



NUTLEY ACADEMIC BOOSTER CLUB SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Layout and Design by Alexandra Gaynor

Meet the Artists Ms. Quigley



In "Meet the Artists," the students learned about, and became world famous artists like, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Georgia O'Keefe, Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, Henry Matisse, and Michelangelo. We explored different styles of painting and drawing using various mediums and techniques to create our own versions of such famous works such as "Starry Night," "Sunflowers," and "Goldfish." The students drew and painted portraits of others, self-portraits, still lives, and landscapes. We had a lot of fun, and at the end of our class we had a portfolio full of masterpieces fit for a museum.

Multimedia Creations Ms. Peters

We have been hard at work in Multimedia Creations, learning all of the software from both the Apple and the Microsoft platforms. We have done a lot in photo editing and created new pictures from combinations of multiple pictures. We became experienced in creating our own music in Garageband and became moviemakers using iMovie software. Students learned how to create DVDs from their original work and burn them to a compact disc, and they also learned new print techniques to jazz up their word processing skills.

The Art of Drawing Mrs. Nakashian

We learned how the artist sees: shape, line, and shading. This year, however, we also learned a great deal about art by building sets for the drama class. We spent many hours constructing sets for their *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Peter Pan* plays. We applied many techniques to make the final product very realistic.

Animals in Literature Mrs. Wallis

We began by exploring some favorite and fascinating sea creatures, such as seahorses, horseshoe crabs, and rainbow fish. We completed a beautiful ocean mural showing life under the sea. Next, we entered the amazing world of bears. We made bear drawings, bear puppets, and even invited our "bear friends" to join us in class for the week. During our final days, we read some elephant, dog, cat, and bird books. Our activities included singing, dancing, drawing, and creating a class story about our special animal friends! We all agreed that we had the best time ever!



Drama I & II

Ms. Fierro



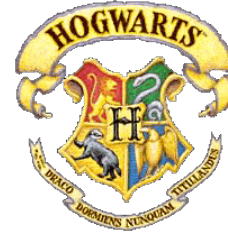
Lights, Camera, Action! Drama 1 and 2 have been rehearsing diligently for their big debut! Drama 1 is performing *Little Red Riding Hood* and Drama 2 will be performing *Peter Pan*. In the process we have also been enjoying ourselves while learning about voice projection, pantomime, and mirror exercises as part of our drama experience. These stars know what it takes to be in the spotlight and are very excited to show off their talent! Take a bow! Students of both classes learned that theater is more than actors, and we want to applaud the Art of Drawing classes that provided Drama 1 and 2 with fantastic sets.

A Summer with Harry Potter

Mrs. Burns

Welcome to Harry Potter's summer classes at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. First, we were sorted into our houses, Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, and Slytherin, using a real sorting hat. Next, we were organized into our quidditch teams according to our houses, and we competed every Friday on our broomsticks. During the classes, we selected and drew our favorite Harry Potter characters, cast spells, transfigured into all kinds of creatures, acted out our favorite scenes from the Harry Potter books, looked into the Mirror of Erised to see our hearts' desires, and created a book of magical creatures. Our favorite class, by far, was Potions Class in which we mixed a variety of wonderful potions that gave us luck, made us rich, or helped us grow additional arms and legs! We ended our wonderful summer at Hogwarts by

designing and creating our very own Harry Potter board games. We can't wait to return to Hogwarts next summer!



Art in Advertising

Mr. Behrens

It's been an exciting summer in Art in Advertising! Students started the class by getting into groups and establishing their advertising agencies. After groups were formed, students decided on a name for their agency, designed a flyer and made business cards. Some of the agencies in action included "The Musical Avocados," "S. C. S.," and "The Moshlings." Their first assignment was to design a box for a new children's toothpaste named Tuck's Toothy Toothpaste. Students were responsible for showing the name of the product, including an illustration, and designing a logo for the company (Starburst inc.) that distributes the product. How they arranged these elements would reveal whether or not the students understood how to create a balanced composition. Along with balance and composition, other vocabulary words students were introduced to were: "freelance projects," "graphic design," "illustration" and "contrast." The agencies that produce the most successful project were awarded with a trip to the prize box. Students also had the opportunity to make designs for cereal boxes, movie posters, pizza boxes and album covers. It's been a great summer and the students have worked hard to make some outstanding artwork.

CSI

Ms. Jousset



In CSI class this summer we experimented with weather, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and tsunamis and we even made our own! The students learned about the safety and precautions to take for these types of natural disasters. We also learned about DNA as well as genes and heredity. The students learned about Punnet Squares and how eye and hair color are formed. They also made the human face using Gregor Mendel's law of genetics. The students used a fingerprinting analysis kit and learned about different types of fingerprints. They also solved various crimes and learned the approaches detectives take to solve crimes. They made up their own crime scenes and acted them out for other students to solve.

