

2009 Plaistow Recreation Parent Letter

Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to the Summer Recreation Program for 2009. We would like to take this opportunity to give you some information about our program, and to thank you for sharing your children with us.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE: Children may begin arriving at the Smith Field at 9:00 a.m. Our staff arrives earlier, but they're busy getting ready for the days event, and are not able to supervise children before 9:00 a.m. Departure time is 4:00 p.m. **THERE WILL BE A LATE FEE ASSIGNED FOR EACH CHILD LEFT AT THE PARK AFTER 4:00 p.m. The fee will be \$10.00 for every 5 minutes per child.** If you are not available to pick up your child on time please make alternate arrangements. We do not have the staff to take care of children after the program ends at 4:00 pm.

RAIN SITUATION: We will be going to the Pollard School in the event of rain. We also try to go to the movies. We will have a counselor at the Smith Field in the morning if we move the program to Pollard due to rain. If the weather clears we may walk back to Smith Field during the day as there is more for the children to do at the Rec Field.

Daily Activity Schedule: Subject to Change

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| 9:00 – 9:15 | Attendance (9:30 on Mondays) |
| 9:15 – 10:15 | Activity – period 1 |
| 10:15 – 10:35 | Snack Break (parent provided) |
| 10:40 – 11:20 | Activity – period 2 |
| 11:20 – 12:00 | Activity – period 3 |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | Lunch and quiet time. Be sure to send your child with a snack daily. Children are also encouraged to bring a quiet activity with them (ex. Book, cards, e.tc.) |
| 12:45 – 1:15 | Activity - Period 4 |
| 1:15 – 1:55 | Activity – period 5 |
| 1:55 – 2:30 | Activity – period 6 |
| 2:30 – 3:00 | Ice Cream Break |
| 3:00 – 3:45 | Large Group Activity |
| 3:45 – 4:00 | Return to groups for announcements, permission slips and the next days events. |

MONEY: Ice Cream and rainy day trip money is part of the weekly fees. If you send a check please clearly mark your child(ren)'s name on it. This will help minimize bookkeeping errors for parents with different last names, or duplicate last names. **All checks should be made out to Plaistow Recreation for payment of field trips and registration fees.** Any money you send with your child for spending on field trips should be placed in an envelope with your child's name and amount on the outside and given to their counselor if they are not old enough to be responsible for it. **Canobie Lake** we recommend you send money for drinks with them as we can not bring anything in with us. We do not play games or buy souvenirs; we are there to get full use out of the park attractions and rides.

Cedardale Outting Center you may have your child purchase lunch there. Choices are hotdog, burgers, pizza, chicken fingers, fries along with other items. A menu with prices will be sent home with the permission slip for Cedardale.

Dress: Please be sure to dress your child for the weather. We have various water activities for hot days, so please be sure to pack swim wear and a towel. We also advise that children bring a hat.

Health Protection: Please apply sunscreen before you drop off your child at rec. Sunscreen will be applied daily in the morning after snack period, after lunch and again before period 6. This applies also for bug spray when we are at a park or doing a nature walk (possibly at Pawtuckaway). If you do not want your child to have sunscreen please give the summer director a written note stating that you do not want sunscreen and/or bug repellent applied to your child.

Drinking Water: We have water available all day for the children to drink, a separate water station is set up for the children to use. We will not longer have the bubbler available. We have a separate spicket for drinking water that we will be using to fill the water only insulated containers. This is a precaution recommended by our Health Officer to minimize the spread of germs from one child to another by using the bubbler. Also available to the children are juice drinks that we will be making up in other insulated containers.

Hand Washing: We are going to have a separate hand washing station this year set up and hand washing will be part of the day. This will help us prevent the spread of germs to one another.

Medical Accident Record: We will have a book located at the directors picnic table that will have the names of any children who may need some type of medical attention. Anything from needing a bandaid to a bump that may feel better with a little ice. Your child's name will be in the log and you must initial that we have notified you about the injury. This is double protection for us in keeping everyone informed. Your child's counselor will notify you of the injury and ask you to sign in the book.

Medication: Plaistow Recreation Staff will **not** be allowed to administer medication at any time. If your child needs medication, please be sure to make other arrangements in advance. When you drop off your child, please notify the director of other health concerns (ex. B

ee allergy, asthma, etc...).

Cook Outs: You will notice on the schedule that we have cook outs. We will supply hot dogs and hamburgers and ask that parents provide a specific item on Friday in lieu of a bagged lunch. We will send home notices when we are in need of items (ex. bagged chips, condiments, etc...). Some Fridays we will be having Pizza Parties in lieu of cook outs. This year we are switching to individual bags of chips instead of the big bag. This will give each child their own sealed bag.

