



Kieve-Wavus Education



Dear Kieve & Wavus Alumni, Families & Counselors:

We have just finished a truly successful summer. Our campers experienced wonderful, life changing moments surrounded by exceptional role models in one of the happiest, most beautiful places on the planet. They continued to grow into strong, kind, curious, fully-engaged young people who lived each moment to the fullest. Our counselors, who are great mentors to our campers, did an exceptional job this summer. Many of these young men and women teach the life lessons that were offered to them by their own counselors. It is likely that if you were to ask any camper, counselor or staff member what they enjoy most in their lives, their answer would be easy: "Camp!"

That being said, we are writing to you today about a difficult matter recently brought to our attention while conducting a research project. Kieve-Wavus leadership was made aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct that took place approximately 65 years ago, between a camp staff member and a camper. This unsettling discovery spurred our organization to initiate an investigation which has not yet led to confirmation of the alleged misconduct in this case. Our Board of Trustees determined that regardless of how long ago the alleged event took place, it is critical for Kieve to fully investigate its history and ascertain whether any such events may have taken place during other eras. We are in the process of doing just that.

Through the investigation being led by the law firm of Drummond Woodsum, we have uncovered and confirmed three incidents where a staff member committed abuses. Each instance dates back more than 40 years, and involved a single victim who was either a staff member or a camper. We have spoken extensively with each victim, have conveyed our deep remorse, and have pledged to do whatever we can to support them. We also have made reports to governmental authorities so that they may take appropriate action regarding the perpetrators. We have not uncovered any evidence of abuse occurring in the last 40 years, but our investigation is on-going.

Unfortunately, these abusive instances have happened in other settings in which children are meant to be cared for. Last spring, The Boston Globe wrote an article titled 'Private Schools, Painful Secrets' which outlined a very difficult history of sexual abuse and the leadership's response at a number of independent schools. Those schools have since undertaken extensive investigations of past sexual abuses committed by school personnel. Similar to these educational institutions are summer camps, where counselors, staff and children interact for the summer months in a transformational, and, most often, positive, summer learning experience. We felt that the troubling information that came to our attention warranted a response similar to that of these schools.



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Our core values, integrity, and leadership demand that we do all we can to uncover and address these painful incidents. We ask that if any of you have information we should consider in the course of the investigation, please contact Allen Kropp of Drummond Woodsum at AKropp@dwmlaw.com or by phone at (207) 772-1941 Ext. 245. Alternatively, you are also welcome to contact our Board President, Don Keyser by email at dangier@comcast.net or by phone at (617) 447-4199; or our Board Vice President, Pam Jensen at jensenpkj@gmail.com or by phone at (609) 577-7356 to discuss your concerns.

It is our current practice, at both Kieve and Wavus, to provide an extensive, on-going sexual harassment/ abuse prevention training program for all full-time and summer staff. We are committed to best hiring practices and providing on-going education, support and oversight. Even though we consider our policies and practices to be very thorough, we routinely review them to ensure that our organization remains a leader in the industry.

All of us care deeply about this place and its people, and as difficult as it is to think that there have been instances of misconduct here, we know that it was far more painful for those who were involved. We believe we owe it to our campers, alumni and employees to investigate the situation thoroughly, and to communicate what we learn. Most importantly going forward, we are committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure that we safeguard the children of our community and provide a positive, enjoyable and safe experience for everyone at Kieve-Wavus.

If additional communication regarding this matter is necessary, we will likely send it via email. If you are uncertain as to whether we have your current email address, please send an email to: joanh@kiewwavus.org to ensure you receive any future correspondence. Finally, we are always available if you have any questions about the process we are undertaking.

Henry Kennedy
Executive Director

Don Keyser
President, Board of Trustees