

Rabbi Avi Kaplinsky, Director



December, 2023

Dear Pre1A Parents,

I would like to introduce you to Camp Nofesh. Camp Nofesh runs a heimishe summer program for boys from Pre1A through seventh grade. We have been serving the Passaic community for 23 years and we have earned ourselves a well-deserved reputation as a fun, happy, exciting, and safe place for children to spend their summer. In Camp Nofesh, under the guidance of our experienced and talented staff, your son will play organized sports, group games and go on fun trips, while learning social skills and building confidence and self-esteem, in a setting that just cannot be equaled in a school environment. As a first grade Rebbe for 25 years, I am confident that our campers are very well prepared for first grade, both socially and in limudei kodesh as well, since group activities, davening and important kria skills are emphasized all summer long.

Camp Nofesh is proud of its caring and highly competent staff, who work tirelessly all summer to ensure that your son has a safe and fun summer. Our head counselor Rabbi Shabsi Horowitz, our aquatics director, Rabbi Yaakov Rabinowitz, and our full-time camp nurse, Rabbi Shmuel Rowner are mechanchim, each with many years of experience with children. We are also fortunate to have Rabbi Baruch Gopin, a noted veteran machanech, as our camp trip coordinator and Chaim Jaffe as our program Director. All of our counselors are carefully chosen for their midos tovos and matched to a bunk most fitting to their strengths and talents. We are particularly careful, to choose only the most gentle and caring counselors for the youngest bunks. The boys leaving Pre1A have only adult married rabbeim as their senior counselors. In addition, we have Rabbi Shmuel Rowner as the Camp Nurse. He has many years of experience and is very capable in his role providing first aid care and handling boys with allergies and asthmatic conditions. All campers and staff members are aware that he is available for any and all concerns. Parents are requested to contact him any time with any health concerns they may have with their son.

Each day begins with a separate Pre1A lineup under the canopy in the front of our building. Learning groups with their Rebbe/Counselor are held in their bunk rooms. Incentives are offered for participation and good behavior. Our Pre1A counselors introduce a variety of sports and activities to the boys, such as whiffle ball, kickball, dodge ball, and others, with an emphasis on teaching them the art of the games, as well as middos tovos and sportsmanship. We have an excellent arts and crafts program, run by an experienced Morah, and we have a great computer room and game room for indoor fun. Pre1A campers will also enjoy our extremely popular pedal kart activity. Virtually all activities for Pre1A boys are on campus except for swimming, which is a short bus trip away in a beautiful pool with a special separate, shallow kiddie section. At the end of each day your son will wait for his carpool with his counselors and bunk under the canopy in front of the building and be escorted to his car by his JC.

Camp Nofesh boasts an excellent aquatics program, run by Rabbi Yaakov Rabinowitz and Rabbi Shabsi Horowitz. Our aquatics staff is trained to give small group instruction to each and every child. Our pool is supervised by either Rabbi Rabinowitz or Rabbi Horowitz. The Pre1A campers will have the opportunity to swim and receive instruction in the kiddie pool. As they gain confidence, they can transition to the big pool with the use of an approved life jacket. As they gain more confidence, they will be allowed to remove their life jackets, with the approval of one of the water safety instructors.

This year IY”H we plan to send our Pre1A bunks on some exciting trips as we have always done. There will be one major trip for each half of the summer such as Adventurers Amusement Park, rented out exclusively for our Pre1A (with extra supervision) and 1st graders. Transportation to Adventurers Park will be on air conditioned, coach buses. The first half trip will be announced in the precamp mailing. In addition, they will go Bowling with only Pre1A boys. They will also be treated to many on-campus special activities including a zany bubble machine activity, an on-campus amusement park day, featuring incredible inflatable rides and other attractions, the Nofesh petting zoo and a host of other special activities including Color War, Olympics, Deal or No Deal, a bean hunt, and much much more.

Camp Nofesh enlists a security agency to provide guards for our campers every day from 8am – 5:30pm (Friday until 1:30). Camp Nofesh will therefore be charging \$100 per family to help defray the cost of providing this service.

Camp begins at 9:25am each day (with supervision beginning 9:15am) and ends at 4pm (Fridays dismissal is 1:15 pm). In addition, we offer an optional early drop off, with supervision: Monday thru Friday, 8:30am Monday thru Thursday, for a nominal fee. Details will be in the pre-camp mailing.

Please send in your registration forms soon to take advantage of our special Pre1A early-bird special. **See referral page for information on how you and a friend can receive a referral discount.**

Register by January 15, 2024 and receive the early bird discount. See the pricing sheet for details.

If you were not at the open house, please email agoldman@campnofesh.com for a USB of the new camp Nofesh video.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me in the afternoon and evenings at 551-206-3395. We look forward to another amazing summer in Ruchniyus and Gashmiyus.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Avi Kaplinsky