Healthy Snack Days: We are starting something new this year! We would like to introduce healthy snack ideas to the children. We will provide fruit, veggies, and crackers and cheese on various days. Campers will have the choice if they would like the new snack, so please send them with a snack every day, especially on the healthy snack days...just in case.

Attendance: Please make sure to send a note if your child is leaving early or with someone who is not listed on their emergency form. Your child needs to check out with their counselor at the end of each day.

Pictures: This year we are going to send out a yearbook for the campers. Our Assistant Director Phil Sadewicz is going to school for photography and will be taking pictures and putting the book together. If for any reason you do not want your child to be photographed, please let us know because some of the pictures might go to the newspaper during various theme days (pirate day, carnival day, etc.) The yearbook will be made available for purchasing as well as a DVD (we hope). We have not set a final price but it will not be too expensive. The campers and staff will be in the yearbook as well as the various programs that visit the camp. More information will be available once the book is made.

Electronics: Campers will not be able to bring any kind of electronic to camp this year. We have had problems with these things in the past couple of years and it is not the responsibility of the staff to make sure all electronics of each child is with that child at the end of the day. This means no Gameboys, DS, iPods, phones, games, Pokemon/Digimon trading cards, little toys that are easily lost, traded, or taken, etc. Plaistow Rec staff is not responsible for lost or stolen electronics, games, or toys. If your child needs something to do at quiet time the staff provides games and activities for the campers to do during that time.

T-shirts: Each child will receive a T- Shirt that says Plaistow Recreation on it. They **MUST** wear this shirt on all field trips. This allows for easier group identification. Replacement shirts "as supplies last" are available for \$6.00 each.

Field Trips: The attached schedule lists our field trips. There may be an additional cost for some trips. If this poses a financial burden, please contact us, we would like all children to be able to participate. The Canobie Lake Field trip is an extended day trip more details will be on your field trip permission form.

Recreation Field Phone: The phone number at the recreation field is **382-5930**. Please let the phone ring, it may take a bit to get to as all staff are with your children.

Theme Weeks: Groups will be working on various projects some weeks, which are displayed at that week's end. Please ask your child about their project! We may from time to time ask your children to bring in items from home for these projects (ex. egg cartons, milk cartons, wrapping paper, meat trays, etc.). We are encouraging community awareness in our Summer Recreation Program. A food drive will take place during week two that will benefit the local food pantry, a penny drive during week five will benefit children less fortunate in our community during Christmas. Cards for our home bound seniors to say happy summer we're thinking of you will be done as an Arts & Crafts project. Fill a backpack – more information to come on this. The theme weeks are as follows: Week 1 is Red, White, and Blue week with a mini carnival, tie dye, a trip to Cedardale, and a cook out at the end of the week. Week 2 is Dinosaur week with a trip to Cedardale, Dino Color Day, a visit from the UNH Marine Program, and ending with a trip to Pawtuckaway. Week 3 is Superhero and Princess Week with Zoo Creatures visiting, a trip to Pawtuckaway and a cookout at the end of the week. Week 4 is Pirate week with traveling trivia, our Canobie trip, and a water slide day! Week 5 is Sports week with tournaments all week and ending with a trip to Wallace Sands. Our last week is Carnival week with a magician, a trip to Cedardale, Carnival Day, and ending the summer with a trip to Pawtuckaway.

Rainy Day: In the event of inclement weather we often take the children to a movie. Movie Money is now included in the weekly fees. Please be sure to fill out a movie permission slip for your child.

2009 Staff: Director: Erin McArdle, Co Asst Directors: Phil Sadewicz and Jon Earnshaw, Arts & Crafts Director: Maureen McArdle, Counselors: Lyle Carey, Lance Malette, Tom Paoletta, Tara McLaughlin, Adrienne Gori, Moira Dhaliwal, Drew Balanoff, Mike Withee, Annie Hansbury, Kate Gardella, Carissa Malette, and Kendralee Murphy, Substitute Counselors: Mike Senter and Katelyn Demmons, and our volunteer for the summer is Kelsey Sadewicz

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Carli Sarty, Recreation Director at 382-5200, ext. 18, or at the field at 382-5930, M-F, 8:00 - 4:30.

We are looking forward to a great summer with your children, thank you for choosing Plaistow Recreation.

Happy Summer,

Carli Sarty