

The Pine Needle

BELGRADE LAKES, MAINE

JULY 2014

On Pine Island

by Carson Peck

This being my fourth summer at PIC, I am beginning to feel as though I sit upon a golden throne, overlooking young kids bustle hustle about in pure insanity. Of course, this isn't even close to reality. More than half the people on this island probably feel the way I just described. I am inexplicably satisfied that I am able to recognize the sheer spectacularity of this place and enjoy it for each day of the six weeks I spend here.

To me, a camper, Pine Island is less of a camp and more of a home. This small place of hardly 2 acres is capable of becoming so much more than a place to stay. I personally really do love every part about PIC. The outdoor life thrills me, ranks give me ambitions, trips show me how to appreciate the unique beauty in New England, and the food is ALWAYS delicious. Games like dustball, staffball, and the recently invented World Cup game are all things that nobody gets an opportunity to play anywhere else. On top of that, friendships and bonds are some of the strongest and most valuable things one can take away from their summer. To me, my musical ties to various campers and staff are such cool things that I can't even find back in New York (my other home). Having my guitar up here this summer



with equipment to make it sound decent gives me another way to strengthen my bonds with with everything and everyone here.

During the winter and spring, countless stories of countless times are told by Pine Islanders, extending PIC's influence to places near and far. (Even France!) PIC is a beacon of memories and just straight-up good old fun. I love this place, as I know so many people do. It remains in all of our minds even if we are hundreds or thousands of miles away from it, and I would like to thank it, just as I do every day, for being exactly what it is: a home.

Saturday Night Show Review: The Principality of Pine Island Camp

by Henry Hall

It was a hot night in June when a group of eight campers put on the Saturday Night Show "The Principality of PIC." For those readers who do not know what a Saturday Night Show is, it is a show that is written and put on by a group of eight to ten campers in one day, which the whole camp watches. The Principality of PIC was about the "true and accurate" history of PIC and was enjoyed by many.

Praise for "The Principality of PIC":
"I think the way the show was put together was great and that it was an amazing show."

—Will Stack

A Day at Pine Island

by Reid Clemmenson

No two days at Pine Island are alike; activities and habits are always changing. The day opens with the Officer of the Day, or "O.D." for short, waking up the campers, normally with music, whistle-blowing, and yelling "Wake up, it's time for 100%!" or something close to it. Then the 100%-ers take flight through the brisk morning air, and into the cool water. They (being 100%-ers) surface with a gleam in their eyes and from then until they go to sleep they have a spring in their step. After 100%, campers mosey on down to the dining hall, and line up outside on the wall. Then the shrill sound of the whistle signals the campers to line up.

Breakfast is eaten, waiters are picked, and then there is a mad dash to clean the table. The bell is rung, and tables are dismissed, and the activity line is formed. Activities are chosen; hearts are broken when campers don't get their favored activity. Then comes tent clean up, tents are cleaned, and the whistle for password blows. The O.D. gives a speech in Honk Hall, then morning activities start.

Once morning activities are complete, it's time for G-swim, a time to play dustball and staffball or go swimming. Then comes lunch, then after lunch comes rest hour. After rest hour is completed afternoon activities start. When, at 4:30, they finish, there is another general swim period, followed by dinner.

After dinner, Boats Out starts, during which time campers are allowed to go out in boats.

(Also during this time dustball and staffball are played.)

Then at 8 campfire is started, and ends at about 9 pm. Then, some nights, there is a dip before going to bed. All campers promptly brush their teeth and go to bed.

The cycle repeats itself the next day.

