

FCS FRIENDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL *Summer Camp!*

Friends Community School Summer Camp Weekly Newsletter

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We've Had Quite a Summer at FCS!



This week, our time together included testing strategies, building patterns, exploring outer space, and many other exciting adventures! Campers spent their time in Little Explorers: Out of This World (Ages 3 ½-4), Building and Patterning (Grades K and 1-2), Magic School Bus (Grades K and 1-2), Math Games (Grades 1-2), Old School Games (Grades 3-5), Musical Theater Boot Camp: Disney (Grades 3-5), and Archery and Strategy Games (Grades 3-5 and 6-8.) Thank you for sending your children to FCS Summer Camp. We know that you have many options and appreciate your support!

Highlights from Session 10

Little Explorers: Out of This World (Ages 3 ½ -4)

Teacher: Nikevia

This week our Little Explorers engaged in hands-on activities that were truly out of this world! We learned about the Sun and stars, astronauts, and the planets in our solar system. To inspire our learning of outer space, we listened to “Space and Astronauts Kids Songs.” During Morning Meeting, campers participated in rocket ship singalongs, rocket ship blast-off imitations, and moonwalk dances. We also sang “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” In Literacy, campers heard non-fiction books about the Sun; star constellations; and how astronauts live in outer space, space shuttles and rocket ships. The Little Explorers named and identified sunspots, parts of space shuttle, planets, and popular constellations like the Big Dipper. In Art, the Little Explorers recreated the Big Dipper, made name rockets, and coffee filter planets. Campers also made constellation viewers and developed fine motor skills with our astronaut glove box. The Little Explorers were able to complete the writing prompt, “If I were an astronaut...”. While outdoors, we did some sky-watching to locate the moon, stars, and other planets.



See more photos [here!](#)

Building and Patterning (Grade K)



Teacher: Maddy

We started the week asking the question "What is a pattern?" We decided that numbers, colors, words, shapes, music, and movement are all examples of patterns. We explored linear AB, ABC, and AAB patterns using pattern blocks, crayons, watercolors, and stamps. We learned that patterns can be circular by making our own pattern block mandalas. We also played movement pattern games, and played freeze dance to songs by Sandra Boynton.

Every day campers had patterning activities, a building challenge, choice time, read aloud, playground time, and time to explore new materials. Our building challenges included making a boat that will float and hold up to ten pennies out of a piece of tinfoil, two straws, and tape; and building a structure as long as you can with 20 cups and 15 popsicle sticks. I enjoyed playing and learning with all the smart campers in Kindergarten Building and Patterning!

See more photos [here!](#)

Building and Patterning (Grades 1-2)

Teacher: Malik



This week in Building and Patterning we learned that patterns come in many varieties and can be found all around us. We learned that things like shapes, colors, letters, and numbers are all examples of patterns. Afterwards, we had an indoor and outdoor scavenger hunt to discover the patterns all around us. Some of our favorites were the benches, the mailbox, and the fabrics on the bulletin boards. As a class we used objects of different shapes and colors, like bottle-tops, yogurt cups, and pins, to make a

group pattern. We also made individual patterns to take home. Finally, we worked on our building vocabulary, learning the meaning of words like “foundation” and “skyscraper.” As a class, we built a two foot tall structure out of recycled plastic cups and yogurt cups. Thanks for a wonderful week!

See more photos [here!](#)

Magic School Bus (Grade K)

Teacher: Keely

This week in Magic School Bus camp, we took chances, made mistakes, got messy, and went on many adventures! We read *The Magic School Bus In the Bat Cave* and created our own bat cave, complete with stalactites, stalagmites, and a variety of bats. We used our bat cave to play an echolocation game based on the winged creatures. We also explored the world of plants. Campers learned about seeds, pollination, and plant growth. We planted seeds to grow our own



plants and created bee crafts. We went “Inside the Earth” to excavate and identify rocks, created fossils, and had fun learning about the center of the Earth. We traveled through the solar system in our homemade rockets, took a tour of the planets, and learned all about gravity. Lastly, we learned all about the weather on our planet with a variety of art and science projects.

See more photos [here!](#)

Magic School Bus (Grades 1-2)

Teacher: Eshe



This week on the Magic School Bus, we began our trip to outer space where our astronauts played in our solar system with rockets that sent them on a mission to their favorite planets! On Tuesday we let gravity take us down into the plant world where we learned about seeds and all the ways our pollinators help transport them. We planted some garden vegetables and made bumble bees. We even met some new friends when our milkweed beetles emerged from their pods. By Wednesday we were batty and designed our stalagmite and stalactite caves for our bats to hang out in. The weather was shaky on Thursday so we explored the many ways it can change in a moment's notice and by Friday we got our hands dirty digging for rocks and minerals and excavating fossils from our very own FCS sandbox. We matched our findings to pictures and learned just how far some of our digs had come from. The Magic School bus arrived back safely to camp on the last day wishing all of our campers a fantastic new school year!

