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School Matters

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Summer Fun...while Learning!

Summer camps and activities

have been making for an exciting time in Davie County Schools! Students and educators alike have enjoyed summer fun while learning through various engaging activities. Many of these camps were made

possible by funding from the Davie Community Foundation. Thanks abound to all who helped make summer learning possible.



The Cooleemee Elementary SOAR camp just wrapped up its third week. The students are learning a lot and having fun with this year's camping theme. They have been reading in tents and investigating nature, all to improve their fluency in reading. The teachers have found fun ways to build confidence in reading, which will help them start the next school year. Kinder Camp began this week and gives students a jump start into Kindergarten. They are working on different focuses from how we walk in

start into kindergarten. They are working on different focuses, from how we walk in line to the introduction of Letterland characters. Science camp just finished. The students wrote in their journals everyday about the different experiments they worked on outside or in the classroom. The camps at Cooleemee have been very successful this year and the students are showing great progress.

Cornatzer Elementary held an Autism Camp in June. Students from Cornatzer, and some from Shady Grove, are participating in a camp called Hands On-Minds Together, where students get to experience learning through various, hands-on activities and field trips. Each week, students and staff focus on a different theme that students explore through activities like LEGO building, iPad games, research, reading, just to name a few. Campers have also been treated to some special help from students at other schools – DHS athletes visited one day and conducted mini clinics and two Ellis Middle School students are teaching students how to program and operate a LEGO robot. Please visit the camp's [blog](#) for information about all of the exciting activities.

Mocksville Elementary held the ASU Reading Clinic, two sessions of Kinder Camp and finished the four-week session of Science Camp today. The first YMCA Summer Learning Academy will wrap up August 2. The six week program, funded by a grant from the Mebane Charitable Foundation, serves 42 elementary school students in kindergarten through second grade who are academically at risk. The program's curriculum includes math, reading and tutoring by Davie County certified teachers, health and wellness information on nutrition and physical activity, computer lab and enrichment components such as science and character development, the arts and humanities, as well as educational field trips.

Pinebrook Elementary held a three-week long PRIDE Academy during the month of July. Students brushed up on reading and math skills, as well as practicing strategies that will make them even more successful students and citizens.

Shady Grove Elementary included several days of Success Maker Academy. Two sessions of Summer Reading Camp will be held August 5-8 and August 12-15. Also, the Mad Science Camp will be held August 5-8.

Over forty students attended the William R. Davie Elementary Summer of Learning Academy to help prevent the summer deficit in reading and math. The theme this year was "Planting Seeds and Growing Thinkers." The teachers and assistants created many hands-on reading and math activities to stimulate and enrich the children's knowledge and to spark interest. Students read several books such as the *Diary of a Worm* and *The Secret Garden*. They also created their own greenhouses, observed the life cycle of a variety of plants, and even tasted some fresh vegetables from the WRD garden. Each day, the students used Success Maker or

Waterford, and Xtra Math. iPads were used to engage the students as well. The students loved getting involved, learning how things grow, and why we need plants. A special guest, Philanthropy Phil, came to visit the students in the WRD Garden. Phil and Mrs. Simpson from the Davie Community Foundation shared with the students and staff the 5n5 Community Impact Challenge. The Summer of Fun Learning Academy was a great success once again this year. Remember, "A book is like a garden carried in a pocket." ~Chinese Proverb

North Davie Middle held the first Summer STEM Pipeline Camp finished last week. The camp included field trips, discovery science labs, STEM project-based learning and team challenges that encourage higher order thinking. This unique opportunity was offered to a group of selected rising 7th grade students from across all three Davie County middle schools. Mr. Don Tabat, an accomplished Davie County Schools' science teacher, directed the camp with assistance from two talented student teachers from Appalachian State University. North Davie Middle also held their Summer Transitions Camp.

South Davie Middle held their Ready for the World camp for rising sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. The camp allowed students to have hands-on experiences with budgeting and shopping, touring colleges, discussing global issues, exploring careers and communicating as a team. "We are grateful to the Davie Community Foundation for funding 'Ready For The World' so that these 31 young people could experience situations relevant to their personal and academic futures," said Keith Whitaker, principal.

Davie High will hold several athletic camps, in addition to their Calculus Camp being held August 12-16. Band Camp is July 29 – August 9. High school STEM students have participated in two enrichment trips: a historic tour of Davie, and a visit to Catawba College's Ecological Preserves. One more trip and a team-building kick-off are planned for August.

Davie County Early College Performing Arts Club has been meeting throughout the summer to rehearse Alice in Wonderland. They will be performing in August and tickets will be available soon.



Cornatzer students share a campsite they created and designed using LEGOs. At Cornatzer's summer camp, students are using LEGOs to help practice skills like writing, speaking, and collaborating.



Kaleidoscope of experiments using an iPad for Summer Science Camp at Mocksville Elementary.

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