Why Pine Island?

by Henry Hall

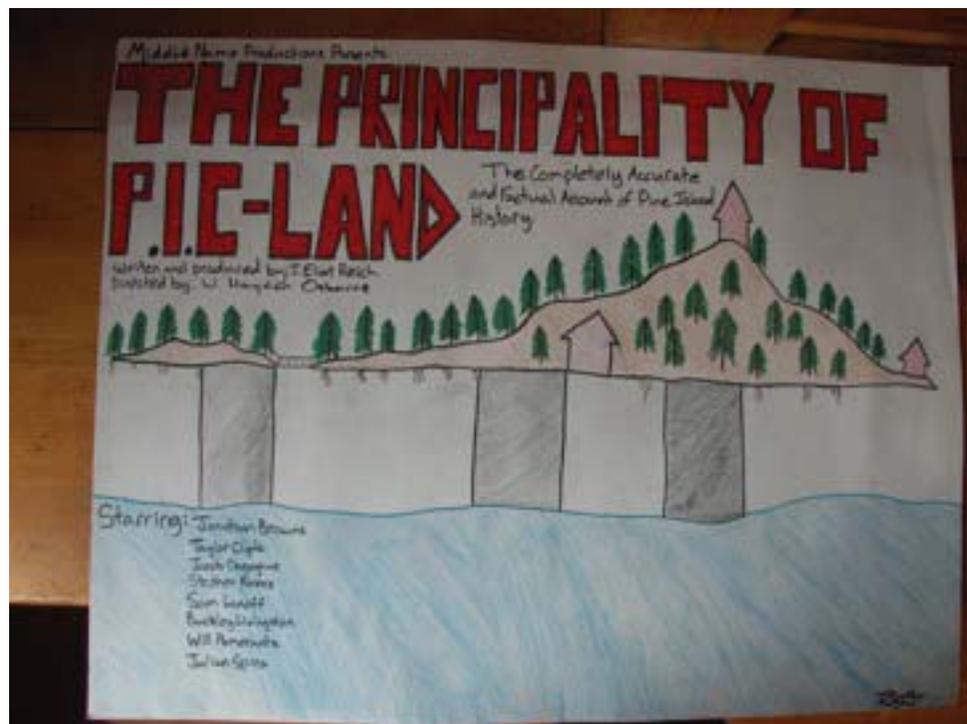
For all those parents who are thinking about sending their sons to Pine Island I would say: do it! Why, you may ask? Why should I sent my son to this place for six weeks? What does Pine Island have that other camps don't? Well, I'll tell you. Pine Island is a small community on a small island in the middle of a large lake, so you are pretty much forced to get to know your tentmates and the boys on the island, so by the end of the

season you have very tight-knit friendships that will last forever.

Another reason Pine Island is special is because of the counselors. They create an amazing experience for the boys by being their friends and mentors. Another reason the counselors are so great is because they have a sense of humor and fun.

The third reason is: fun. Your son will have an amazing time as well as have fun.

The fourth and final reason is that the food is beyond compare.



PIC Haikus

by Roman Hall

“PIC Wake-up”

The soft call of loons
Sliver of light slips inside.
A peaceful morning

“Archery”

Notch the first arrow
Pull back, tense string and muscles
Release: arrow soars

“Lunch”

The dining hall filled
Chatter—sudden harmony
“Woah, King Kababa!”

“Staffball”

Jump, toss, watch ball fly
Oh no! Ball rolling away.
Opponent swishes.

“Fishing”

Cast line. Pond glistens.
Waiting, bored. Strong tug. Reel in!
Just another branch.

“Hiking”

Feet blistered, thighs dead.
Almost to summit
Trees clear. Sky expands.



World Cup Fever

by Nick Sperans

The World Cup hit Pine Island fast and hard! But the camp didn't just huddle around the radio all day and listen, they would go out and play the World Cup game! However, this was a different type of soccer. For this game, it's an elimination free for all! It is called “world cup,” but it's a totally different dynamic! It's a great time! I know very few people who wouldn't love to play at the same time as up to fifty other people! (Maybe even more!) Here's how to play: Everyone picks a team to play for, then the single goalie throws the ball, and the game begins! Then you have to score to stay in, then the last people left are out and the next round begins, and so on and so forth.

