

# Summer School Adventures Newsletter

Fairfield Public Schools

Issue 1

July 23, 2014

## Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Summer Adventures 2014 has completed its first session with many happy and excited children. I have enjoyed greeting all the smiling and excited faces every morning and end of the day. I hope your child has enjoyed their exploration of new learning. I am sure you will enjoy reading the descriptions of the fun-filled classes that have taken place during the first two weeks of the program. I encourage you to use these descriptions to facilitate daily conversations with your child about our fun summer courses.

I appreciate your support with the arrival and dismissal procedures. The safety of all students, staff, and parents is of utmost concern. The arrival procedure of stop, kiss, and go has assisted in students arriving safely. Please remember not to park in the drop-of area, so that cars may drive through. All students have been signed out each day in the gym with their last class teacher.

I appreciate your continued support of the Summer School Adventures. I hope you are able to enjoy a fun-filled and relaxing summer!

Regards,

Teresa Samuelson, Ed.D.  
Principal, Summer School Adventures

Please remember to send a note in with your child if your child is being picked up early, or picked up by another person not listed on the pick-up dismissal slip.

Thank-you!

## **Global Adventures in Clay** **Eric Erff**

The global clay students have completed their beautiful portrait vessels based on cultures from around the world. They also are completing very realistic masks. Both sculptures have been burnished to a shine with polished stones and will be dipped in multi-color dyes. All students have been very serious, creative sculptors.



## **Summer Sweets: Cookie & Cupcake Decorating** **Stephanie Ehret**

Summer Sweets cookie and cupcake decorators have been busy sweetening up a storm! Starting off with "Green Eggs and Ham" or the classic "Worms in the Dirt." Then cupcakes turned cats, beach scenes and crab sculptures were quite a hit with the decorators. Let's not forget exploring the art of chocolate dipping with Oreos and marshmallows too! Don't be surprised if the treats didn't make it home – they just can't resist eating their sweet works of art!

## **Ballet for Everyone!** **Julianne Wilson**



We had a wonderful two weeks of ballet class! We learned so many dance

moves and had so much fun. We made crowns, wands and drawings to go along with our dancing. On our last day we performed a special show for our families. Miss Julianne is so proud of her dancers!

## **Zoology** **Amanda Kemp**



Did you know that bald eagles can fly up to 75 miles per hour? Did you know that some snakes eat whole eggs and then spit out the shells? Animals are amazing! The students in zoology have been learning about many different types of animals, from all around the world-owls, sharks, lions, earthworms, and more! We are reading books, watching video clips, and making crafts based on these animals. As we learn more and more, we are comparing and contrasting animals and learning many new facts! Let's keep exploring!

## **Kids Yoga** **Jackie Bakhsh**

The last two weeks of yoga have been a wonderful opportunity for creativity, self expression, mindfulness and laughter! We stretched and balanced our bodies while singing, dancing and playing. Our imaginations helped us to really immerse ourselves in the postures.

At the "beach" we surfed on our surfboards (warrior 2) rowed boats with partners and we ended the adventure with a tidal wave (parachute fun)!

The students learned techniques to help calm the mind and body. We practiced deep breathing with beanie babies on our bellies. With each deep breath, the beanies went for a ride. The yogis also created a breathing stick to remind them to use slow, full breaths to help them to relax.

It has been a gift practicing yoga with the kids and watching them on a joy filled journey of self discovery!

We had fun learning a variety of nursery rhymes through singing, chanting, and acting out each with movements!

Students then had a chance to practice pre-reading skills using Big Books, pictures, and sentence strips with printed words from the nursery rhymes. Among the skills demonstrated by students were:

- following print from left to right and top to bottom
- sequencing nursery rhyme events in the correct order
- identifying & producing rhyming words

With each nursery rhyme we learned, students took home a copy of that rhyme with an art project to share or an interactive game to play with their families. Enjoy rhyming together!

### **Get Moving, Your Way** Lorraine Fiero

The students in the 'Get Moving, Your Way' classes used props, hats, sunglasses, ribbons and scarves to enhance their movement activities. We had themes of: jungle animals, places to visit and characters we like to dress up as on 'Costume Day'. We integrated art as they drew a prop of something that moves and then re-created the subject's movements.

