

# Camp Lejeune children still learning through summer with enrichment program

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For enrolled students of Camp Lejeune's kindergarten through eighth grade classes, there are no lazy days of summer.

Children enrolled in the Summer Enrichment Program had the opportunity to take what they learned in school to the next level.

The program, run by the Department of Defense Education Activities, is a multi-disciplined endeavor designed to go beyond the classroom experience.

Children are challenged through individual and cooperative projects and enhanced with guided instruction.

"This isn't a remediation course, and it isn't an arts and crafts camp," said Mira Muehrke, a teacher with the program. "We take what they learned throughout the school year and enhance that."

The four-week curriculum included projects that required children to work independently and cooperatively to solve problems. Many of the projects were edible, including a Jello and pudding model of the four layers of the Earth.

Another project included deducing the amount of time to microwave a marshmallow so it was the perfect texture to adhere to other ingredients.

"I liked the food snacks that we made," said Patrick Harris, a student of the enrichment program. "They help us remember the layers of the Earth."

Another challenge the children faced dealt with structural integrity. The students were presented the problem of building a bridge that could bear weight, without collapsing.

"It was so cool to see how much they anticipated this project," said Muehrke. "They couldn't wait to see if their bridge would hold up."

The theme for this year's program was mysteries and magic.

Teachers incorporated these ideas to promote puzzle solving and to get children to look at solving problems in various and new ways.

“It expanded her imagination,” said Tiffany Wiczynski, a parent of a Summer Enrichment program student. “It is great that they get to believe in magical things.”

The enrichment didn’t stop when the children left the school, as they were supplied with a login to a Web site letting them explore math from a home computer. The site aims to motivate children into learning more about arithmetic.

It took motivation and cooperation to make the program run smoothly. During the regular school season, children get nine months to get to know their teachers and other classmates, but with the Summer Enrichment Program they only get four weeks. The kids really stepped up to the challenge, said Muehrke.

“Everything has worked out really well,” said Muehrke. “The whole program is absolutely fabulous.”

The course also covered social studies, where children compared ancient and modern times. They also improved their puzzle solving skills by studying codes and patterns.

One of the puzzles children didn’t solve during the summer was how a magician could make a girl levitate or how he could make it look like her middle third had been pulled out to the side.

While they may not have known how a magician could do such things, that didn’t stop them from volunteering to help out with other tricks.

The program culminated with an assembly featuring the magic of Bill Frost, a former Marine, who performed free of charge.

“It is a great program and my daughter really enjoyed it,” said Wiczynski. “I would recommend other parents get their kids involved (next year).”