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Dear Parents,

We look forward with excitement to the wonderful experience of having your son(s) in Camp Romimu this summer.

We know our summer camp experience will be remembered for many years for the opportunities it provides for your son to make friends, develop his character and improve his skills in *chinuch* and sports. Camp is a wonderful place of growth and friendship.

All parents speak with their children at various stages of life about personal safety; e.g., to stay away from the stove, not to cross the street on their own, not to open the door to strangers.

Unfortunately, we live in a society with many problems, which have also affected our community. One such issue is speaking to your children and teaching them the importance of protecting one's body from unwanted touch and not being pressured to participate in inappropriate and non-*tzniusdik* activities. As HaRav Shmuel Kaminetzky *shlita* has said "We all have a great responsibility to teach our children and guide the entire community on this important issue."

We want to assure you that we will be providing our staff with information and training to ensure that your son and all our campers will enjoy a healthy and protected summer. Our safety training includes:

- Staff must complete an abuse prevention safety course and receive a certificate of completion.
- Our staff handbook includes extensive and detailed rules of conduct.
- We have a comprehensive staff orientation which details to our staff a clear list of acceptable behaviors.
- We communicate with parents once camp has begun and ask them to check in with their boys throughout the summer.

Please use the enclosed flyer 'Keep it Safe' and use it as a springboard for a discussion with your son.

We look forward to a memorable and enjoyable summer program, and as always, please feel free to call with any questions.

Rabbi Shlomo Pfeiffer

## **Keep it Safe**

- **Let your son know that he can tell you or a trusted adult anything and you will always be supportive.**
- **Teach your child that no one, not even a rebbi, counselor or a close relative, has the right to touch him or her in a way that feels uncomfortable.**
- **Teach your child that it is OK to say, "No, get away," and to tell a trusted adult about the incident.**
- **Let your son know that he should tell the camp director, head counselor or division head if he is not comfortable with how he is being treated.**
- **Tell your son that he should not be afraid of threats from an abuser. We will protect him. We will not let anyone hurt him.**
- **Don't force kids to kiss, hug or sit on a grown-up's lap if they don't want to. This gives them control and teaches them that they have the right to refuse.**
- **Be alert for changes in your child's behavior that could signal abuse, such as sudden secretiveness, sleeplessness, withdrawal from activities or increased anxiety.**
- **If your child is a victim of abuse, don't blame him. Listen and provide safety.**
- **Follow up: When you speak to your son during the summer refer to the dialogue you had with him before camp and ask him specifically, "Remember the conversation we had about inappropriate touch? Is there anything you should be telling me. I won't be upset or angry, but please tell me."**

## **Above All**

**Let your son know that he can always tell you anything without fear of blame. Communication is critical.**