

FCS FRIENDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL *Summer Camp!*

Friends Community School Summer Camp Weekly Newsletter

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Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019

A Short & Sweet Week at FCS!



This week, our time together included top secret missions, creating virtual worlds, playing with puppies, and many other exciting adventures! Campers spent their time in Little Explorers (ages 3 ½-4), Bug-Eyed Fun (Grades K-2), Dr. Seuss (Grades K-2), Puppy Love (Grades 3-5), Mission Impossible (Grades 3-5), Musical Theater Boot Camp: Movies Go to Broadway (Grades 5-8), and Virtual World: Creating with Virtual Reality (Grades 5-8). Thank you for sending your children to FCS Summer Camp. We know that you have many options and appreciate your support!

Highlights from Session 4

Little Explorers: Rainbow Catchers (Ages 3 ½-4)

Teacher: Kelly

Our Little Explorers have had a short but busy week “catching rainbows”! We started the week with the book *The Rainy Day*, which explains a little bit about rainbows. We immediately went to work in the art center exploring the colors of the rainbow and creating rainbows with paper and markers. We practiced naming the colors of the rainbow through several different songs. All week we added collages and drawings to our Rainbow Book journals. We investigated shades of colors and the color palette using the book *Colors* by Pantone and working with watercolors. Finally, we mixed colors creating new beautiful shades with tempera paint.



See more photos [here!](#)

Bug-Eyed Fun (K-2)

Teachers: Patricia

This week in Bug-Eyed Fun, campers learned all about insects! We focused on ants, butterflies, and bees. Campers morphed into bugs themselves as they moved to music. We acted out the butterfly life cycle. Campers looked on the playground to find and observe insects in their natural habitats and draw them. We read books about insects and watched short video clips to see insects enlarged and in action. Students made crafts and did art projects inspired by the insects, including egg-carton ants, watercolor wax-resist habitats, tissue paper collage butterflies, and stamping of honeycombs for bees. Our time together flew by, but we're still buzzing with excitement!



See more photos [here!](#)

Dr. Seuss (K-2)

Teacher: Keely



In Dr. Seuss camp, we dove right into fantastical stories. Campers listened to classic tales like *Yertle the Turtle*, *Fox in Socks*, *The Lorax* and other favorite Dr. Seuss books. We discussed each story and we wrote down our reflections to create a Dr. Seuss journal for the week. We made our own Loraxes and truffula trees. Campers worked with paper mache to make hot air balloons to take us *All the Places We'll Go*. After reading *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*, we created our own sticky, slimy oobleck. Campers tried to build the highest

truffula trees and stack as many turtles as they could in a few Seuss-inspired engineering challenges.

See more photos [here!](#)

Mission Impossible (3-5)

Teacher: Eshe

There's only so much we can disclose. Let's just say that all recruits earned agent status after their first day on site. Games of cognition, rebus puzzles, detective-mafia challenges, and decoding training were all a part of the process. By day two, agents had earned their badges and



used their secret identities to infiltrate camp. They were given truth serum (masked as organic fruit punch) and used the cartons to contact headquarters via their newly constructed walkie-talkies. The identification of antiquated spy equipment like tape recorders, landline phones, and disposable cameras coupled with modern technology in the form of burner phones, noise-cancelling headphones, and the art of disguise helped campers explore the work of former agents like Ethan Hunt and 007. Campers did not let the intruder, and the subsequent theft of a credit card, deter them. Through the task-required teamwork and mental agility, they were able to solve the scavenger hunt that revealed the mole's identity (yes, it was an inside job). Their final act of espionage took place in an Escape Room that required stealth and complex problem-solving to return the credit card to its rightful owner. This newest group of recruits has made the agency proud.

