

Lac du Bois French Language Village Daily Blog

Journée D'Ouverture: Published June 29, 2016

Yesterday, *Journée D'Ouverture* (Opening Day), marked the beginning of our biggest session of the summer at Lac du Bois. In the afternoon, *la douane* (customs), opened to welcome a hundred and twenty arriving villagers, including two-week campers and those attending Lac du Bois for high school and college credit. After choosing French names, villagers moved into their cabins and met their *monos* (counselors) before joining in camp-wide games on our soccer field.



La cuisine (the kitchen) outdid itself for the session's opening dinner, preparing delicious *boeuf bourguignon* (a traditional French beef stew), along with pasta, turnips, salad, baguettes still warm from the oven, and the *pièce de résistance*: individual chocolate lava cakes. Though barely able to move after the feast, campers later took part in a villager orientation explaining the beach, our nurse, the dining room, and our values as a community. The night ended around a crackling campfire at the beach, after which everyone snuggled into their beds to sleep off the lava cakes and excitement.

Welcoming both new and familiar faces,
Chantal

Journée Impressionnisme: Published June 29, 2016



Yesterday was *Journée Impressionnisme* (Impressionism Day) and villagers awoke to warm croissants, nutella, and a skit featuring a desperate museum curator on the lookout for works of art. Each day at Lac du Bois has a specific cultural theme, such as *Impressionisme*, *Le Maroc* (Morocco), or *Danse Classique* (Classic Dance). Before each meal, counselors perform a skit linking the theme to the dishes to come. Over the course of *Journée Impressionnisme*, campers encountered famous painters including Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh.

Each day, villagers also learn about the theme through *triangles de sagesse* (knowledge triangles)- brochures set out on the tables during meals. Campers must answer questions from the *triangle* to collect each course. Questions yesterday included, "What is Degas' most famous painting?" and "What is Debussy's best-known composition?"

The theme of the day also appears in our nightly after-dinner activity, *La Veillée*. For yesterday's *veillée*, the villagers created impressionistic interpretations of our main building, Paris, using materials such as feathers, glitter, watercolors, and pastels. The entire village also recreated sections of Van Gogh's painting *Bedroom in Arles*. Finally, villagers sipped "wine" at a sophisticated art gallery, admiring their works before heading to the campfire and bed!

To art and music and a good first day,
Chantal

