

Q&A Business

WALL

Summer Hill School and Camp: a family tradition



Summer Hill School and Day Camp owners Patrick and Lauren Cheney with daughters, Olivia, 5, and Bella, 2½. PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMER HILL

This week, we feature Summer Hill School and Camp in Wall, with owners Patrick and Lauren Cheney.

Why did you start the business? We took over the business from Patrick's (Cheney) mother shortly after we were married in 2005. Patrick has been living and working at Summer Hill since he was 12 years old. Being both educators and family-oriented, we were eager to start a family and take over the family business. A lot of hard work has been put into revamping the business, updating equipment and making improvements. We now have two children Olivia, 5, and Bella, 2½, who attend the school and camp. This is one of the many wonderful perks of owning a school and summer camp! We hope to continue with the same family tradi-

tions by raising our children at Summer Hill.

If you could do it again, what would you do differently? Nothing, it was the best decision we made for our family. We couldn't be happier!

What's the best business advice you have ever received? There is no substitute for hard work.

What personality trait helps you the most? We are both organized and hardworking.

What's the hardest part of the job? Hot summer days, long hours and many weekends spent working as well.

The easiest? Being around the kids, watching them grow, learn and have fun.

Describe your most unusual customer, job or work experience. Patrick taught and competed in ballroom dance.

In one sentence, tell us why people should come here. Parents can drop their children off and feel confident they are in the hands of the Summer Hill family.

About the business: Family-owned and operated for more than 30 years, Summer Hill's acres run directly into the 700 acres of county parkland of the Shark River Park. The summer program offers various activities, including swim lessons, nature, dance, physical education, arts and crafts and more. The school program is Montessori-based, and combines the best of Montessori and traditional preschool. The goal at Summer Hill is to increase self-confidence and independence, and support the inherent joy of learning while increasing social skills and manners.



Water slides and bounce houses are often featured during some of the theme days of the summer camp at Summer Hill in Wall Township. PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMER HILL



Campers show off after one of the messier events during the recent "Wet and Messy Day" at Summer Hill. PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMER HILL

About the owners: Patrick Cheney, owner and director, grew up in Wall. Patrick graduated from Montclair State University with a degree in Physical Education and Health. He works for the Long Branch public school system. Lauren Cheney, owner and director, grew up in Ocean Town-

ship and graduated from Monmouth University with a dual certification in regular and special education. Lauren taught in the Howell public school system until having children and taking over Summer Hill.

SUMMER HILL SCHOOL AND CAMP

TYPE OF BUSINESS: Summer day camp, nursery school, preschool and kindergarten

OWNERS: Patrick and Lauren Cheney

ADDRESS: 1107 Gully Road, Wall, NJ 07753

PHONE: 732-681-3483

WEBSITE: www.summerhill-school.com

FOLLOW US ON: Facebook

FOUNDED: 1982

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM: Eight weeks, 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., ages 3 to 13.

SCHOOL PROGRAM: 2-, 3- and 5-day classes for ages 2½ to 6. Half- or full-day classes available, before- and after-care available.



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