

Views from our Hilltop

The Deck House School Newsletter

Fall 2011
(207) 882-7055
www.deckhouseschool.org

Views from the Head of School

This summer we were pleased to welcome 12 students to The Deck House School for our full length, Summer Semester. Attending one, or both, five-week sessions were continuing students from 2010/11, as well as those joining us for the first time. New students were often transitioning directly from wilderness programs, while a few were coming from other schools or home.

Our mission for the summer was the same as for the academic year, as students and staff worked together to create a community, which encouraged social, emotional, and academic growth. During our Summer Semester, students experienced the school's structure, supervision, and support within their life responsibilities, co-curricular activities, community service work, and academic studies.



Summer students studied mathematics, writing, reading literature, technology, art, and gourmet cooking. Our teachers capitalized upon Mid Coast Maine's rich cultural, historical, and environmental resources. Weekly educational field trips included Owl's Head Transportation Museum, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Maine State Aquarium, Castle Tucker, and Burnt Island Living Light House. En plein air painting, woodcarving, and drawing a moose skull were highlights of our studio art class.

Summer students assumed real life responsibilities such as planning and cooking meals, baking, and grilling out on the deck. Keeping the house in good order was the objective of students' morning work jobs. Evening recreation included participating in Men's League Basketball, working out at the YMCA, mountain biking, running, and NA/AA meetings. Camping on Tumbledown Mountain, swimming at Popham Beach or Hendrick's Head, and playing paintball were popular weekend activities.

Deep-sea fishing, biking, sailing, and building a tree fort were co-curricular activities that allowed students to enjoy time outdoors. Our local Morris Farm Trust provided students with a unique opportunity to work on an organic farm. Gardening, feeding the goats, collecting eggs, watering the horses, and cleaning animal stalls were noteworthy farm activities.

At the end of August, we were delighted that the majority of our summer students chose to continue at The Deck House School for 2011/12. They, together with our returning students, and one new student, equated to a full school in September, which was, for us, a significant milestone. Their interest, participation, and commitment have set the stage for a terrific academic year.

Dr. Melinda Evelyn Browne, *Head of School*

Student Summer Activities



Painting on the Deck



Building a Tree House

This one didn't get away



Ocean Point Field Trip



Moose Skull



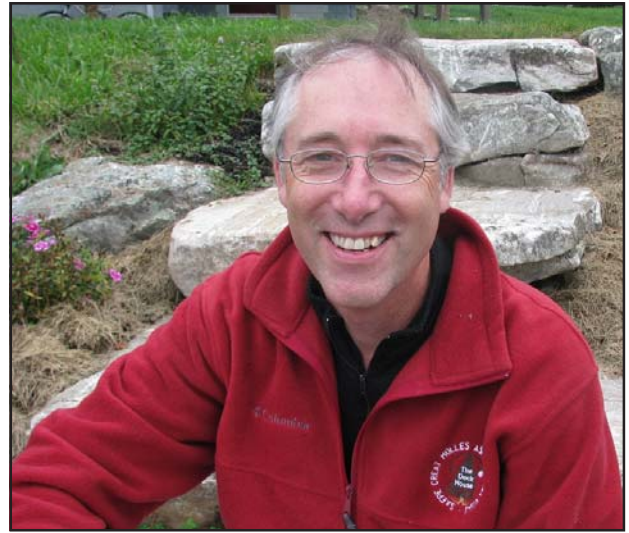
Working in the Garden

Views from the Development Office

This summer, in my new role as Director of Marketing and Development, I began tracking down alumni, past parents, and friends with whom we had lost touch over the years. It had always been a luxury to take the time and resources to do this kind of work but after only a few short weeks, I see now that it is a necessity. The strength of a school does not reside solely in its staff, and students; just as important are those who have attended, supported and worked at the school all along the way.

The Deck House School began operation in 1997 and since then, 270 young men have passed through its doors. Some have attended three or even four years, others for just a few months. Add parents, past employees, relatives and friends of the school and the number of people connected with the school increases geometrically. It has been wonderful to hear from members of this larger community on an almost daily basis. Their stories are varied but they all share in their support of this school and its mission.

As I travel this year to attend conferences and meet with schools, and consultants, I will be making arrangements to get together with alumni, past parents, former employees and friends of the school. I am looking forward to seeing many of you and having the opportunity to catch up and maybe share a few stories about the school.



“During my seven year tenure as Headmaster, I spent a great deal of time explaining the small size of The Deck House School. Now, after 15 years on the hill, I am seeing the school in a larger context; it’s not really a small school at all.”

Tom Blackford
Director of Marketing and Development
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The Deck House School remembers Matt Feinstein '93 who passed away on June 24th 2011. Matt attended The Deck House School for three years from 1990 to 1993. He returned for several of our recent Prize Day celebrations and it was always rewarding to have him back here on the hill. Matt made his home in Stowe, VT and is survived by his wife Charlotte and his daughter Eleanor.

A Student Point of View

My name is Matt Grossman (Grossi). I have learned many things since coming to The Deck House School. Before I got here I was in a wilderness program and it helped me a lot. The Deck House has also helped me in ways I can't even describe. Before I got here I wanted to drop out of high school and not do anything, but since I've been here I have opened my mind to many different options for the future. So far I have built a boat and gone out and done "Rebuilding together", a community volunteer program that rebuilds low-income housing. I



I have always been good at building things out of wood but now I have the skills that people are looking for in the real world. Also my grades have improved from a low D to almost all A's and B's. The community atmosphere is great. It has definitely helped me deal with people outside of the school and taught me how to get myself out of situations that I know I shouldn't be in. Overall I really do enjoy this school and the staff couldn't be better.

Matt Grossman, Class of 2012

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**The
Deck House
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