See more photos [here!](#)

Math Games (Grades 1-2)

Teacher: Christie

We've gotten a wonderful “jump start” on the school year in the Math Games camp! Campers loved sharing strategies and competing against themselves and each other in a variety of settings. Through both games and active group activities, campers have developed their math vocabulary and number sense; our minds are “primed” for new content coming in the fall. Campers also practiced various collaborative skills as they played; they worked on being kind and helpful even when feeling competitive. Our



math games were intentionally chosen based on their use of visual representations of numbers, such as dot patterns or ten frames, to solidify understanding of number relationships. For the second half of the day, we extended our games to include visual-spatial games, puzzles, and challenges. Games that required players to “flex” their visual-thinking and forward-thinking “muscles” help build logical and relational thinking! Games such as *Blink* and *Othello* were favorites. A few of our games have come home this week and can be a wonderful way to reinforce important skills! Overall, the hard work and focus campers have demonstrated this week has made for a fun and productive camp!

See more photos [here!](#)

Old School Games (Grades 3-5)

Teacher: Danielle



What a week! We started by learning about the history of games. Games are an integral part of all cultures and are one of the oldest forms of human social interaction. Games offer the chance for people to go into their imagination and rehearse direct physical activities. We looked at the game *Snakes and Ladders* which was created in India over a thousand years ago as part of the Hindu religion, serving as a method of teaching lessons of morality and spirituality. We also learned some indigenous peoples adapted their

existing behaviors into English ways to preserve and maintain aspects of their native ways during colonization. For example, the Maori of New Zealand adapted their Haka war challenge dance into the imported sport of rugby. We played several different board games and learned a domino based game called *Chicken Foot*. On Tuesday we looked at the mechanics and elements of play. Games must include action to move play along, which can be initiated with systems like with cards, dice, skipped turns, catch up mechanisms, point systems and resource control. In the afternoon we broke into teams and began kicking around ideas for inventing and creating our own original games. On Wednesday we learned about probability and were introduced to the Monty Hall Puzzle, which works counterintuitively to the mathematics behind it. We had a good time trying to guess which of the three cups was hiding the prize. On Thursday we finished making our games and played with the class, pairing with another classroom to test game play. We reviewed the results of our testing and made revisions. On Friday, we discussed the game design (art), game play (mechanics), and game story or theme for all our homemade games.

See more photos [here!](#)

Musical Theater Boot Camp: Disney (Grades 3-5)

Teacher: Kiersten

This week in Musical Theater, we learned that an actor's job is to tell a story, and used our "actor's tools" to explore this concept. We warmed up our tools every day with games such as "Machines," "Sticky Floor," "Clay," and "Elevator." We dove into Disney movies that had been turned into musicals. On Monday, we learned "Human Again" from Beauty and the Beast and portrayed enchanted objects such as a candle, clock, feather duster, and teapot! On Tuesday, we learned "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" from The Lion King and moved as lions (in human form). We explored how to change our voices to be different characters and how sometimes you have to say lines that might embarrass you, but you do it anyway. On Wednesday, we learned "One Jump Ahead" and danced to "Friend Like Me" from Aladdin. We blocked the first song, each taking turns playing different characters in the city of Agrabah. On Thursday, we dove "Under the Sea" to dance with Sebastian and Flounder and learned Flounder's song "She's in Love" from The Little Mermaid. We talked about different ways we could show swimming when we didn't actually have water on stage. On Friday, we discovered The Hunchback of Notre Dame and learned several songs and scenes. We took a little more time to watch pieces of this show, as it is the lesser known of our shows this week and has not yet made its way to Broadway (hopefully soon - it is an amazing show with fabulous music). We sang, danced, and acted our way through the week and had a joyful time!



See more photos [here!](#)

Archery and Strategy Games (Grades 3-5 and 6-8)

Teachers: Mark and Donald



This week in archery camp, we learned about the different types of bows (standard, recurve, and compound) and arrows (indigenous and manufactured), how they are made, the anatomy of an arrow, the proper way to identify safe and unsafe arrows, and how to effectively shoot the arrow and hit the target from various distances. We also learned and applied range safety and situational awareness during shooting. Campers now have an understanding of the importance of a proper stance, drawing the arrow, releasing the arrow, and have learned to identify mistakes and adjust positioning when needed. I am very proud

of the progress campers made with their shooting skills this week. They have been patient, mindful, serious about increasing their performance, and a lot of fun!

In Strategy Games, campers honed their gaming skills with a variety of games. Campers were introduced to *Monopoly Empire*, a version of *Monopoly* where players win by purchasing various companies but can be thwarted by their classmates with hostile takeovers, bankruptcy, and reversal of fortune. However, *Monopoly Cheater's Edition* was the most popular game for this session by far! Campers also enjoyed classic games like chess, cards, *Anomia*, and many others. The highlight of this session was when the 3-5 group combined with the 6-8 group for the ultimate strategy game: dodgeball! Thank you for a fantastic week!



See more 3-5 photos [here](#) and more 6-8 photos [here](#)!

Thanks for the Memories!

For more pictures and information about next season, make sure to check out the [FCS Summer Camp Facebook](#) page!

We'll See You Next Summer!