

VFA SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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Special Points of Interest:

- *Fourth week of Summer Youth Program 2009*
- *P-Patch Lesson of the Week*

FOURTH WEEK FOR LEVEL 1 STUDENTS

The Kindergarten class this week learned their numbers impressively well, all while being creative and having fun. One instructor, Robin brought in dried beans for the kids to count with. The instructors hoped to teach the kids the numbers from 11-20 using the beans as a tactile representation of the number. Robin commented on how this activity went: "Several students ended up using the beans to make a snake; others used the beans to make patterns. However, the goal of counting was still in effect. One of my students counted up to 60, another counted up to 70, and still another counted to about 100, all with some help. Each student had their own pile of beans which I had them separate by color and then count. By the end of the activity, each one had a little pile of beans for them to

take home, either to plant or to eat once cooked." So, not only did the kids learn their numbers and create designs, but they got to take home their beans: this activity was a learning experience and a meal in one!

This week in classroom 1B the students perfected their lion and dragon dance, learned geometric shapes by modeling them with candy and toothpicks, read interesting stories, and even did a journaling assignment about their dreams. Instructor Trinh explained that using the candy and toothpicks to work with the students on shapes turned out really well. Some of the kids liked the candy better than the math assignment but in the end everyone really learned a lot about geometric shapes like pyramids and octagons.



Level 1B students making various geometric shapes out of candy and toothpicks.



Level 1 students and instructors pose in front of their awesome artwork

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FOURTH WEEK FOR LEVEL 2 AND LEVEL 3 STUDENTS

This past week in level 2A our 3-5th graders learned some exciting topics while the sun was blazing outside. Although many of the students were regretful that we could not go outside, they still had a blast playing memory, hangman, and drawing pictures for the instructors during the organized recreation time. As far their education is concerned, they learned all of the organisms and geography of wetlands by a Bill Nye the science guy video. Phuong was in charge of this activity and led a discussion about the video af-

terwards to sum up the information. Phuong was excited to tell us, "The kids seemed to enjoy the movie and learned a lot about wetlands, which most of them didn't know about before." Another fun activity that the students did this week was learning combination problems during math hour. John, who led this activity, explained how it went: "To introduce combination problems, I had three boys and three girls volunteer to come up and demonstrate an activity where they paired off in all possible

combinations as if preparing for a school dance. The kids got a real kick out of it, and they had fun working together to solve other combination problems." One student, when asked what his favorite activity was for the week, exclaimed that math time was his favorite because, "it was fun and I learned something!"

Lots of fun and excitement happened in room 204 this week. In an entertaining hands-on math activity the students learned about Newton's laws of physics and then demonstrated their learning through balloon races. By adding nose cones, wings, and other attachments to their balloons the students either helped or hindered the speed that they

could attain. Overall, it was an exciting and educational lesson. The students also learned about South American geography, Greek and Latin roots, and worked together to create picture books about leadership and community issues.

Level 3 students practiced their song and skit in preparation for the culture presentation. Some of students were a little shy about singing in front of others, but with Instructor Long's encouragement, everyone took part and learned their lines. In addition to that, students applied another physics lesson and built soda bottle rockets that will be launched next week. We're looking forward to seeing how far they'll fly!



Level 2A working diligently on their worksheets.

P-PATCH LESSON OF THE WEEK

For the past few weeks, students of from level 1 and 2 have been attending a fun and interactive section called P-Patch taught by Instructor Marie. There, students get to learn the science behind plants, insects and anything nature while having fun and getting their hands dirty. In previous weeks, students got to make delicious salads and smoothies as a part of the interactive learning experi-

ence. The topic of this week was Compose Worm and students got to make mud pies using all sorts of outdoor materials that you can find in the garden, including dirt, grass and pinecones. They also read the alphabet soup book and explored a nearby garden to learn all about plants from the alphabet book and gardening.



Top: P-Patch instructor Marie demonstrates how to make a mud pie. Bottom: Instructor reads the Alphabet Book to the students.