



After School Discovery

Bulletin – 9/15/16

After School Discovery off to a GREAT Start

I hope everyone is settling into the rhythms of a new school year. (Whew!) Our After School crew is full on most days and we are enjoying the more diverse atmosphere with everyone getting along wonderfully so far! I am sorry some of you were not able to join us for the OUTSTANDING trip across Lake Champlain to the Ausable Chasm. We had a ton of fun with the perfect weather and an adventurous hike along the rim and down in to the chasm where we rode tubes and a raft down the stream bottom. (It was unfortunate that missing our Ferry made us so much later than expected. Thanks for being so patient about pick-up.)

- **Great Start:** We are having fun meeting new friends and trying new activities at our two different locations. Horseback Riding is off to a strong start, but we have room for one more rider! Canoeing, on the other hand, is under-subscribed. I have moved it to Thursdays and opened it up for children to join us on a week by week basis. Please sign a form at pick-up or email me to confirm if your child would like to join us for Canoeing on Thursday.
- **What to bring:** Students have been carrying well-packed backpacks. THANK YOU. We start most days with an afternoon snack. Remember to pack snacks and a water bottle, rain gear, extra layers. An extra set of dry clothes, Water shoes / sandals, (and currently a bathing suit) are recommended for the backpack or cubby too. **Students should wear sturdy covered-toe shoes for After School Discovery.** Horseback riders need long pants.
- **Current Locations:** We continue to work out of two locations for After School Discovery until our new space is completed at the Center. Children have been riding bus #4 to the Center and to Rocky River lodge very successfully so far.
- **The Weekly Schedule:**
 - Mondays – Homework Club
 - We review HW folders and start homework before we go outside to play.
 - Tuesdays – Horseback Riding, Hike & Bike
 - Off-Site Horseback Riding has room for 1 more!
 - ON Site Kendra wants to begin Hike and Bike from Rocky River Lodge on Tuesdays. Helmets & sneakers required. Long pants are a good idea. Leave bikes at Rocky River at your convenience.
 - Wednesdays – Field Games
 - “Everybody’s it” and Capture the flag are ever popular.
 - Thursdays – Canoeing, Goldfish Pond
 - Not enough paddlers yet will try on a weekly basis.
 - Fridays – Tee Pee Pow Wow
 - We Pow wow at Rocky River or visit the forest behind Stowe HS. Snack, Pow Wow, stick forts, hide & seek, imaginary, ...

- **New Staff:** Briston, and Kendra will be working with us as After School Discovery Counselors this year. Briston was one of our counselors at Stowe Summer Camp for 2 years, and worked After School all last year. She is attending JSC this year and will continue to work for us part time. Kendra is an outdoor education major at JSC. She is very well organized, loves kids and is off to a great start.
- **School Vacations:** I will provide Full Day Discovery programs during most school vacations and odd days off when SES is closed, but Apple Tree is open. These are open days for which families must sign up on a first come first served basis. Look for an announcement from me about these days as they approach, but don't be afraid to ask in advance. In October, for an example, SES will have an early release day on the 19th, and no school on the 20th and 21st. I will provide a Half Day Discovery on the 21st, and Full Day Discovery adventures on the 22nd & 23rd.
- **Apple Social / After School Social:** Apple Tree Learning Centers is holding the Apple Social on September 30. This might be a good time for families to join us at Rocky River Lodge for a little BBQ light dinner. Or perhaps a different night would work better? Some of our families know each other already, but others are new. I would like folks to get the chance to connect and reconnect socially and welcome everyone to our After School Discovery programs. **Please contact me to let me know** whether you support holding a BBQ on the same day or on a different day and how you would like to contribute to the event. (ie. attend/ contribute to pot-luck/ ...)
- **THANK YOU!** Thanks **for packing great backpacks** and great snacks. (This is the extra burden I feel most guilty about imposing on parents, but it is what makes Outdoor Adventure possible!) Thanks **for your prompt attention to paper work**. Don't be afraid to repeat questions or instructions – I often need reminding! What a great group we have this year! I am enjoying getting to know you all.

Sincerely,
Bill Minter

PS Don't forget to contact me about our Apple Social / After School Social date!