### **Don't Forget Your Passport!** Jen Serio

Over the past two weeks in "Don't Forget your Passport" we have been all around the world in only ten days! We learned how to Irish step dance in Ireland, made candy sushi in Japan, created beautiful mosaics in Spain, and wrote our names in ancient hieroglyphics while visiting Egypt. Along the way we explored the history of over ten countries and learned how to say different words and phrases in a variety of languages. Looking forward to another fun filled two weeks traveling the globe!



### **Alphabet Art Adventures** Amanda Sature

We've enjoyed learning about letters and the sounds they make! We began by talking about all the consonants in the alphabet. In the last



few days of class we talked about vowels and why they are such

important letters. Each day we talked about a few letters and their sounds. It was fun brainstorming as many words as possible that began with each letter! We also read a story that included words that began with those letters. Then we completed a craft that went along with one of the letters of the day. We also played some letter/sound games! Right away, the children were noticing more and more sounds in words during read-alouds! It was a great experience looking into the alphabet!

### **Dynamite Dinosaur Adventures** Amanda Sature

We have had a lot of fun learning about Dinosaurs! We began by talking about how paleontologists find fossils and piece together information about these fascinating creatures. We learned that there were three periods of dinosaurs the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. We've talked about various dinosaurs, what they eat, when they lived, and what they looked like. We looked at various resources to gather information. We also completed crafts to go along with the dinosaurs. We even played dinosaur games that reinforced the topics we discussed! It has been a "dino"-filled two weeks!





Students in "Exploring the Art of Painting" began this first session with exposure to foundational skills, such as how to hold a paint brush, and moving your wrist to control line thickness and shape. Next we applied those brush skills in a Tropical Beach Collage that began with a background watercolor "wash", and finished with a scene of glued papers painted in either warm or cool colors. We also learned about how other cultures paint, primarily the "dreaming" paintings of Aboriginal Australians. Students used sponging tools and q-tips to paint in this mystical style of circles and animals on their own canvas messenger bag.



**How to Be a Social Detective!**  
**Krissy Goldspink**

The McKinley Social Detectives have had a very successful first session. With the help of our class mascots "Jumpy" and "Mr. Snail" we have learned many different Skills for Learning to be used both in and out of the classroom. We learned that it is important to follow the 4 Listening Rules: Eyes Watching, Ears Listening, Voice Quiet and Body Still. We also learned to use "Self Talk" to help keep our brains focused. If you see a student with their hands cupped around their eyes you can bet they have put on their "attent-a-scope" to help them pay closer attention to the directions being given.



The McKinley Detectives also learned how to problem solve by first saying the problem and then thinking about possible solutions. They also know that it is important to have a calm body before they are able to solve a problem and 5 Belly Breaths will help with that! And on their next play date you might also overhear your child telling a friend the 3 Ways to Play fair...SHARE, TRADE and TAKE TURNS!

**Under the Sea**  
**Kristen Ancona**

In Under the Sea, we've learned about several animals the past two weeks! Every day we read a non-fiction book about the animal, charted facts we learned and knew, and then created a visual representation of the animals. They worked so hard and had such a great time! We made penguins, crabs, sharks, whales and many many more! Have a great summer and see you *under the sea!*

**Super Heroes 101!**  
**Kristen Ancona**

After taking Superheroes 101, we are now experts on the most famous superheroes! We read comics, played games and created something each day that resembled or stood for the superhero of the day. Most importantly, we learned what each superhero's social power was – whether it was bravery (Batman), the importance of teamwork (Iron Man), how to be a good leader (Captain America), etc. They are ready to save the world for sure!



**Singing Your Heart Out**  
**Lorraine Fiero**



In the 'Singing Your heart Out' classes, the students were engaged in the basic rudiments of good singing such as proper posture and breath management techniques. The students learned over 20 songs and singing games in a two week period!

## **Kids Take Over the Kitchen** **Laura Hartshorn**

We had a blast in Kids Take Over the Kitchen during Session 1! We made so many different recipes, from French toast to pizza to ice cream sandwiches!



We learned about different tools and appliances that can be used in the kitchen, as well as how to combine ingredients for great-tasting foods. Some of us even bravely tried things we had never eaten before! All in all, it was a great success, and Fairfield certainly has some chefs in the making!

## **Math Quest: Growing, Going and Graphing** **Danielle Viglione**

The students did a wonderful job creating line graphs and bar charts for real life situations.



They also did some cooking by using measuring cups, tablespoons, and teaspoons to make snacks, such as trail mix and lemonade. Along with all the hands-on activities the students have learned numerous measurement concepts and how they can use math in everyday life.

