

Summer School Adventures Newsletter

Fairfield Public Schools

Issue 2

August 1, 2014

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Students in Summer Adventures 2014 have explored new learning in a variety of stimulating curriculum. Each course was engaging and provoked curiosity for all the boys and girls. As I work on planning for Summer Adventures 2015, please feel free to give me any feedback on the summer courses your child has taken.

I am especially grateful to our secretaries, custodians, nurse, teachers, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants who have helped to make this summer a success for our students.

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know each and every one of your children. I appreciate your continued support of the Summer Adventures program.

I hope the rest of your summer is relaxing and fun-filled. I look forward to seeing the students back next year!

Regards,

Teresa Samuelson, Ed.D.
Principal, Summer School Adventures
tsamuelson@fairfieldschools.org



Craft Your Way Around the World

Rachel Keleher

We have been having a lot of fun crafting our way around the world. We began in New York and then travelled to Ghana where we wove Kente cloth with printed geometric patterns. Then off to Egypt to make a clay cartouche to ensure that our spirits live forever. In India we made a lucky elephant and printed a sari pattern using a traditional wooden block print. This week we started out in China with a ceremonial dragon. In Thailand, a popular snack is a fried bug drizzled with soy sauce so next we made our own bugs with egg cartons and pipe cleaners. We then travelled back to Europe, making a pasta pizza in Italy and our own Stonehenge in England.

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.

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!



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!

Color Adventures in Art Helen Cihl

The children have used a variety of art mediums using color! Our first color project, which always begins with a drawing, was zoo animals! After learning to draw animals, we learned to use construction color crayons, a special crayon that shows up on any color of paper! The children also added colored foam pieces too. The next color lesson was using crayola colorsticks, which is a colored pencil stick without the wood outside. No sharpening the pencils...how great!! Of course, I demonstrated traditional colored pencil techniques too. Next we created a lesson using oil pastels, which was an insect jar. Here the children learned blending and color mixing. What a great adventure! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach your wonderful children! Happy summer!



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 such as: hats, sunglasses, golf clubs, ribbons, and a flashlight to enhance their movements. Themes such as: jungle animals, ocean creatures, Sports Day, places to visit and characters we like to dress up as on 'Costume Day', added a fun, relatable element! Art integration was another strategy applied. The students drew pictures of objects or living things which move and acted out the subjects' movements.

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

The second session of "Don't Forget your Passport" was even better than the first! While traveling the globe we learned many interesting facts about each country we studied. Did you know in Spain they hold an annual tomato fight called La Tomatina? Along the way we created art projects, tried regional foods, learned various languages, and played traditional games like *Mancala* which originated in Africa. I hope all of my students continue to explore the cultures from different countries and I wish everyone a wonderful last few weeks of summer!



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!



Explore the Art of Painting Bonnie Bello



Students in "Exploring the Art of Painting" began this second session with exposure to foundational skills, such as how to hold a paint brush and move your wrist to control line thickness and shape. Next we applied those brush skills in a Family Memory Quilt Painting, in the



style of artist and author Faith Ringgold. The quilt painting began with a background watercolor "wash", and finished with an acrylic painting of a favorite family memory, surrounded by a border of fabric "quilt" squares. We also painted watercolor sea animals on paper we had hands made and created marbled paper with fabric dyes. Students finished the session with a sunflower painting, using sponging tools and q-tips to show details and texture.

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!*

Welcome to Princess 101 Kristen Ancona

In Princess 101, we've learned all of the ins and outs of being a princess! Each day, we listened to a Disney story, discussed the princess of the day and then created something to go along with each princess! The girls have had a blast crafting with glitter, glitter and more glitter!



Singing Your Heart Out Lorraine Fiero



In the 'Sing Your Heart Out' classes, the students were engaged in the basic rudiments of good singing such as proper posture and pronunciation. Twenty folk songs, songs from the movies 'Despicable Me, 2' and 'Frozen' and singing games were taught as well as two songs in the Japanese and the Zimbabwe languages.

Kids Take Over the Kitchen **Martha Becker**

Our young chefs have been preparing a wide variety of tasty foods during session 2. We have made delicious breakfasts, lunches, snacks and desserts. Some of our favorites were pancakes, quesadillas with homemade guacamole, fudge pops, pretzels and even homemade pickles. We learned about a variety of cooking methods, measuring techniques and secret ingredients. We sampled some foods that we had never tried before. We all had fun reading story books and singing songs about each of our creations. Move over Bobby Flay! Your competition is getting an early start.



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 **Nicole Artese**

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.

Math Quest: Growing, Going and Graphing **Nicole Artese**

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!



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 Books

The second 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 second camp session 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!!!

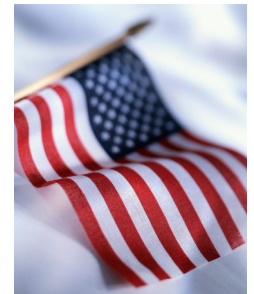
Read It Again! Story Stretchers!

Krissy Goldspink

What a wonderful time we had together reading and exploring books. We learned about the Water Cycle and made a diagram, we stretched out the Velveteen Rabbit and mapped out the beginning, middle and end and we read about Swimmy and Big Al in the deep dark ocean...just to mention a few! We created a wonderful environment together where we could read and interact with each other about the books. We were able to connect to the story and build upon them with fun hands on activities.

Cross the Country in 10 Days- West
Michele Heuberger

Vroom vroom!! The kids in *Cross the Country in 10 Days* are off and having fun! California, Kansas, and Arizona are just a few of the 10 different states around the west coast that we



visited. During our visits, we have learned about state fruits, vegetables, nicknames, and more!!

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.