



Earthen Vessels Outreach

Summer Camp 2023

Week 1, week 2 and week 3

Groups



Preschool and Kindergarten



Bumblebees

Fourth Grade and Up



Conquerers



First through Third Grade



Fun Dips

Our Team



Educational Team



Kitchen Team



Learning Experiences

Literacy

PreK-K:

For our youngest learners, the focus on literacy has been on building a strong foundation in reading and writing skills. Activities such as letter identification, singing, and reading aloud have been used to introduce them to the world of letters and sounds. Through coloring and painting, they have also been encouraged to express their creativity and imagination. These early literacy experiences are crucial as they lay the groundwork for further language development and academic success.



The Connection between Reading Every Day and Language Development:

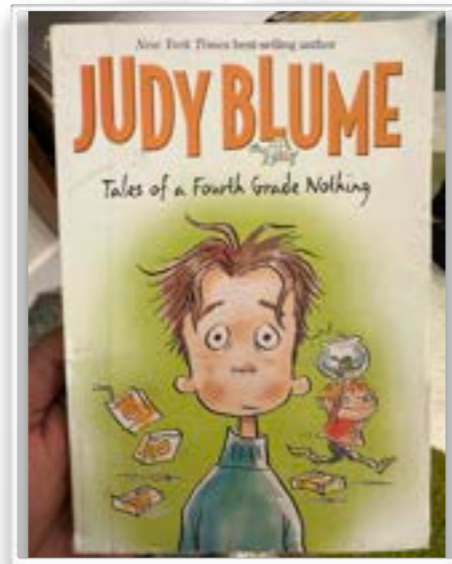
Reading every day has a profound impact on language development across all age groups. Regular exposure to written text not only strengthens vocabulary but also enhances letter recognition and decoding skills. As young learners read more frequently, they become familiar with various word patterns and sentence structures, leading to improved reading fluency. Consistent reading practice also fosters a deeper understanding of grammar, punctuation, and syntax, which are essential elements of effective communication.



Literacy Continued...

1st through 3rd Grade:

In the first through third-grade group, the emphasis has shifted to more advanced reading skills. Students have been engaged in reading chapter books, taking turns reading both in groups and as individuals. This interactive approach not only enhances their reading comprehension but also encourages them to develop their reading fluency. By reading regularly, they have been expanding their vocabulary and improving their letter recognition, as exposure to written language becomes more frequent and meaningful.



The Carnegie Library Visit:

To further ignite their passion for reading, the older group had the privilege of visiting the Carnegie Library. This immersive experience allowed them to explore a vast collection of books and resources, further inspiring their love for literature and empowering them to become lifelong learners.



4th through 7th Grade:

For our more advanced readers and writers, the focus has been on refining their literacy skills and fostering a love for independent reading and writing. Journaling has provided them with a platform to express their thoughts and emotions, encouraging self-reflection and self-expression. Engaging in independent reading has enabled them to explore diverse genres and expand their



Many of our Campers in 4th and Up have shown great interest in narrative fiction and creative writing, with a small but growing group becoming Authors, putting together daily books which are chipped away at every day during down time and periods of the day dedicated to personal projects and literature reading. One student written and illustrated series is already up to five volumes with new series on the way!

We look forward to seeing published works by these students in the future.



Music



At EVO, we are dedicated to nurturing well-rounded individuals, and music education plays an important role in shaping young minds and hearts. That's why for Music time, the children, led by Ms Alisha, have been learning new songs and how to match pitch. They've played rhythm instruments like shakers, scrapers, and boom-whackers. We've learned sacred and fun songs, from "Our God is an Awesome God" to a camp song called "Waddally Acha"



The experience has been opening doors to lots of interesting conversations about their own musical experience, talent, interests and curiosity about a few of the instruments. Some were proud to share their talents with their peers, while others showed great interest in learning how to play.



Music Continued...



Why is EVO doing Music this summer?

EVO recognizes that introducing children to the fundamentals of music and all of its components brings along significant cognitive advantages.

As our students navigate through musical notes, rhythms, and melodies, their brains engage in a beautiful dance of neural connections. Scientific studies have shown that music training enhances memory, attention, and spatial reasoning skills. It sharpens their ability to process information, boosting their academic performance across various subjects.

