A Summer Like No Other

I sat in on our “Virtual Artists” program this week, and I really enjoyed watching our campers create a variety of very unique projects. Children are always creative, and it is never uncommon for them to find unique ways to interpret an art project. On Thursday, the project was to create a “Super Hero Tree”. The tree was supposed to have special powers that could help. Some of the trees made music, some made donuts, and others served ice cream. So, while watching the campers work, I sketched out my own tree - with the Super Power of Summer Camp!

I took a moment to think about all the moments that have made Camp special over the years. Some of the highlights included our camp T-shirts, our Drama Programs, Tie-Dye Day, the pool, building birdhouses in Architecture, baking pies with Creative Chefs, and of course, the Dunk Tank from Carnival Day!

This summer, we’re all finding new ways to create Summer Fun. Our cooking projects, art projects, and technology projects have moved online. We’ve added “Virtual high-fives” to our repertoire, and we’ve been enjoying the ability to stay connected, even though we can’t be together on campus.

We have a lot of fun planned for this summer, and I hope you’ll be able to participate in many of the programs. And most importantly, I hope to see all of our friends on campus next summer!

Steve Cusick
Director of Day Camps.
Virtual Notes from Virtual Programs

Food & Stories
In our first ever week of Virtual Food and Stories, we had an amazing time with a great batch of virtual chefs! We read many stories such as “Where the Wild Things Are”, and paired our stories with inspired recipes full of sweet treats, fun colors, and new ideas. Our chefs were able to follow along to a new recipe every day with room to experiment and put their own twist on recipes like homemade ice cream, soft pretzels made into fun shapes, and multi-colored pasta! We can't wait to see what we'll be cooking next week!

Virtual Artists
Our Virtual Artists have been busy this week. Mr. Bannister kept our artists busy thinking creatively with a variety of hands on art projects. We started the week by creating hybrid animals and animal cartoons. We saw some very cool animal combinations... a mix between an ant and lion, an alpaca and a duck, and many more. Our next project took us to the Midnight Zone, and we drew some of the unique sea creatures that live in the depths of the ocean. On Wednesday, we practiced our puppet skills, creating string puppets that looked like animals, or people, or fish. On Thursday, campers created unique trees with special powers, and we wrapped up the week with Animal Masks! Congratulations to all our talented artists for a creative week!

Animation
What a smash hit! Virtual Animation quickly became a camp favorite this year amongst both campers and staff. While we don't get to be on campus to try out these new techniques, our zoom call was full of sharing brand new animations with each other. By using Pencil2D and practicing techniques with onion layers to make animations like a bouncing ball, our animators worked their way up to more complex animations like people walking! It was no easy feat, but our new digital artists translated their new skills quickly to the screen, in an impressive first week of Animation. We're looking forward to furthering these skills and animations next week!

Music and Movement
Our Virtual Musicians began building their “Musical Word Wall” with words that described tempo (andante, moderato, and allegro), words that described dynamics (piano, mezzo-forte, forte), and more! We rounded out our lessons with movement, deep breathing, and some yoga! We also worked to develop our listening skills, and learned to listen for melody, harmony, and how the music makes us feel!

Scavenger Hunts
Our first Scavenger Hunt of the season was a hit! Most of our participants found more then 90% of the items on our list! It's not too late to join Monday’s Scavenger Hunt - just email summercamp@friendsbalt.org.

Summer Camp Trivia
Friday Trivia became a favorite last summer in the Dining Hall, and we were excited to bring this activity to life virtually. This week we had a tie between Jude, Kate, and Nic! Join us next Friday for round two!
We’re hard at work planning even more exciting programs for Virtual Summer Programs weeks 5 - 8.

Exciting updates coming soon!