

NORTH *Opening minds and possibilities*
COUNTRY SCHOOL

July 2010

Dear Families,

I trust this mailing finds you enjoying a wonderful summer. It seems like Graduation was just days ago, not weeks! You can view photos from the Drill Teams, costuming and make up for *Wonderland*, and Graduation on our website at www.nct.org/page.cfm?p=832. Videos of the year-end performances and the Graduation ceremony will be available in the fall.

Enclosed you will find important information about your child's coming year at North Country School. This is the first of two dense packets you will receive this summer. This mailing covers logistical information: a collection of calendars, travel information, contact information, permission slips, health forms, and clothing lists. While voluminous, all the enclosures are important and necessary to start a new school year, so please take the time to digest this packet fully, and return required paperwork to Sheila Tavares in the front office as soon as possible. The next packet will be sent in mid-August, and will include the *2010-2011 Handbook for Parents and Families*.

Presently, Camp Treetops is in full swing, with its daily fare of horseback riding, swimming, hiking, sailing, and canoeing, as well as singing, gardening, and craftwork. For *Treetops Hawaii*, a group of ten teens is hiking, kayaking, sailing, and performing community service projects on Oahu, Molokai, and the Big Island. Also, at the end of the month our *Treetops Summer Rox!* program—week-long day rock climbing sessions headed up by NCS teachers Larry Robjent and Dave Steckler— gets under way.

This summer several important projects are in process: the new student residence—including a wooden slide similar to those in the Main Building and Balcony House— is nearing completion, and we are eagerly looking forward to having that house full of children come September. We have been awarded a grant from New York State for a 10,000-watt solar electric system, to be installed on the roof of our wastewater treatment plant. We have changed over our phone system, so please take note of new extension numbers in the enclosed materials. In addition, we are moving forward with the burial of our overhead phone and power lines, which will greatly improve views from various points on campus. We also are continuing renovations to the barn area, including a new tack room in the horse barn.

Lastly, I wanted to take a moment once again to thank all of you who participated in our Annual Fund. Your contributions directly support our children and programs by feeding our operating budget. While scholarships are an important priority, gifts also support our extensive outdoor programming and thriving commitment to the arts. It is not too late to make a contribution to this year's Annual Fund, which ends on August 31st. Our goal is to strengthen the resources we provide our children and their families. Thank you for your support.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. I hereby make my usual pitch for disconnecting from the TV, computer, and cell phone long enough to take a walk, ride a bike, tend to your garden, or go to the beach.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces and getting to know all of our new families come September.

Warmly,



David "Hock" Hochschartner
Head of School

P.S. Please visit Hock's Blog (<http://nct.org/blog>) under the Parents section on the NCS website for photos from this spring, plus some videos and new postings.