Rhythm and Expression: Emotional Development

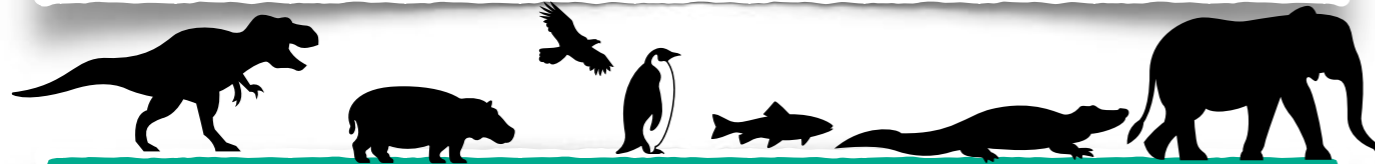
Music is a universal language that transcends barriers and allows children to express their emotions freely. Through singing, playing instruments, or composing their own tunes, they discover an emotional outlet to convey their feelings and experiences. This emotional expression fosters a sense of self-awareness and empathy, encouraging them to better understand and connect with others.

Teamwork and Discipline: Social Skills

Playing music together in an ensemble, choir, or band fosters teamwork and cooperation. In these collaborative settings, children learn to listen attentively to others, synchronize their movements, and blend their voices or instruments harmoniously. These experiences build essential social skills, teaching them the value of compromise, leadership, and respecting diverse perspectives.

STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics

In this newsletter section, we celebrate the remarkable STEAM project undertaken by our students this summer during our Animal Kingdom week, Science-themed week, and Nature themed week. Throughout these immersive experiences, the students explored the wonders of **Palaentology, Outer Space, Pottery** and so much more. From designing and building their own space rovers, rocket ships, and satellites to using clay to make their own flower pots, our students have worked hard to show their understanding.



Animal Kingdom Week: Our students engaged in several learning experiences related to animals. We discussed habitats, animal diet, endangered and extinct species. A field trip to the National Aviary definitely enhanced our Animal week experience as the children spent time learning about birds.

Children have a natural inclination to ask about what they sense in their environment. At EVO, we encourage children to identify problems, explain their understanding of the world around them and find ways to leave their impact in a positive way. One of our inquiry based learning experiences was about **dinosaurs**. By pairing up into teams of "young paleontologists", they were engaged in a process of excavating, identifying bones, assembling, and showcasing dinosaur fossils. The students showed a tremendous amount of patience digging through the sand, and carefully brushing off the pieces to work together. The activity also helped them exercise their fine motor skills in the process. Check out some of the pictures!



Fishing Math was one of our fun interdisciplinary activities that combined Math with sea life. In two groups, students worked together to use "fishing rods" made out of strings and paper clip, to catch different types of sea creatures. Each creature was assigned either 5, 10, 20, or 50 points. Their task was to collect as many fish as they can within 1 minute and keep track of their points



Science Week: EVO engages students in Science through hands-on inquiry-based learning experiences. Over the past three weeks, we have explored Space with our older group, and worked on an interactive learning activity about floating and sinking objects with our youngest group. The older group embarked on a week long project that was inspired by our visit to the Moonshot museum. Please, enjoy the moments we captured.

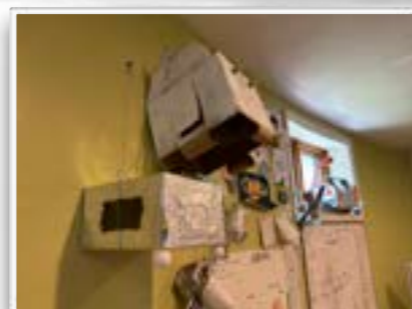


Beyond the classroom, the students embarked on an inspiring field trip to the Moonshot Museum, where they witnessed firsthand the groundbreaking work of NASA scientists. Observing the development of a rover set to venture to the Moon in just a few months, the experience left a profound impact. It deepened their appreciation for space exploration, reinforced the importance of perseverance, and instilled a sense of wonder and excitement about the limitless possibilities of scientific discovery.



They used materials such as cardboard boxes, magnets, aluminum foil, scissors, tape, batteries, flashlights, aluminum foils, lightbulbs, and paper towel rolls, they demonstrated their resourcefulness and creativity at every turn.

More than just constructing space devices, the young scientists honed their scientific problem-solving skills. They engaged in brainstorming sessions, conducted experiments, and iteratively refined their designs to ensure stability, weight distribution, and functionality. The project encouraged critical thinking, the use of communicative skills, and adaptability, fostering a true spirit of scientific exploration.