See more photos [here!](#)

Puppy Love (3-5)

Teacher: Jacob

We had a wonderful time in Puppy Love this week! Campers spent their days learning how to take care of dogs, cats, and other household pets that we all love. We became responsible pet owners by filling out our official PAWS Pet Adoption forms and adopting from a selection of stuffed rescue dogs that would be our furry friends for the week. Throughout the week, we had in-depth conversations about what to do in real-life pet ownership scenarios, such as a pet being afraid of people, being dehydrated on a walk, and so on. In our activities, we emphasized stewardship by creating dog toys and beds to donate to the City of Greenbelt Animal Shelter (and made a few extra for our pets at home). We upcycled old t-shirts into chew toys, dog beds, and we even made paper plate aquariums that turned out amazingly well! Our campers were always willing to use their time and energy to make more toys for animals in need. Our major project during the week was building a Feral Cat Shelter - everyone had a part in cutting, insulating, designing, and decorating the shelter that will give feral cats a safe, warm place to sleep during the cold winter months. We enjoyed employing our animal skills during a visit from Bekka, Van's Shepard mix, and Louie, Jacob's one-year-old Boston Terrier puppy. All in all, our Puppy Love campers had a lot of fun learning how to be the best possible pet owners they can be!



See more photos [here!](#)

Musical Theater Boot Camp: Movies Go to Broadway (5-8)



Teacher: Kiersten

This week, we had a great time learning about musicals and Broadway. We looked at four different musicals that originated as movies. The students learned about the original movie and its musical adaptation. On Monday, we explored *Newsies*, learning three songs and acting out several scenes. We also learned about the 1899 *Newsies* strike in New York. On Tuesday morning, we jumped to 1962 and John Waters' *Hairspray*. We learned that this show, set in Baltimore, began as a movie, became a stage musical,

had a movie musical made, and then became one of the live musicals on TV. We discussed the segregation, racism, classicism, and bullying that takes place in the show and what we can learn from the characters. The musical, being a comedic show, ends with all the strings tied up neatly. The students discussed how this is not always the case and how we can make a difference in our own world. The middle of the day on Tuesday, our assistant teacher Langston introduced us to improvisation and some games, which we enjoyed greatly. We played more on Wednesday, and our favorites included "Park Bench," "Freeze," and "Hitchhiker." We ended the day discovering *School of Rock*, based on the Jack Black movie of the same name. The students were seriously impressed by the child actors in the show and their incredible musical talent. On Wednesday morning, we learned two songs from *School of Rock* and worked through some scenes. After more more improv games, we dove into the 1970's and ABBA's *Mamma Mia*. This show, based on the movie, is a jukebox musical with ABBA songs tied together around a silly story line. We sang and danced to the end of the day!

We had a great - albeit short - time together this week. I hope everyone had fun!

See more photos [here!](#)

Virtual World: Creating with Virtual Reality (5-8)

Teacher: Tracie and Laura

This week, campers learned all about virtual and augmented reality. We started the week by exploring what makes a captivatingly immersive experience by looking at YouTube 360 videos and sample virtual worlds in CoSpaces Edu.

After a little brainstorming, campers came up with their own ideas for virtual worlds and built an immersive 3D environment, including avatars, animals, buildings, plants, animations, and sound effects. To make their worlds more interactive, campers learned how to code different actions using the Blockly coding language. To create mixed augmented reality experiences, campers used the Merge cube, a holographic toy that allowed them to physically hold and interact with 3D objects.



[Here's a link](#) so that you can experience campers' creations! You'll need VR glasses and mobile phone to get the full experience!

In the afternoon, campers transformed into structural engineers! We started by completing engineering challenges. The goal was to build a structure out of plastic cups, popsicle sticks and wood cubes that met the requirement. Challenges included a building using one cube as the base, creating the tallest structure, and

creating a structure that causes a chain reaction. The engineers were very creative in their designs! On Monday, our engineers constructed their own desert island out of Legos. After the island was constructed, they had to problem-solve different disaster scenarios. On Tuesday, engineers began planning and creating their own virtual world out of recycled materials. On Wednesday, the virtual worlds were completed and taken home!

See more photos [here!](#)

Next Week We are Looking Forward to...

- ❖ Little Yogis (Grades K-1)
- ❖ Food and Art: Cooking (Grades K-2)
- ❖ Jungle Safari (Grades K-2)
- ❖ Food and Art: Cooking (Grades 3-5)
- ❖ Harry Potter (Grades 3-6)
- ❖ Camp Model United Nations (Grades 6-8)

Sign up for upcoming sessions [here!](#)