



The Summer Academy

Principal's Message

Fairfield Public Schools

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 13, 2012

July 2, 2012

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Summer Academy 2012! We have many new courses that have students excited to learn. The first two weeks of the program began with so many smiling faces filling McKinley School. Students cannot wait to see their new friends and learn something new each day.

Thank you for making McKinley a safe environment for everyone. I appreciate the family support with the arrival and dismissal procedures. Children are safe in our "kiss and go" drop off area and children have been signed out each day with their teachers in the gym.

I have enjoyed watching students and children engage in various types of new learning. I would like to encourage you to have daily conversations with your child about our summer fun courses.

Thank you for your continued support of the Summer Academy programs. Enjoy the long days of summer.

Respectfully,

Amanda Kirik
Summer School Principal

Please remember to send a note in with your child if your child is being picked up early, or picked up by another person other than yourself.

Thank you!

Happy Gardens, Hungry Bugs— Kelly Rogers

What a great session! We've been having a wonderful time exploring the world of bugs and gardens! We've planted wildflowers and watched lima beans grow! We've talked about butterflies, ladybugs, beetles and many other kinds of bugs! Did you know that there are 350,000 different kinds of beetles???



American Girls—Kelly Rogers



Our journey through history has been one to remember! We've learned so much about each other

while learning about our American Girls! Our journey began with Molly as we talked about her living during World War II from there we talked about Kaya and her native American heritage. Our next stop was Felicity and what it was like for her to be a colonist during the Revolutionary War. We've made lots of fun crafts such as Pomander Balls, Clothespin Dolls and dream catchers! It's been a wonderful journey!

Creative Dramatics: Free to Be You and Me! - Deb Holleran

The children have been working hard rehearsing for our presentation. We have learned the music and the choreography to the song, Free to Be You and Me. We have also been acting out a story and dancing to a story/song. We have been playing theatre games like "May I have a piece of pie?", "Fruit Salad" and we have been using our imaginations in freeze dance.



Italy: Exploring Culture and Language- Meghan O'Connor

Ciao! We have been working hard this semester to learn the language of Italian and explore the culture of Italy. We have explored monuments throughout Italy, using clay to replicate them; we have looked at stained glass which is commonly found throughout Italy, and created our own as well. We have looked at and played games that Italian children play as well as explored and made our own common Italian food. We explored the Sistine chapel and the work of Michelangelo and created paintings as he would have. We have studied



ied where Italy is located and the flag that represents Italy. We explored many different aspects of the Italian language including common phrases and greetings, numbers, colors and animals. We had a great semester and learned a lot about different aspects of Italy and the language! Bravissimo!

SSC- Ms. Hake and Mrs. Tafel

The SSC students are hard at work! We have been working on a number of different activities. Many of our students have been involved in the wonderful array of classes that summer school offers which range from Yoga, Zumba, Painting, Gym Games and Princesses 101. In the SSC, we have taken a break from our hard work to enjoy water play, making sensory bags and cookie decorating. We even got to see and touch a fire truck and police car. The SSC teachers and educational trainers are so proud of all the hard work the students have been doing and can't wait to see what the rest of the summer will bring.

Healthy Snacks

Amanda Wilkinson

We are learning to be healthy eaters! We are exploring healthy eating using dietary guidelines. We are creat-



ing tasty (and healthy) snacks using many different kinds of foods. Some of our snacks include Orange

Creamsicle Dip, Fruit Kabobs, and Lettuce Wraps with Ham and Cheese. We are learning to read recipes, make healthy choices, and have fun!

Cookie Decorating- Amanda Wilkinson

Creativity is in the air! The students in Cookie Decorating are exploring various types of decorating, using inspiration



from picture books and the summer season. We made our own cookie dough (and decorated the cookies too!), made aquarium

cookies, chocolate covered pretzel rods, and watermelon cupcakes! We are having fun learning how to decorate different sweets...and we are having fun eating them too!



Reading Resource Room — Katie Cronin and Christina Capuano

We have been working hard on our reading skills. We have been working on many of our decoding skills; blends, digraphs, special vowels, multi-syllabic words and using strategies to read new words. We are also working on our comprehension skills; making connections to the story and the story elements, character, setting, problem/events and solution. We also use different comprehension strategies to go back to the text and recall what we have read. Some of these



strategies are sequencing the story and recalling the beginning, middle and end. Of

course we always take time to enjoy literature by; "Miss Nelson" by Harry Allard "A House is a House for Me" by Hoberman, and any book by Leo Lionni. Don't forget that even now as your child is reading on his or her own we all enjoy being read to! Happy Reading!

