

VFA SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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Special Points of Interest:

- *Third week of Summer Youth Program 2009*
- *Field trip to the Vietnamese Senior Association*
- *All-Students games and competition*

THIRD WEEK FOR LEVEL 1 STUDENTS

For this week, the adorable level 1A students learned how to connect the dots of a ginger bread man and add different features to make it unique. Before that, they had to figure out what the picture was based on just the dots, instructor Robin comments on some of the wild things they came up with: "Some got it correct, others thought it was a snowman and other interesting answers." In addition to that, they made beautiful flower lanterns for the girls of level 1B to use for their performance. They also practiced singing and dancing a traditional Vietnamese children song that they performed for the seniors during the Vietnamese Senior Association field trip.

As for 1B, they continued working on their lion-dance by constructing firecrackers out of empty soda cans and red paper as well as rehearsing their dance steps. Other fun educational activities included some math coloring activities and plenty of reading. Instructor Lai said, "Reading books has been a lot of fun because I try to incorporate lots of different cultures including Chinese, Vietnamese, and South African." The students have been really enjoying the stories and learning lots of new vocabulary!



Top: Level 1B students practice the dragon and lion dance. Bottom: Students participating in the relay race.

ALL-STUDENTS GAMES AND COMPETITION

On Thursday afternoon the VFA Summer Program 09 ended its 3rd week with another huge relay game! The relay consisted of a combination of belly dancing, potato sack racing, and other challenging activities such as hopping with a dodge ball firmly clamped in-between your knees. Though it took a bit of time to go over the rules before beginning the

game, it didn't stop the students from having a great time complete with tons of laughter and excitement! We look forward to more fun and inventive group activities as the program continues.

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THIRD WEEK FOR LEVEL 2 AND LEVEL 3 STUDENTS

Making ice cream in science class was the highlight of class 2A's week! Learning about freezing points and the different phases of liquid came easily to the students as they created their own ice cream and got to personally observe the changes that occur as a liquid turns into a solid. Class 2A was also lucky enough to have

two guest instructors this week, Jessi and Tuan. Other activities included Vietnamese phrases, a card creating lesson in art, and fun outdoor leadership games. Overall it was "...a busy week but I think the kids learned a lot...I had fun this week!" said instructor Phuong.

For class 2B, this week was a week of flowers! From realistic flower drawings to an in-depth flower dissection we spent lots of time working with flowers. 2B also completed loads of other interesting activities including fun vocabulary games, probability problems, and a world map scavenger hunt. So far the students have

been learning a lot and having fun at the same time!

Lastly, level 3 students got the opportunity to see physics in action as they built miniature bridges out of only popsicle sticks and glue then tested them out to see how much weight each can hold. All the bridges varied in design and were extremely sturdy. When the time came to test out the bridges, they were placed between two tables and weight was applied to the middle of the bridge. All of them performed extremely well and supported a lot of weight! Good job level 3!

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Top: Everyone gathered at Garfield Community Center for the field trip to VSA with a few instructors holding hula hoops. Middle: Lantern dance performance. Bottom: Game of Snake after the performance.

FIELD TRIP TO VIETNAMESE SENIOR ASSOCIATION

The VFA Summer Program went on its 2nd field trip to the Garfield Community Center to visit the Vietnamese Senior Association. Students of all levels greeted the seniors with a respectful Vietnamese greeting toward the elder, "Chao ong ba," which means, "Hi, grandparents." A few groups of students participated in various cultural performances including a lions and dragons dance, a lantern dance and a traditional Vietnamese children's song. The hall rumbled with music and cheers as everyone enjoyed the performances; some of the performers even received

lucky money from the seniors! Afterwards, several recreational activities awaited the students, including a game of Snake and a relay race to once again challenge the students. Imagine how hard it would be to hold a spoon between your teeth while balancing a ball on it, and walking steadily across the field to the next station. As the relay went on, it seems the little warriors slowly took control of this hard-fought battle as they had had some prior practice. It was tiring as students and staff ran around the field in the burning sun, but everyone enjoyed the