

VFA SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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Special Points of Interest:

- *First and second week of the Summer Youth Program 2009*
- *Field trip to Pacific Science Center*
- *All-program relay competition*

FIRST AND SECOND WEEK FOR LEVEL I

Level IA caters to the adorable kindergarten class under the supervision of instructors Robin, Sarah, and Hai. When asked about how class is going for them so far Robin stated excitedly, "They are having a blast and every time we go outside Duck Duck Goose is the first thing that they want to play. If it's not Duck Duck Goose, it's Red Light Green Light." As for activities in the classroom the instructors revealed that the kids are having fun learning their numbers and ABC's! Robin commented on their methods: "Yesterday we read Dr. Seuss' ABC book and the kids were really into singing the alphabet song! We then went on to learning our numbers, counting airplanes, lions, grasshoppers, snails, etc. (I used flashcards). One of my students was really eager to count and constantly miscounted, to his displeasure, but he still had a blast! After-

wards I listed off a few things for them to draw in their journals like 5 apples, 3 bees, 1 house, 7 lions, etc." On another note, all three instructors conveyed that they memorized all 15 of their student's names on first day! Way to go the IA!

IB is a class full of energy! During their cultural presentation period children were darting back and forth, excitedly curling ribbon and taping paper onto empty boxes to create giant dragons. When asked what a dragon was one little girl proceeded to explain that dragons are "...just like horses but with really sharp teeth." Instructors Lai, Bruce, Uyen and Haitrinh have been having a blast with their kids and plan on performing a dragon dance for the entire program sometime in August.



Top: Instructor Sarah with the Level 1A students. Bottom: Instructor Haitrinh helping Level 1B students locate places on the world map.

ALL STUDENTS RELAY COMPETITION

Getting all the classes together on Thursday afternoon for a group activity proved to be one loud, exciting and fun experience! Four different teams, encompassing kids from kindergarten through high school, competed in a relay race. By kicking soccer balls, throwing footballs, and tossing Frisbees each person made their way

through all of the relay stations and back to their waiting team. Once a winning team was declared everyone was challenged to a screaming contest! Overall, the group activity was an earsplitting success!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| First and Second Week for Level I | 1 |
| All Students Relay Competition | 1 |
| First and Second Week for Level 2 and 3 | 2 |
| Field trip to Pacific Science Center | 2 |

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FIRST AND SECOND WEEK FOR LEVEL 2 AND LEVEL 3

Level 2A is home to the largest group of kids at SYP with 30 students. SYP's program coordinator Kaly, reluctantly turned away several parents who also wanted to enroll their child in this level to ensure that every student had a seat! Instructors John, Phuong, and Alicia are in charge of this boisterous group and have been busy getting to know the kids and teaching them subjects ranging from bar graphs and logic problems to new vocabulary and reading comprehension. On Tuesday of the second week John was overheard talking about his teaching methods for logic problems,

"I really enjoyed acting out a logic problem using student volunteers during math class. Two students and I had to safely 'cross the river' in a 'boat' (co-instructor Alicia) while taking a weight limit into consideration and avoiding hungry alligators waiting beneath the surface. The students got a kick out of the scenario and figured it out much faster than I thought they would! I think having an activity that catered to visual and kinesthetic styles while tying in social aspects really improved their comprehension of the concept. Plus, we all had a good laugh!"

Although 2B is a smaller sized class, they have still been having a lot of fun! Students have been studying subjects ranging from math to science and art; all taught by instructors Nam, Kelley, and Abbey. During the first two weeks the students have un-

dertaken a chalk self-portrait in art as well as competed to build the tallest structure in math. Their science lessons have included tracking the spread of pollution, biology-based jeopardy, and a lesson on scientific classification using breakfast cereal! To prepare for standardized testing the students are also learning classic Greek and Latin roots.

Lastly, level 3 is comprised of the older students of the program. Instructors Long and Sandy have been helping the

students prepare for the state standardized test as well as introducing SAT/ACT vocabularies to familiarize the students with the tests. The students are also learning valuable information through the financial literacy workshop hosted by WSCPA, and fun and exciting topics like how to build a website.

Overall, level 2 and 3 have had a great start to the summer and plans to continue the fun for the next four weeks!

"I really enjoyed acting out a logic problem using student volunteers during math class."



Level 2B students enjoying snack time.

FIELD TRIP TO THE PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER



Students, instructors and parents gathering in front of the Pacific Science Center.

At the end of the first week of the Summer Youth Program, 77 students plus instructors and parents went on a field trip to the Pacific Science Center, marking it the biggest field trip in VFA history. Students got the chance to learn about a cow's digestive system plus other disgusting science in the Animal Grossology exhibit, as well as dinosaurs, insects, outer space and the human body in other fascinating exhibits. After an

eventful lunch by the International Fountain at the heart of the Seattle Center, the older students split off to enjoy an amazing live laser show while the younger students enjoyed the live science demonstrations scattered around the center. Overall the trip was extremely successful and everyone had a blast!