

The ExCELerator

Tuesday

June 29, 2004

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ExCEL Challenges All

by Lacey Nilles

Excel has been a fun experience for every participant, and I am not just talking about the children. We have learned so many new things, and met new friends from different schools. This camp is so different from the other camps that most of us have attended. We learn so much, yet have fun at the same time. We had two field trips, and one overnight. Many games and competitions were held. A total of 80 kids participated from various schools around the county, from grades rising fourth to rising eighth. This year you can revisit your memories of ExCEL Camp with this newsletter.



Overnight Survivors

by Ross McGinn



and the
winner
was . . .
Oops!
and the
winners
were

The Odd Squad

The Fantanas

On the last Thursday and Friday of camp, students gathered in the upper-school gym and practiced for the first two challenges, hockey and basketball. After those festivities were done, students headed to the riverside, sprinted down the field, and kayaked in the river. Then, they headed to the pool. They had a blast in the wet sweatshirts and the hoop swim. The teachers gave everyone free time in the pool where middle school boys tried to take down Mr. Hartley and almost succeeded. After changing into warm clothing, the students then headed to the Waxlax Center and watched "Finding Nemo." The movie was awesome and students got some more free time to prepare their sleeping bags and to play around one last time. When the lights were turned off, Logan and a couple of boys were still singing "Jingle Bells".

Friday morning, everyone was wiped because of Mr. Hartley waking everyone up at 7:00 A.M., dragging sleeping bags that held kids and turning on bright lights when most everyone had gone to bed at 1:00 A.M., and for some kids 2:00 A.M.!!!!!! Even though they were tired, groups of students participated in a mental challenge. The standings were that the Odd Squad won and after a student, who calls herself "Bob" had fixed the standings making the Odd Squad and the Fantanas tied for first, The People in third, and the So-Called Geniuses in last place (these teams were chosen by the teachers and all the things I mentioned earlier counted to the final standings). Before we went to ExCEL, we enjoyed a bowl of cereal and Sunny Delight. Overall, this sleepover tops the others.

Field Trip Reviews
by Bradley Midkiff

McKee Combines History & Gardens



The students from both Zoom! Multimedia classes went on a field trip on June 16 to McKee Botanical Gardens. They saw many interesting and unusual things like, the world's largest one-piece mahogany table in the Hall of Giants. The single slab of Philippine wood measures nearly 36 feet long and is 5 inches thick. It was the centerpiece of the historic Hall of Giants at McKee Jungle Gardens from 1940 until 1976. They saw the Spanish Kitchen where one hundred stakes were made at one time then served on the gigantic table. On the garden tour, students saw many plants and flowers. McKee had originally contained over 40 varieties of rubber trees, 110 varieties of palms, America's largest collection of tropical water lilies growing outdoors, 200 varieties of ferns, and wild orchids in profusion. McKee Jungle Gardens was one of the first public gardens in Florida, Continued on Page 4



Chocolate Team

by Lacey Nilles

Chocolate team members always keep their taste buds alert in this class taught by Mrs. Ferguson. Everyone learned the history of the chocolate and how it is made. They made ice cream and created a chocolate surprise. To advertise their products they also made a 25 second commercial and designed a marketing campaign. But the one thing that the class most looked forward to was the gigantic Chocolate Festival. Preparing for it included researching chocolate, creating a recipe, participating in a few taste tests, and planning a team advertisement.

Perspectives, a class taught by Mrs. Donnelly, was for each student whose first year was this year and they were in elementary. Perspectives, a class taught by Mrs. Donnelly for first year elementary students, made students think outside the box, about each other, and about how to get through obstacles using teamwork. They were put through challenges and worked as a team, using different ideas to complete the challenge. Perspectives was a class used to teach students about themselves, about each other, and about everyone they know.



Perspectives

by Logan Jaffe



Robo Lab

by Ryan J. Jensen

Students in Robotics built cars, trucks, houses and whatever they could imagine with Legos. Once they built their vehicles, they put motors in them to make them move, and more! The students enjoyed Robotics throughout ExCEL. Robotics

House of the Future was an awesome way to see how much work goes into building a home and in addition, students found futuristic items to put in side their houses. A few kids found a television in a bathtub!!! The two teachers who taught this class were Mrs. Kutschinski and Mrs. Ferguson. Overall, that class sounded pretty good and House of the Future was an awesome way to tell how much work and research goes into one house.



House of the Future

by Ross McGinn



Picture This

by Ross McGinn

Picture It! was a great way to learn about the world of photography. Elementary students learned how to take portraits, action shots, landscape photos, and much more! Students also used scanners and photo-editing software. Mrs. Kutschinski, the head of Picture It! says the most enjoyed activities were pool pictures, creating Father's Day cards, and just all around taking pictures. Picture It! is an awesome way to acquire the tricks of photography.

