



# Pine Knolls Learning Center

*Where Children Come First*

107 Johnson St., Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Email: [pineknollcenter@aol.com](mailto:pineknollcenter@aol.com)

Web Page: [www.pineknollslearningcenter.org](http://www.pineknollslearningcenter.org)

919-240-5801 (Center) 919-933-0415 (Director)

Summer Camp 2009 – June 29, 2009 Report and Parent Letter

## **Can you believe we've already had two weeks of Summer Camp?**

On Monday, June 15, 2009 we registered 15 happy children who were eager to get started in their summer camp experience – “Our Privileges, Rights, and Responsibilities as Community Members & World Citizens.” Now we have upwards of 40 children in attendance, ranging in age from 4 – 14!

Camp Director **Veretta Jones** oversees the campers plus nine counselors provided and paid under the “Building for the Future Youth Program” administered by **JOCCA** (Joint Orange Chatham Community Action).

The children are divided into three teams by age and ability, creating schedules and daily routines. We **swim** at Hargraves Center every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 – 1:15 pm. We catch the bus to downtown then walk to the pool for refreshing swimming. We get dressed and walk back to the center for lunch, rest, and reading time. In week one enjoyed walks around the neighborhood and back. We utilized our playground and spent time at our picnic tables for story time and to share thoughts. Our children enjoyed basketball, swinging, sliding boards, and good old conversation.

We are interested in our reading times and activities to keep our minds sharp and focused. Our **Reading Club** has started with a bang. *Michael* reads with enthusiasm to *Christian*. *Christian* listens attentively and just smiles at the funny stories. *AJ* said to *Zayvion*, “ I didn’t know that reading was fun, I think I am going to learn how.” The older children have their chapter books and they sit quietly on the floor, on the benches smiling and reading or looking very interested in what they are doing. *Dr. Ted Parrish* came in one day and gave them clues to a story; they are still trying to figure it out. By week three we will have read the book and will be able to tell him the story and figure out the clues.

**Tuesday is the day that we invite speakers in.** Our teacher, *Ms. Wanda Parrish*, was our first speaker. She talked about how the program should be run in order for it to be successful. Week two our speaker was *Mr. Ted Parrish*,

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Joyce Head, Director

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which was also interesting, talking about structure and career building for our children and staff. Future speakers are 7/7: Fire Department; 7/14: Health Department; 7/21: Library. Feel free to suggest someone and make arrangements for their visit. Check the calendar with Joyce Head (933-0415).

**Thursdays is field trip day;** the first Thursday we took the bus to **Community Park**. There was so much to do: basketball, volleyball, swings, jungle gym, the gazebo at the end of the rose garden. The roses had just begun to bloom and they were many colors. We ate lunch under the shade tree at the picnic tables. After a rest period at the park we walked to University Mall to catch the bus to return to the center. The second week our Pine Knolls President *Ted Parrish* took our children on a **site-seeing trip to Raleigh** in a van provided by NCCU. Places of interest were the Space Museum, Aquarium, and Pullen Park. We ate lunch in the park. Future trips include 7/03: Kidzu Museum; 7/16: Visit Sen. Ellie Kinnaird at the State Assembly Building in Raleigh, 7/22 (a Wednesday): Chapel Hill Public Library.

We welcome your suggestions for field trips and speakers – including you – and would really appreciate you making the arrangements once you have checked with Joyce Head (933-0415) to ensure that the calendar is clear on a particular day.

We want to hear from you, what you would like to see happen this summer, if there are special academic needs we can help your child with, or if you have any concerns. Let us know how we are doing – the good and the bad.

## **So far we have had a great summer, but we really need your help!**

If we are to continue with camp, **we must have funds pay** our Pine Knolls Learning Center Staff. Although our nine counselors are paid thanks to JOCCA, our staff must oversee them. We also need money for gas for field trips and to buy supplies. **Ask Ms. Jones what supplies you can donate – especially basketballs, soccer balls, and other outdoor play equipment.** Additionally, we need parent volunteers to help with transportation, planning and storing items for a yard sale, and much, much more. Please see the second page for a list of areas where you can help – or suggest your own.

Please, please, please, we need every parent *who is able* to donate to help pay the expenses for your child(ren). A minimum \$10 per child, per week would be best, but **no child will be turned away for inability to pay.** We will provide you with a donation form at the end of the summer. If you are working during the time your child is in camp, you may be eligible for a tax credit also.

Blessings to you all! *Joyce*

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# Volunteer Interest Form (not just for parents – anyone can help!!)

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had dreams for America’s children. You as parents, loved ones, or community members can help the children of Pine Knolls Learning Center by offering your time and talents. EVERYONE has something to contribute. Below is a list to use as a starting point. Please, share your ideas on how you can help! Please check all that apply.

- Each parent is asked to contribute a minimum of \$10/child; more if you are able. No child will be turned away for financial reasons.

	Volunteer on a regular schedule (1 or 2 hour shifts are ok). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly with children</li> <li>• Supporting children (meals, clean-up)</li> </ul>
	Volunteer for special events as needed.
	Help coordinate volunteers (from home phone or at center)
	Help coordinate field trips (call potential speakers, sites, etc.)
	Solicit donations from community, churches, businesses.
	Help plan programming
	Please mention any special connections you may have that can facilitate program planning such as personally known elected or government officials, fire person, police officer, etc.
	Chaperone at the swimming pool.
	Transport to the swimming pool.
	Chaperone on field trips.
	Transport to field trips.
	Arts & Crafts
	Sewing
	Singing
	Musical Instrument
	Dancing
	Sports & free play in general
	Sports, Specific (please list) _____
	Specific Game (chess, checkers, etc.)
	Help develop community newsletter (with teens)
	Talk about your culture
	Share your special story (hardships, triumphs, family, etc.)
	Share your special skill(s) or interest(s) such as community service, clubs/advocacy groups (list):

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	Teach Computer Skills:
	• Keyboarding
	• Word
	• Excel
	• Publisher
	• Access
	• Powerpoint
	Tutoring (other suggestions welcome)
	• Reading
	• Math
	• Computer
	• Language
	Maintaining and Improving our Physical Facility
	• Cleaning
	• Painting
	• Electrical
	• Plumbing
	• Assist renovations – tearing out, rebuilding ____ Skilled ____ Unskilled but willing to work
	Have woodworking/renovation skills, no tools
	Have wood working/renovation skills & tools
	Have tools to lend
	Vehicle to help haul materials in and out
	Help with yard sale
	Store for yard sale donations
	Other – Tax deductible cash, food, or supplies donation. Other – Skills, ideas, etc. (the sky’s the limit!)
	Be a “What You Can Do” series speaker.

We want our children to explore, know, and understand their **Privileges, Rights, and Responsibilities as Community Members and World Citizens.**

We want them to celebrate our unity as human beings and respect the diversity of different cultures, religions, races, personal and political beliefs.

*Will you help us?*

\_\_\_\_ I don't have children at Pine Knolls, but want to help

Child(ren) Name(s):

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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