The Game of Life: Math Edition

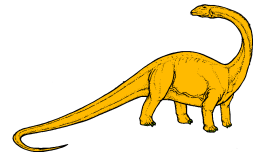
Ms. Ferraro

This summer, The Game of Life Math Edition, started by learning some algebra and geometry basics by way of the coordinate plane. The concept can be found in everyday games, such as bingo or Battleship. After building some basic math foundations, we were able to take fractions, decimals, and percents and convert them into one another. Having an understanding of these conversions allowed our class to plan a dream vacation on a fantasy budget. The students went on shopping trips and were able to buy their back-to-school wardrobe and decorate their dorm rooms on shopping trips. They had to buy all their items within a budget while using coupons and sales tax to get their total purchases. They were also given a career. The career

included a salary in which the students had to deduct taxes, social security, and health benefits. The salary of the careers helped the students to budget housing, transportation, pay for utilities, etc. After learning some basic statistic facts, the students turned into real estate agents and tried to sell our class a home on their street. The Game of Life Math Edition used real-life situations to teach students various math concepts.

Tracking Dinosaurs

Ms. DePinto



We certainly became detectives this summer on our dino-riffic adventures traveling back billions of years to the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous Periods. Amazement filled our faces as we discovered first hand if a 90-foot long brachiosaurus stood in front of us, it would take about 202 steps to get around him! We also discovered the petite velociraptor would actually fit inside our classroom (yikes!). After listening to these creatures' frightening roars and wondering what it would be like to meet one of these giants, we carefully constructed our very own dinosaur eggs (watch out for hatching!). We also found out that volcanoes existed in those times too! We built our very own volcano and watched in anticipation as it exploded six different ways! Finally, we travelled forward to 2011 and learned about archeological digs as we used special tools to dig out fossils from cookie dig sites. Children entered this class, but paleontologists, archaeologists, and explorers are leaving!

Surprising Science

Ms. Freedman

Let's Learn 2011 has been chock full of fun and exciting activities. Surprising Science has investigated wind and what wind can do.

We made two different kinds of fans and tested them. We made windsocks to go along with that theme. Water has also been involved in our trials. Discovering how many drops can fit on a penny and learning how many colors there are in a black magic marker were some favorites. We colored water and watched it climb up a stalk of celery. Physical and chemical changes were discussed by making a glue bouncy ball, putting vinegar on a penny, and cutting paper to make a necklace. This class has been very busy discovering fascinating ideas about the world around us!

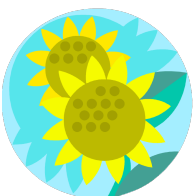
Nutty for Nature

Ms. Peters

This year our class was filled with animal-loving nature explorers. Students offered many insights into the preservation and conservation of our natural resources.

Students went on a crusade to save the ocean and explored all habitats and biomes.

We've planted and learned parts of a flower as well as the life cycles of frogs and other animals. Students learned a lot about water conservation and the water cycle. We made bird feeders and leaf people. Our nature walks were filled with inquiry and discussion of the many living things we encountered along the way.



Prints Charming

Mrs. Branaca

Printmaking is an indirect way of making art. The image is transferred from one surface to another, emphasizing the element of surprise when the print is complete. It is truly an exploration of materials and processes leading to new discoveries and awakening curiosity in students of all ages. All of the students enjoyed working with the various techniques in this class. Among them were vegetable printing, Elmer's glue sculptural prints, one-of-a-kind prints (monotypes), styrofoam relief prints, rubbings, and printing with found objects. Learning and working with printmaking processes and materials was fun! It gave the student artists a new approach to art making.

Cooking 2

Mr. Huggins



In Cooking 2 your children have learned how to comprehend and execute complex recipes that can easily be used in everyday life. We have covered various recipes for many different occasions throughout the day. We began our class with fresh lemonade and a healthy fruit terrine. Then we moved on to savory foods with garlic cheddar biscuits, garlic knots, empanadas, and mac & cheese. We finally touched on the kids' favorite section, dessert, with cookies, ice cream, stuffed cupcakes, and sorbet! We also covered some useful skills along the way such as safety, sanitation, and common measures. Thank you for allowing your children to take part in the 2011 Let's Learn Program!

Bon Appetite!

Math-a-Mania
Jr. Math Games
Ms. DiGiacomo

We became real "math maniacs" in Math-a-Mania and Jr. Math Games this summer. We covered a variety of topics and had a lot of fun while doing so. Some highlights have included creating shape monsters, measurement scavenger hunts, learning how to follow a recipe to make our own clay, having a "bubble blowing" contest, addition/subtraction bingo, and the Jr. Math Games' trip to Shop Rite where we put our money skills to the test. I was extremely happy with the children's efforts and impressed by how they quickly learned the new skills they were taught. It's been a great time!



Drama 1B
Mrs. Sarachelli

This month the students sharpened their skills as both dancers and actors! We began by practicing different elements of drama such as pantomime, improvisation, mirror acting exercises, and other drama related games. Then we applied those skills to our final production, *What Happened after Once Upon a Time*, a twist on the fairytales we know today. Look out, Broadway, we have some stars in the making!

