Greetings from Wedgewood!

It’s hard to believe the Fall of 2014 is already here, but we are thrilled to share about our adventurous summer and what is in store for this school year at ESLAsC’s Wedgewood site. This summer involved a lot of new faces as we welcomed 18 new students as first-time participants and 2 new staff members during the month of June. The adjustment period to one another was smoother than anticipated, which made for fun field trips, interesting learning and some friendly competition during summer program.

Summer Program

This summer’s theme was fittingly “Survivor”, based around a curriculum that taught basic survival skills, character development, team building skills, and “survival through history” through a variety of literacy methods, discussion groups, video clips, group activities and games. Students participated in a “round robin”-type daily schedule involving hands-on topical learning, including applied math, reading through world culture exposure and culinary arts. Field trips helped reinforce some of these teachings as we were able to visit four Columbus’ beautiful Metro Parks, a city-wide Field Day put on by Children’s Hunger Alliance and the Columbus Zoo!

Community Outreach

Wedgewood once again welcomed OSU H.O.M.E.’s Dental Bus for a 9-day Community Outreach effort which connected families with complimentary dental services right at Wedgewood Village Apartments. The Dental Bus staff served over kids, providing teeth cleanings, extractions, crowns, toothbrushes/paste and stickers (among other things). Many families were thankful for this convenient aid for their children.
Back to School Event

On August 18, Wedgewood Afterschool hosted a parent event to welcome new and returning families and prepare them for the ’14-’15 school year. With 93% parent attendance, staff was thrilled at the turn-out and family engagement! Parents moved through the room at their own pace, visiting different “expectation stations” which gave them a better understanding of ESLAsC programming. The Buckeye Ranch and Columbus Public Health representatives of The Somali Women’s Program partnered with us and distributed information to moms and dads about their efforts to offer referrals for services, parenting classes, and general health seminars. At the end of the night, we were able to give parents a new backpack for each student filled with binders, books, pencils and a mirage other of necessary school supply items. The backpacks were donated by the Columbus Junior League. It was a very fun night with families!

Camp Culinary

We also had the privilege of hosting OSU’s “Camp Culinary”, which brought OSU and Columbus Public Health out to Wedgewood to show and tell students about healthy cooking, eating, and living. The 45 students in attendance were intrigued by the OSU chef’s cooking right before their eyes and enjoyed the energy-expending exercise routine led by a Columbus State personal trainer.

Fall Programming

As the school year is now in full swing, staff and students were both eager to start fall ESLAsC programming on September 15th. Staff have worked hard to brainstorm innovative ways of motivating life-long learners, and look forward to student input as we “recreate” a few things at Wedgewood. This year, we will meet all together as one group of 45 students, as opposed to two separate sessions. With 21 new students participating, we are excited for the new charisma, ideas, and energy that this year’s group will bring!

Upcoming Dates: Our upcoming events include an 8th grade-specific trip to celebrate the history of Halloween in October, a COSI trip in November and a Children’s Hunger Alliance sponsored Ice Skating event in December.

As always, we deeply value your continued support of programming and student growth! We could not do it without you!