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# CAMPERS' PARADE

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July 18, 2008

## Summer reading and writing camp turns out to be fun

We had a lot of fun in the morning. First, we learned about the origin of the English language. We discovered that it was made from many languages, which is why it is so large. To prove his point, Mr. Matthews wrote a sentence: "After eating a snack (Dutch) of sushi (Japanese), I wanted to take a siesta (Spanish), but the telephone (Greek) rang. It was some honcho (Japanese) from the corporation (Latin), telling me about a news bulletin (Italian) that the aqueduct (Latin) had collapsed."

Later, we wrote about ourselves. Doing this, we learned that we had to show our personality when writing, and that we had to tell the reader about our characters. We also discussed values and found out that the physical things weren't that important. We learned about other people's personalities and hobbies.

After a brief break, we described the room. From this, Mr. Matthews taught us to use as many senses as it made sense to use. This is because using more senses makes descriptions more vivid. We also learned that we should use action verbs more. Finally, we talked about why we had to learn how to write well. A reason for this would be to give ourselves an advantage over everyone else. ❖



Counselor Jane Snyder (center) works on an article with Wendy Zheng (left) and Casey Chen.

## Learning about prejudice

*Sometimes it is hidden behind smiles*

After lunch we watched an old movie called "Gentleman's Agreement."

A man named Philip Green was assigned to write a series of articles in the magazine about anti-Semitism. He pretended to be a Jew so that he could write about how they felt. He wasn't allowed to stay and eat at certain places.

He finally had enough when his son came home crying because these other kids called him bad names because he said that he was a Jew. His fiancée said to him that he was no more of a Jew than she was, and Mr. Green got really mad at her.

She told a Jewish man named Dave why Mr. Green was so mad at her. She told him how a man told a joke about Jews using bad words. He asked her what she did. She told him that she just sat there. Dave said she should have said something.

She learned that if you don't do anything, then you are allowing anti-Semitism to spread. She finally understood why her fiancé was mad at her. ❖

## THE CAMPERS

Casey Chen

Tiffanie Leeman

Mimi Huang

Nicholas Manning

Kathryn Jian

Joseph Pang

Shanan Leeman

Wendy Zheng

Hrisheek Radhakrishnan



Hrisheek Radhakrishnan (left), Joseph Pang and Nicholas Manning work on their writing project.

## A tough time for America

After a spectacular morning, we watched a movie called “The Grapes of Wrath.” It wasn’t about grapes, but about the Great Depression and about Okies who had to move around a lot to find work. At the time, Franklin Roosevelt was the president. He had set up camps for families who didn’t have a home. The camps had basic needs such as bathrooms and food. Everyone was going through a difficult time. Some people enjoyed the movie, while others thought it was boring.

After watching the movie, we started on the script for our movie, “The Monster in the Closet.” We can’t tell you much about it, but we can tell you that it’s about a “so-called” monster in the closet. To find out more, watch the actual movie! That’s all we have to say folks, so long! ❖



Counselor Katie Zheng (standing) works with campers on the fine points of writing skills.

## Spiders and ‘monsters’

After lunch we went downstairs with satisfied stomachs, but our minds were still hungry to learn. Mr. Matthews insisted that we play on the Wii. After a half-hour of fierce competition of tennis, bowling and baseball, we were ready to get back to business.

Everyone went to the classroom. Mr. Matthews started explaining about reading comprehension. Our class learned that the most powerful word is “but.” Mr. Matthews explained that “but” can change someone’s opinion. Our group learned about denotation and connotation. Denotation means a dictionary definition while connotation means an extra meaning.

We did a reading comprehension on poisonous spiders, from the black widow spider to the yellow sac spider. When we finished reading, we answered a variety of questions and we talked about our answers.

Next we shared ideas for our film. We came up with many ideas, but we narrowed it down to three. Then we made ideas for the finalists. We were all contributing ideas and having fun. There were constant giggles when someone contributed a silly idea. We were all having a great time. Soon we came up with a conclusion. We had chosen our number one idea. It is called “The Monster in the Closet,” coming to your VCR soon!! ❖

## Lights! Camera! Action!

We started out Wednesday afternoon writing our short scary stories for our movie called “The Monster in the Closet.” The stories ranged from experiments to skin covered with maggots.