Dustball has been given a run for its money, but I think they're still equally popular. So there's your inside scoop!



More PIC Haikus

by Julian Spiro

Please print this, Ben Swan.
It is a quite nice Haiku.
Refrigerator.

Ghubb-Ghubb the seahorse:
A creature from the great king
Worshipped by the camp



Writin' Spwahts

with Xander Schwartz

Here at PIC, sports are a big deal. Everything from soccer/*futbol* to dustball to curling is discussed among both campers and staff. At every precious moment of free time (save for the sacred 60 minutes of peace and quiet known as rest hour) you can see a perpetual game of either “world cup,” “dustball,” or “staffball,” and more often than not two or even three of the games will be in the middle of a spirited duel.

Professional sports are also a hot topic. Although only officially hearing about the outside sports world once a week, all major sports news is quickly spread around camp from staff members who have had time off.

As stated priorly, the three major “spwahtz” here at camp are world cup, dustball, and staffball, all of which are fairly simple games in theory, although

constant quarrels are always sprouting up. World cup, which can be played as a team of 2 or as individuals, is a game of soccer (or *futbol*) where 20+ teams all share the same goal: score before the opposition does. When you shoot, you must shout your team name (team names range from France to USSR to Narnia to Ottoman Empire to Tattoine) and if you score you move on to the next round. (Typically 2-3 teams are eliminated each round.) This repeats until there are three teams left, and they play a “first to three points” battle.

Dustball is virtually every-man-for-himself dodgeball. You can reenter the game once the person who got you out gets out. Thus only a handful of times each year does someone win (for they must have gotten the entire camp out single-handedly.)

Staffball (also known as knockout) is an elimination-style game of basketball. In staffball, unlike dustball, there is always a winner.

Outside of camp, NBA free agency, the MLB all star game, and trade deadlines occur each year. Either through radio or counselors returning from time off there is never a shortage of sports news. Within hours of “The Decision 2.0” most of camp knew Lebron was returning to Cleveland. Every Sunday we hear the “Sunday Morning Sports Report” (courtesy of The Boston Globe) and we learn about the standings and news from across all sports realms.

Although to an outsider’s eye PIC may seem cut off from the outside world, it is a misconception. Although we lack “Airs” and “iPhones” PIC is always in the know.

PIC Acrostic

by Alex Sidorsky

Place to relax
Intriguing to everybody
Never ever not fun
Extraordinary counselors and people