Survivor is a hit TV show, viewed by thousands of interested fans every week. With something so popular, how could the Excel team not make it a class? The classes first tie-died headbands and made a group banner stating their team names and class names. The first challenges included throwing sand filled projectiles back and forth. They also made up obstacle courses for each other and completed them fabulously. Rock wall climbing is their latest challenge. This is turning out to be a very popular course.



Survivor

by Andrew Sponholtz



Theater Techies Unite
by Ben Smith

Theater Techies Unite allowed ExCEL kids to learn about the behind the scene work of theaters. They get to work with the spotlights, focus lights, program the light board, run the sound board, make a model for a set, and even run the final show. They learn about the jobs in a theater such as lighting designer, costume designer, set designer, and stage manger. The kids in the class liked focusing lights and making the set model the most. Thanks to Ms. Patty, this class was wonderful .

Improv was a class taught by Ms. Patty. The point of Improv was to express the kids' creative side and make them think out of the box. They played games like Freeze, Ball of Clay, and they even pretended they were a different character for a whole class period. Ms. Patty said that they were on schedule and had done everything she had planned for them to learn. Improv put on a presentation on the Waxlax stage for closing day. Improv taught kids how be creative while having fun.



Improv
by Logan Jaffe



We're on the Air
by Lacey Nilles

In "We're on the Air" the class learned how to produce a news and sports broadcast. Every member had a chance to anchor the ExCEL morning news show. They learned how to use video cameras and edit the footage on computers. They also learned how to use the "blue screen" and graphics. They took turns being the teleprompter, the cameramen, and the anchors. This class studied the movies: *Finding Nemo*, *U.S. Marshals*, and *The Matrix*. They learned how to create a storyboard and what problems the producers have to deal with. The most "enjoyable" activities in the class were being an anchor, shooting "footage", and editing the videos. The class was taught by Mr. Hartley.

The Zoom classes have created their websites in HTML and Microsoft Front Page. They were also working on the software Adobe In-Design and using digital cameras. Zoom had a fun trip to McKee Botanical Gardens during ExCEL. They learned some history as well as a few helpful gardening hints. Thanks to their great teacher Mrs. Lucero, everything went smoothly for them throughout ExCEL.



Zoom! Multimedia Magic
by Ryan Jensen



Broadway ExCEL
by Ben Smith

In Broadway ExCEL the students were taught vocal and dance techniques. The students probably will not master it all but the purpose of the class is to cause the students to continue learning about theater. In the class Ms. Patty is teaching the girls (all the students are girls) "42nd Street" and "Supremes". The girls will perform on the closing day of ExCEL.

This class has been working on collecting photos and articles to cover all of the ExCEL classes and events for the "Excellerator" newspaper. The class has been working to inform the general public of the who-what-when-where-and-why's of Excel. Using Adobe InDesign and some very helpful website how-two's, success is imminent. I hope that you get pleasure from our thoughtful articles published in the Excellerator.



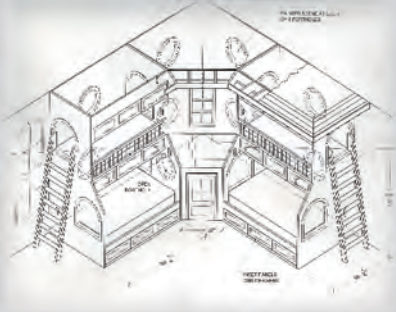
ExCEL Newspaper
by Andrew Sponholtz



Continued from page 1.

and one of the state's earliest tourist attractions (before Disney). The students all got to take pictures with digital cameras of these amazing preserved scenery. A virtual tour of the field trip that captures the best of their student photography can be seen at <http://www4.steds.org/excel/McKeeVirtualTour/>. They will remember this for years to come.

It Only Takes a Dream



On June 16, the House of the Future class went to the Hill group (which is a construction company owned by Toby Hill). They took a tour to learn about the construction of a home and the many details that go into creating a special home. They learned how to cut particular knives to make special molds and trims. They also found out how to paint professionally and especially to be careful not to blow saw dust into the wet paint. Now they can go build a house made for the Future.

The ExCELerator

The ExCELerator was published by a class of eight rising 6, 7th and 8th graders using Adobe Photoshop and InDesign. We wish to thank everyone for sharing their pictures.



Mrs. Scales

Three Cheers

and
Aimee Beckwith
Kateryn Silva
Nick Stoddard



Mrs. Wachter