Cartoon Crafting
Mrs. Rambaldi



In cartoon crafting this year, we learned a variety of good drawing techniques such as how to duplicate a favorite cartoon character. We have replicated many cartoon characters such as Spongebob Squarepants, Patrick Star, Phineas and Ferb, Mater from the movie Cars, and various characters from The Fairly Odd Parents and Super Mario Brothers. We even drew the Angry Birds from the popular video game. Not only were the students enjoying drawing the cartoon characters, but they were also singing theme songs from the shows. Everyday when they finished an art project they were already asking what character they would be working on the next day. They all agreed that one of their favorite project was drawing the Angry Birds. They also enjoyed listening to Radio Disney while they drew.

Create Your Own Comic Book
Ms. Pappalardo

CRASH! BOOM! BANG! Comics class has been a blast! From comic strips to comic books, we have made it all. Together we learned how special text features make comics so unique. We also became superheroes with top-secret identities and saved Nutley from an evil, polluting villain. Not only did we draw our own creations, but we also went online to create comic strips! ZOOM! This class has zipped by, and we enjoyed every minute that our ideas came to life through comics.

Writer's Express

Mrs. Gelso



This year Writers' Express went on a trip to many literary places. Each young writer received a colorful journal and, with a pencil in hand, they were off and writing. They wrote about Home Sweet Home, the oldest members of their families, and acrostics. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, the Newberry Honor children's books that was written in 1938 by Richard and Florence Atwater was read to the class. As the story unfolded, so did alliteration and similes. It was read slowly to them so they could hear the repetition of the consonant sounds and the use of like or as to make a comparison. They were able to recognize them, and create many of their own. In the age of texting and emailing it is a great pleasure to see them eager to write a friendly letter. Mr. Gastrinakis visited the class, and showed and demonstrated his collection of vintage pencil boxes, watercolor sets, and other various writing and art supplies that children of yesterday might have used. Some of their writings will be gathered into *Ready to Write*, and each student will receive a copy. I hope that they will continue to explore and enjoy the world of writing long after Writer's Express is over!

Benvenuti in Italia



Mrs. Sarachelli

It's now time to say...ARRIVEDERCI ITALIA! Our trip to Italy has gone so fast, yet we have seen so much. We visited the most breathtaking cities such as Rome,

Florence, Pisa, Venice, Positano, and Naples. It was exciting to see the Colosseum and throw a coin in the Trevi Fountain (to ensure we would return to Rome again, of course!) We savored the delicious pizza of Naples, as well as the yummy gelato in Florence. We learned about the Italian culture and created craft projects about it. We also learned some of the beautiful language, and even danced to the tarantella! We've had a fun month, but it's time to return to Nutley. CIAO for now!

Experimenting with Cooking

Mrs. DePrimio

We had a blast while "Experimenting with Cooking" this summer. Throughout our class we focused on the relationship between science and cooking. We discussed how yeast makes dough rise and how cream can be turned into butter.

We learned many new skills including measuring, kneading, mixing, cutting, and tossing. Some of our specialties included homemade rock candy, ice cream made in a bag, homemade play-dough, monster toast, and a "sandy dessert". We also expanded our taste buds by trying out many new creations.

At the end of our delectable summer of fun, we left with cookbooks to recreate some of our recipes at home!



Each year I like to recognize and thank those that make Let's Learn possible. It takes the "whole village" to help run this program.

The Academic Booster Club (ABC) is the organization that sponsors the Let's Learn program. I'd like to personally thank Leslie Garisto Pfaff, president, and John Halligan, treasurer, for their assistance, direction, and support.

Thank you to Mr. Lazovick, Superintendent of Schools, and members of the Nutley Board of Education who support our program; Mr. Nicolette, the middle school custodial staff, and Mrs. Spera, who arrange for our classrooms and make sure they meet our needs; Mrs. Luzzi, Mrs. Battaglia and Ms. Felici for their kindness and quick responses to our questions.

Thank you to the Let's Learn educators for sharing your love of learning with the students. I appreciate your support and help throughout the program.

My wonderful assistants, Alannah, April, Alexandra, Arden, Ben, Carla, Dante, Jacqueline, Joseph, Julia, Lianne, May, Michele, Natalie, and Perry, you made each day go smoothly. Your organizational skills, your natural ability to communicate with the students, and your forward thinking made me proud. Your dedication as volunteers is admirable.

Thanks to Mrs. Sam Carella and Mrs. Linda Buel, from the Nutley Police Department, for their efforts on securing a crossing guard for the program.



Special thanks goes to Carla Cucinotta, a Let's Learn assistant, who took the initiative and created a design and campaigned for our new t-shirts. Carla is entering her senior year at NHS and has been with Let's Learn for eight years. Thank you, Carla, from saving the assistants from those old bright yellow/orange shirts.

Thank you to JMaC and Mr. Philip Ferinde for quickly getting our t-shirts made and delivering them.

Last and most important I thank the parents and students who choose to spend part of the summer with the Let's Learn program. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Ms. Christina Osieja