for us that's it for the primary auditions. Pretty simple, huh?

While it's fine to bring a prepared audition song with sheet music for accompaniment up to camp, just sing any song that you are comfortable with and remember, we need to hear everyone, so don't worry if you only get to sing a little bit of your song. If we need to hear more, we have call back auditions later on in the day (but I'll talk more about that later)!

While you are doing all of this theater auditioning, be sure that you head over to circus, dance, music and horseback riding too!

If you want to be in the circus show there's a quick circus audition. There are also music, dance and horseback placements to determine what level of classes to put you in. Don't worry about preparing for those either — everyone who wants to be involved will be.

Now that you've done your initial audition, we have one more round of "call-backs" in the theater department. Sometimes the first audition isn't enough to really get to see what role you'd be best suited for, so we call back a few kids for every show so that we can better determine what role they would best be suited for. Don't worry if you don't get called back! Not getting a call back doesn't mean you won't get a role. Sometimes we

## Dear French Woods Families

So are you ready to go yet? I thought I would take this month's newsletter as an opportunity to talk about the Theater department.

The first day after everyone's arrival each session, we have what we call Six-Minor Day. During our six-minor day, we give everyone at camp the chance to tryout for the theatrical and circus shows and go to a class placement for music, dance and

were sure the first time and you're already set with a part on the cast list, but check the call back lists just in case.

It's a long day, but it will be worth it. The following morning we will put up the cast lists in time for you to sign up for rehearsal on your Major Activity sheet. If you have any questions, ask them when you get to camp! We're all here to help. Remember: No pressure! Everybody can be involved! See you at Camp!

*P.S. The dates for our 4k Race for the Arts are below. Your sponsorship benefits the Hancock-French Woods Arts Alliance that helps send counselors committed to a career in the arts to college. Sign up thru your Campln Touch account or call 607-637-8405.*



S1 - June 17th

S2 - July 8th

S3 - July 27th

S4 - August 17th

### HANCOCK-FRENCH WOODS ARTS ALLIANCE:

We invite you to sponsor your child this summer for our eighth annual 4K Race for the Arts. While there is no charge to run the race or participate as a volunteer, a minimum contribution of \$30 entitles your camper to a commemorative t-shirt.

Counselors interested in applying for an HFWAA scholarship fill out a rigorous application and we strive 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 integral part of making the French Woods summer experience a great one.

We hope that many of you will consider sponsoring your camper for Summer 2018! They can run, walk, volunteer or cheer as we bring fitness, fun and community together all the while raising funds and awareness to ensure that there is a next generation of passionate artists who will help set the stage for a lifelong appreciation of the arts.

