

REMARKS BY Bob Thompson
OPENING DAY
JUNE 24, 2017

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to welcome all of you to Pasquaney's 123rd Season.

One hundred twenty-three years is a remarkable achievement, but that legacy would not have been possible without the dedication of the four Directors and numerous Counsellors who have preceded Mr. Vinnie and this Council. They provided the foundation upon which Pasquaney continues to grow and strengthen. While all of us are the heirs of that tradition, we must also be the protectors and stewards of the Pasquaney experience.

Mr. Vinnie has written that, "Pasquaney's experience is about how we want to live today." Reflect on that for a moment, "...how we want to live today." What does that mean to you? How will each of you strive to be your own best self this summer? How will you define your personal character as you go about your daily lives during duties and activities, in the dorm, on a hike, in Mem Hall, or during a quiet conversation with a good friend?

Everywhere we look on this Hillside, we are surrounded by history.....and fewer trees. Behind every initial or plaque in a dormitory or on a rock, there was a boy just like each of you. The names on the plaques in Mem Hall represent individuals like each of you who worked hard to be their best in a specific competition. And the initials backstage in the Theater recall campers who went outside their comfort zone to try something new and discovered a new-found confidence on the Pasquaney stage. Mr. Vinnie, that might be a good T-shirt as part of the Camp uniform, wouldn't it? A New Found Confidence?

Every summer I look at my own plaques in Adams and Northern Porches and recall how I felt at that time in my life. In my wildest dreams, I never could have imagined the lifelong impact of my days here as a camper and as a counsellor. Nor could I have possibly foreseen that the core of most of my closest friends, of all ages, would come from associations that were forged at Pasquaney.

At Pasquaney you won't have to text or go on Facebook with a friend... to be a friend. You won't be limited by 140 characters in a Tweet to connect with another camper or counsellor. And since you actually don't have a smartphone, the only "selfies" you'll be able to take are the personal memories that will last a lifetime.

Free of the distractions in the outside world, we all have the opportunity to make genuine friendships on this Hillside. We can all engage in meaningful conversations here and preserve that "ancient art" of human communication person to person...NOT...text to text.

Pasquaney's environment fosters those lasting relationships. "To have a friend, be one." You'll hear that phrase a lot this summer. Simple, but powerful. Please take advantage of the opportunity to be one, and make a new friend..... or strengthen an existing friendship.

One such loyal friend of Pasquaney was Ballard Morton, Ballard's grandfather, who was a beloved member of this community for 76 years and served as President of the Board for 19 years. Reflecting upon Camp, Ballard's grandfather once wrote, "There is something about Pasquaney that gets in a man's heart and soul. Into the very marrow of his bones. It is inexplicable."

As all of you now embark on this 123rd Season, my hope for each of you is that you begin to sense that inexplicable feeling – for it will serve you well throughout your lifetime.

Enjoy a great summer! Thank you!