

Blog Posts from a Past CIMI Camp Written by Fifth Grade Teacher, Mr. Senzamici

September 16th, 2012

CIMI tomorrow!

I'm sure the anticipation in the collective households of every fifth grade family at Roosevelt has reached a new high this afternoon with the promise of our famed Catalina just a day away. Dr. Ronzone has asked me to use this site to keep you all updated with photos and news of our trip as she is fairly certain we will have the wi-fi capabilities to keep on posting.

School policy on this sort of thing is that we are allowed to post pictures of the students as long as a name is not attached so the students cannot be identified. The photos will be of the various fun activities and happenings, but if you want to absolutely make sure a photo with your child in it is not posted up on this public site, please do not hesitate to email me and let me know at mosenzamici@sbsdk12.org.

I know a lot of parents and families are looking forward to checking in to see what their son or daughter are doing, and even see some of the fun, funny or interesting things that are happening at the institute as the next few days progress. I'll keep the updates coming for you.

Tomorrow will *definitely* be another great day.

-Mr. S



September 17th, 2012

CIMI day one. WHEW!

We are having a blast.

After a somewhat quiet ride down to long beach we boarded our boat relatively quick and were underway. The excitement took a temporary hiatus on the boat with a lot of green faces, but came back with a vengeance as soon as we arrived at our destination. After getting settled in to our cabins, testing every bed, socializing with our bunkmates, taking in the local sites and having a much needed lunch, we took a much needed jump into the ocean.

Snorkeling was a lot of fun, the only hard part being the exhausting task of squeezing into a tight wetsuit, and we got to float on the surface of the water saying “hey there” to the Garibaldi fish meandering below. Right now the students are able to relax and unwind before dinner. They are lacking sleep, exhausted, worn out from the hot sun, sopping wet and already a little crusty around the edges. They are also happier than many of us have ever seen them and having the time of their lives.

We are anticipating a little bit of homesickness to set in as the sun goes down, but spirits are high and the immediate future holds the promise of a lot more fun. Our CIMI adventure continues.



September 18th, 2012

Day two, part two. Snorkeling and a night adventure.

Day two has ended with a lot of success and incredibly high spirits. The general discourse amongst the staff is how remarkably successful the trip has been and continues to be.

With the big push the fifth grade team has had on integrity, kindness and respect, we're feeling great that our efforts are coming to fruition as everyday we are seeing this caring and consideration manifesting beautifully. New friendships are being formed and the kiddos are seeing even their teachers (and principal) in a whole new light. Smiles all around.

After lunch we went back in the water with a nice long snorkeling session, the water was clearer and Batrays, Garibaldi Fish and Leopard Sharks were seen in abundance. Even students who couldn't swim took the water and floated effortlessly thanks to the CIMI proved wetsuits. We have to say, the Institute must have one heck of a hiring process or pay *really* well, because we have been impressed with their hard work and gentleness with the students since the moment we arrived, and today was a shining example of how great the men and women who work on the island truly are.

Before our evening meal I had the boys straighten up their rooms, as every cabin looked like a suitcase had exploded in each one, spilling the contents on the beds, floors and, somehow, walls. I took pictures as "blackmail" and suddenly the boys had an incredible urge to tidy their area. One boy that you may recognize even wanted to make sure I posted an "after" picture to go with the "before" so his parents would see his efforts.

After another wonderful dinner (have I mentioned the food here is good?), we got the treat of a unique evening program learning about nocturnal sea life and even had a marshmallow roast. Mr. S told one of his lame stories that got more rolled eyes than chuckles, but the kids humored me nicely (wink). They're now tucked away and (hopefully) fast asleep.

We'll have another exciting morning with another hike and some labs, and then we're on our way home. The bus should be getting back to Roosevelt at about 6pm, but a teleparent will go out to keep you updated. Thank you so very much for keeping tabs on the blog. The students have been, believe it or not, very happy to hear their parents are keeping tabs and looking forward to updates. It's been a blast.

And tomorrow...well, you know the rest.



September 19th, 2012

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