Zumbatomic- Amy Krasowski

Cumbia, Reggaeton, Mambo!!! The kids are having a blast learning rhythms and dance moves from around the world with the Zumbatomic Program! The children have enjoyed dancing around like penguins in one of our favorite songs "Freezer" and tipping like tea pots in another favorite "Jamaican Cumbia" Get up and practice at home with your children, it's a great way to stay healthy together!

I am so proud of all of them!



Do You Want to be a Scientist—

Jay Riha

This summer we explored a wide range of topics. We made fossils and pieced together dinosaur skulls. We toured the Solar System and learned how to make a boat float. The most fun was had on the day we learned about solids, liquids and gases. Everyone had the opportunity to run their fingers through Oobleck, a non-Newtonian fluid, and play with slime, a long-chain polymer. I hope everyone has fun exploring the rest of the summer.

Recipe for Slime

Empty one 8oz. bottle of Elmer's glue into a bowl, refill the bottle with warm water and empty it into the bowl as well. In a separate bowl, dissolve 1tsp. of Borax in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of warm water. Slowly add the Borax solution to the glue mixture while stirring. Have fun with your slime!



Kid's Yoga—Jackie Bakhsh

We have explored and discovered our minds and bodies through fun-filled ways. Students have used animated poses and



basic stretching exercises to promote strength, flexibility, coordination and body awareness. Breathing and visualization techniques have taught us how to focus, relax and stimulate our im-

agination and help release energy in a fun, safe environment. We used calming music and themes (the beach, a day at the zoo) and students retold stories through different poses.

Painting for Fun - Helen Cihl

The children created their favorite ice cream and painted it using tempera paint. The technique the children learned was crayon resist painting.

In the next project, we studied Eric Carle and painted in his style. The children created their very own painted paper, and then cut the paper out to create a caterpillar. The most exciting painting was creating a



self-portrait on artist's canvas using tempera paint! We learned how to paint ourselves and create a favorite object to pop-out of the canvas.

Our final painting is to create a favorite pet, or an animal of choice! We will be using watercolor pencils for this technique. Painting for fun has been so much fun!

My assistant, Miss Pam has been wonderful too!

Princess 101- Kristine Hopper

Welcome to Princess 101! During our magical week, we explored famous princesses by making their stories come alive. We read new and classic stories while participating in many arts and crafts projects and other creative activities. Throughout thematic unit, students were able to learn and see how real and imaginary princesses in history recognized teamwork, bravery, friendship, and how they celebrated their differences. Ms. Hopper's Princess 101 course gave students the opportunity to study classical characters such as Snow White who helped students to understand that people are different and unique. The Read Aloud is Elmer, and students conclude that differences make people special. Kristine's final class studies Mulan, which illustrates the concepts of teamwork and cooperation. Princess Camp ends with interesting games, and students receive their Princess License!!! Students were constantly encouraged to wear their tiaras and participate on a journey throughout the enchanted world of Princesses!



PHYSICAL CHALLENGES IN THE GYM—

TINA BENGERMINO

We have had a great two weeks that included fitness and skill activities and noncompetitive games using various types of equipment including: balls, tunnels, targets, hockey sticks, balance beams, frisbees, mats, bats, scooters, hurdles, goals, and more. We used music to liven up the gym while we were pushed to challenge our cardiovascular endurance, strength, flexibility and sports skills in fun ways. If you want to learn more about what we have been doing day to day ask your child about some of the games by name. I hope all the students



Hola Ninos—Maria Carlucci

Hola ninos! We have been having a lot of fun learning the Spanish language these past two weeks. The children acquired simple vocabulary through songs, art and stories they read and acted out. This course exposed young minds and ears to basic vocabulary in Spanish in a fun, relaxed and creative setting.



Olympic Spirit—Tina Bengermano

Over the two week session your child learned about the Olympic Games and practiced skills from a variety of sports. Students learned about teamwork by working together, encouraging each other and coming away with a sense of self-accomplishment just like a gold winner!



Superheroes—Kristen Ancona

In Superheroes, the students have been learning different character traits of the superheroes and how to be a superhero in our everyday lives. We have read several comics involving Superman, Spiderman, Batman, Ironman, and Captain America. Superman taught us that even when it is hard, we must always make good choices and do the right thing. Spiderman taught us to be safe when helping others. Batman taught us that it is important to be brave when faced with difficult situations. Ironman taught us about teamwork. Captain America taught us how to be leaders. Each day, we all participated in an activity involving the lesson taught and created something to do with the superhero. For example, we created Captain America masks



For those not returning for Session Two, have a great summer!