Next, we discussed the monster’s costume. The monster was Katie and Jane, and they were wearing a big purple shirt and two masks provided by Mr. Matthews.

Then, we practiced our lines. There were constant giggles. All the practicing paid off because the results were amazing. The final product was awesome. There were bits of bloopers, but some weren’t caught on tape.

After we made the movie, we watched some of Jane’s previous movies. They were all fantastic! ❖

# What America is about

## *Learning about ideas and ideals*

This morning, we finished the script for our movie, "The Monster in the Closet." We worked as a group to finish it, and soon we were finished. In the beginning, we disagreed a little, but then at the end, everybody cooperated and the job got done.

Also, we learned about the difference between idea and ideal. Ideal means a goal you want to meet, but idea means a thought that you can work to.

We also completed a word-chop worksheet. It was very hard, but we learned some new words, such as premeditated and delinquent. Then we learned a lot of good knowledge about American civics.

Mr. Matthews talked about presidents, immigrants, war, slavery, rights, amendments, and more. He told us about Lincoln and his famous words, "Everybody would be touched by the better angels of our nature." If you were in another country, to be a citizen meant that you spoke that language and that you were from that ethnic group, but in America it's different. It means that you believe in the ideas and ideals of America, no matter what country you are from. America also is based on freedom and not what your background is or what ethnic group you're from.

However, America was not always this way. We had slavery and even after that ended; blacks were not treated as equals to whites. Some people like Martin Luther King Jr. stood up against the white people, and now we have a free America. ❖



Sisters Tiffanie (left) and Shanana Leeman clown around in between tough work sessions.

## We get creative

To start off the day, we watched our movie made by our very own class. The movie was interesting and fabulous, with special effects by Jane Productions.

Afterwards, Mr. Matthews talked about creative writing. We were assigned to write a creative story about the Great Depression. Some were from the poor people's point of view and some were from the rich people's angle. The stories were interesting with a lot of imagination.

Later, Mr. Matthews read us five interesting poems, two of which were his. The poems were a variety of styles. There are three kinds of poems, which are regular, free verse and blank verse. Next, we were given the opportunity to write our own poems. Poems look easy and fun, but they're really actually pretty difficult. We shared our poems and that was the end. ❖

## Supply and demand

We started the morning off with humorous songs sung by embarrassed students. At first nobody knew what to write for the song or what tune to use. The song matter ranged from cheese to princesses to chickens to big beautiful cookies. There was laughter all around as we sang.

After our snack, we learned about the economy. There are two different kinds of economy -- command and market. A command economy is when the government controls everything. A market economy is like America, when businesses get to do what they want without the government stepping in. We also learned about how supply and demand affect oil cost. Learning about economy was a fascinating and interesting process. ❖



Joseph Pang and Mimi Huang join Bailey, relaxing on the TV room sofa during an afternoon rest period.



Counselor Jane Snyder was the director and editor for a movie, "The Monster in the Closet," written and performed by all the campers.



Kathryn Jian gets absorbed in her Nintendo DS while the group takes a break from studying.



Lunchtime on the last day featured a dance contest. The team of Wendy Zheng and Jane Snyder (left) barely edged out the sister act of Shanana and Tiffanie Leeman.

## Time to get persuasive

*We learn how to write a serious essay*

We started the day by writing a persuasive essay. We were taught the three types of paragraphs in a persuasive essay: thesis, supporting information and conclusion.

Then Mr. Matthews showed us how to brainstorm by asking ourselves three simple questions: What the assignment was, what we have to ask ourselves to answer that question, and what motivations and processes are involved.

Next we started a reading comprehension on leap years. Julius Caesar was the first to put an extra day into a year, since he found it was difficult to add one-fourth of a day into each year. Unfortunately, there was a problem – Caesar was adding in too many days. We learned that you have to read details carefully to get correct information.

Finally, we did a hard word chop, but since everyone was shouting answers, we got it done quickly. ❖

**All of the articles in this newspaper were written by the campers, telling about what they did and learned each morning and afternoon.**