Incredible trips
Staff ball
Luscious food
Awesome activities
New skills
Dustball

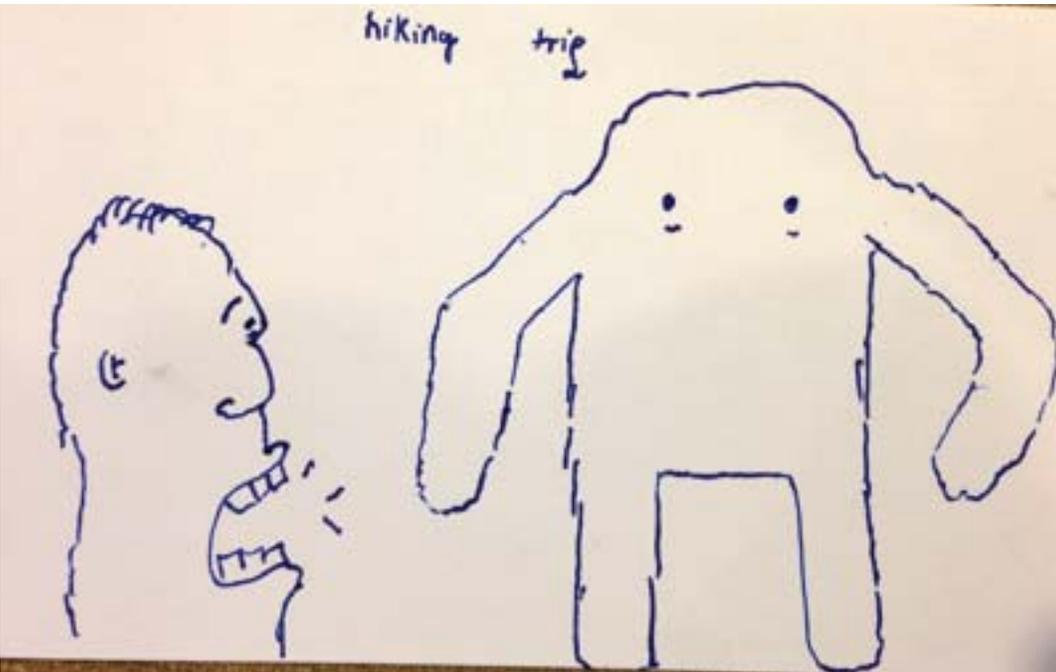
Sailing

by Bobby Flynn

“Tweet tweet” goes the OD’s whistle, signaling the start of activities. When I get to sailing I am informed that we will be doing boat maintenance. We begin by learning to whip a rope. The reason rope is whipped is to help prevent it from fraying. After we have competently whipped a few ropes they send us out to work on the boats. After fixing the boats I am assigned to go for a short sail. Later on, in the boathouse, I learn some knots and work on ranks. The activity period ends and I go to general swim feeling accomplished and with new skills.

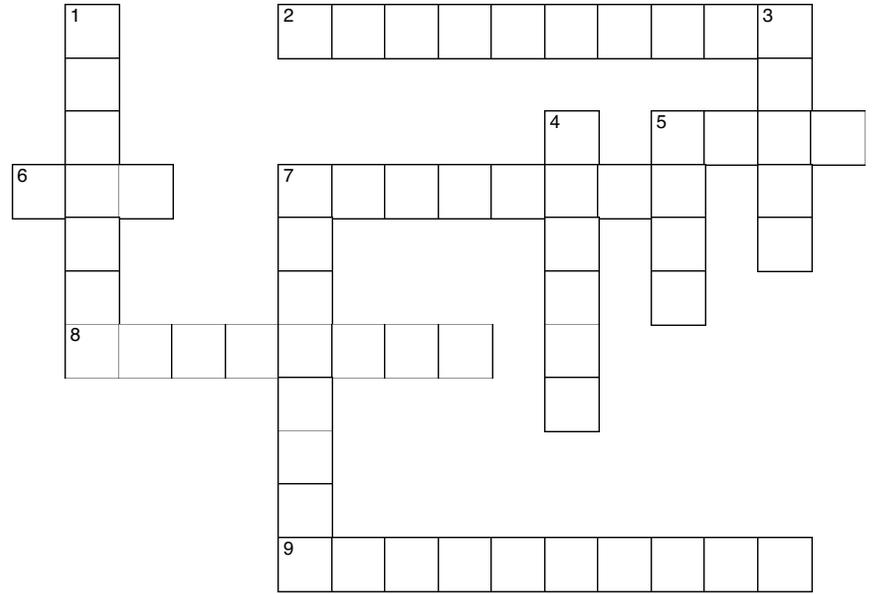
Comic: Hiking Trip

by Buckley Livingston



PIC Crossword Puzzle

by Will Stack



ACROSS

- 2 The band that the names of the racing dories are from
- 5 A gleam in your eye and a spring in your _____
- 6 The camp launch
- 7 The beloved dessert of campers
- 8 A classic campfire game that includes a ping pong ball and your lungs
- 9 One of the senior camper cabins

DOWN

- 1 The lalopalalalooza lobster
- 3 _____ Shocked (campfire game)
- 4 The ghalli-ghalli porcupine
- 5 The activity taught by Bret and Jack
- 7 The mid-year music campfire

The Back Page

by George Baldwin