Floating Vs Sinking: Our little ones participated in a fun learning experience where they each collected a variety of small objects to test whether or not the items would sink or float. As the students took turns, we recorded the observations on our white board. Students counted the number of items as they went along. They noted how variables such as type of material, shape and size affect whether or not an object will sink or float. The students had fun using the water as a sensory material.



Nature Week: Using clay as a primary material, the students at EVO worked on a week-long project where they shaped clay into flower pots. As they worked, we discussed how clay comes from the Earth's crust. We also learned about how plants need Sunlight, water, nutrient-rich soil and air to grow. After the clay pots were dry enough, we concluded the experience by planting seeds (corn, flower seeds, radish, green onions etc) and talking about all the benefits of plants. Enjoy the moments we captured.





Kids Chapel



Kids Chapel, led by Mr. John, is a heartwarming gathering where our students fervently pray for their loved ones, pets, and friends. Engaging with captivating stories from the Gospel and other biblical stories, the children actively participate in thought-provoking question-and-answer sessions, nurturing their curiosity and understanding of faith. EVO's mission to foster and care for the whole child, mind, body, and spirit, ensures a holistic approach to growth, where spirituality and academics intertwine

Wrapping up with unity, we always conclude Kids Chapel time by reciting the Lord's Prayer. It is a nurturing and spiritually enriching experience that fosters a deep connection with faith, love, and community for our campers.



Fine and Gross Motor skill experiences



Indoor and Outdoor Experiences:

EVO recognizes that by providing students with age and developmentally appropriate games and activities, we are fostering an environment where students take the initiative to build friendships with their peers, learn to collaborate and share resources. Enjoy some of the moments we captured.



Arts and Crafts: Our students explored a variety of fine motor learning experiences that gave them the opportunity to challenge themselves, collaborate with their peers, and present their work. **Beading** was a fun activity and kids enjoyed making patterns and practiced their counting skills. **Handprint art** was another interesting activity that introduced the children to different ways they could interact with the art of painting.



Older campers in the 4th and Up group with Cheer Leading and acrobatics experience have been sharing their skills and interests with the entire class, leading short workshops and lessons on a daily basis which should lead to a short student taught, designed and performed Cheer with completely choreography chosen and rehearsed by the campers.

Some students were also able to interview and meet some of the Senior Olympian Athletes competing for Gold in Tennis at Mellon Park's domed indoor Tennis courts this summer.

Gaga Ball Champions have arisen at Montessori School Playground and Basketball Court, where students of all backgrounds and interests have rallied together in the Outdoor Gaga Ball Pitt, where games demand participants full attention as they bob and weave around the ball, "wall zombies" and fellow competitors while our hydration stations are drained by hard working athletes.



Older campers in the 4th and Up group continue to show interest in Cheer Leading and acrobatics experiences. They have been sharing their skills and interests with the entire class, leading short workshops and lessons on a daily basis which should lead to a short student taught, designed and performed Cheer with complete choreography chosen and rehearsed by the campers.



Field Trip Memories

National Aviary

During our Animal Kingdom Week students had a delightful time visiting the National Aviary where they came nose to beak with Toucans, Penguins and all manner of birds as they learned all about diverse ecosystems, biospheres, food chains and the many lives and species of our fine feathered friends.



Children's Museum



Mellon Splash park



IdelWild



Moonshot Museum

Our students were fascinated by the Moonshot Museum where they learned all about Pittsburgh involvement with Space Programs and the Industry of Space Exploration. After their experience at the Moonshot Museum, and some collaborative and imaginative fun at the Children's Museum, our students began building and designing their very own Lunar Landing Modules and Rocket Ships, complete with blueprints, spinning wheels, headlights for the dark side of the Moon and solar panel systems to keep their designs running at full power without access to AA batteries.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

Towards the end of our third week the 4th and Up students were able to take an excursion to the Pittsburgh Glass Center where our students were able to explore not only the Glass Work Museum exhibit, but also the active glass work center where they spoke with glass blowing and sanding professions and were able to watch them work with their blow rods and open furnaces where molten glass was actively being shaped into beautiful creations and incredible art installations.

Carnegie Library

Our students enjoyed a wonderful excursion to the East Liberty Carnegie Library, where our older campers were warmly greeted by the Librarians, and our many ages groups within 4th and Up were engaged and entertained!