## **Art With Your Favorite Picture Book Authors – Eric Carle, Cynthia Rylant, and Jan Brett** **Kaitlin Priest**

What a great session it has been! In Art With Your Favorite Picture Book Authors, we have been having fun reading books and completing corresponding art projects aligned with each book to demonstrate meaning.

We read and discussed the story elements: characters, setting, problem, events, and solution. We also focused on our background knowledge, making connections, and prediction skills. During week 1, we studied books by Eric Carle. We made a Mixed Up Chameleon, a Hungry Caterpillar, decorated a Hermit Crab's shell and used tissue paper to beautify Mister Seahorse. During week 2, we have been reading books by Cynthia Rylant and Ann Jonas. We have had lots of fun reading



and creating art projects to go with our books. Continue to be creative, and Happy Reading!

## **FUNDamentals of Fitness** **Tina Bengermio**

We have had a great two weeks where we worked on fitness levels, sport skills and teamwork while doing obstacle courses, ball stations and games using various types of equipment including: balls, bean bags, hula hoops, scooters, beach towels, tunnels, hurdles, goals, targets, and more. It is my hope that all the students gained fitness, skills, confidence and had a lot of fun!

## **Math Quest: Pizza, Puzzles and Polygons** **Danielle Viglione**

The students have also had numerous hands-on activities. The students learned about 2D shapes, 3D shapes, and their various characteristics. The students participated in a scavenger hunt around the school finding all different kinds of shapes, taking pictures of them, and then creating a collage. The class has also done various geometric art crafts, such as mosaics, tangram puzzles, Picasso portraits, and cylinder sand art. We even did some geometric games and made a fruit pizza snack.

## Read Me A Story, Tell Me A Tale

Authors – Eric Carle, Cynthia Rylant, and Janet Halfmann  
Kaitlin Priest

The students in this Creative Arts Reading Class have had another great summer enjoying their love of reading and seeing stories come alive! Students have been listening and exploring new stories with the help of books, props, arts and crafts, and through reader's theatre. Independent practice includes improving reading skills, recreating the story through drawing and coloring, and discovering different story book elements. We read and discussed the story elements: characters, setting, events, problem, and solution. We also focused on our background knowledge, making connections, and our prediction skills. After learning about each story, the students are able to recreate part of the story and demonstrate their learning through craft. Crafts include creating a Quilt of memories, designing a new Little Cloud, sequencing events in the Hungary Caterpillar, and creating a House for Hermit Crab. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and Happy Reading!



## Lego Adventures in Science Daniel Boocks

The first session of Lego Adventures in Science is complete! In two weeks we honed our Lego Direction Following skills. We built triangles and trapezoids, cranes, zip lines and beach chairs. Plenty of cars were made in free build and even a merry go round or two were seen before the first session of camp ended!

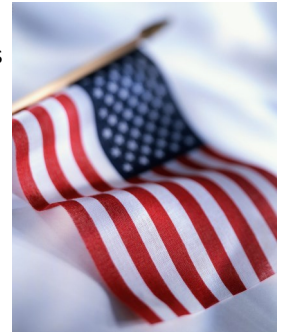
## Do You Want to be a Scientist? Linda Mushala



We had a "blast" in science class these past two weeks! We learned about all kinds of cool scientific words, chemical reactions, tornadoes, crystals, oobleck and more! Each day kids arrived excited to find out what we had planned for that day! Some of the highlights and popular favorites include erupting volcanoes, slime/flarp, boat races, cork pop, and the explosion kit! And, everyone really loved their personalized notebook that they got to take home on the last day, containing all of the recipes and experiments we did in class so they could share the fun with their friends and family!!!

## Cross the Country in 10 Days– East Michele Heuberger

Vroom vroom!! The kids in Cross the Country in 10 Days are off and having fun! We have been to 10 different states around the east coast of the country. During our visits, we have learned about state fruits, vegetables, nicknames, and more!! We are excited to see what some of the states on the western side have to offer!!



## Join the Circus Tina Bengermio

We had so much fun learning about the circus and practicing skills of circus clowns, jugglers, acrobats, animal trainers and tightrope walkers. We exercised our bodies and our imagination while walking on stilts and balance beams, juggling scarves, doing partner stunts and playing with balloons, feathers, hula hoops and more.

