

Summer SEALS Day Camp 2010 Annual Report

December 11, 2010

With the completion of its fourth consecutive year, the 2010 Summer SEALS Day Camp continued to build upon the successes of the previous three summers, *enriching lives...* of 30 youth academically, socially/emotionally and behaviorally... *one summer at a time.*

Programmatically, the staff focused on improving campers’ core reading and mathematics skills while exposing them to a host of related activities to maintain a high level of engagement in learning over the summer. The program was divided into three, two-week integrated units. First – **Mystery**, next – **Sports** and finally – **Rainforest**. Campers received a book to keep for each section and wrote and solved math problems related to each unit. Field trips included Hershey Park, a Senators Baseball game, Zoo America, the Pool and the Selinsgrove Library. Additionally, the campers sponsored a free community car wash, and visited Mike & Kathi Flock’s pond in Kreamer (an annual highlight for the kids, Mike and John Bickhart). Since the camp now has “alumni,” former campers who completed 5th grade were invited back to “mentor” current campers and participate in various events. The figures below (i.e., Figures 1-4) illustrate quantitative data reflecting the effectiveness of the summer camp program in achieving its core academic goals:

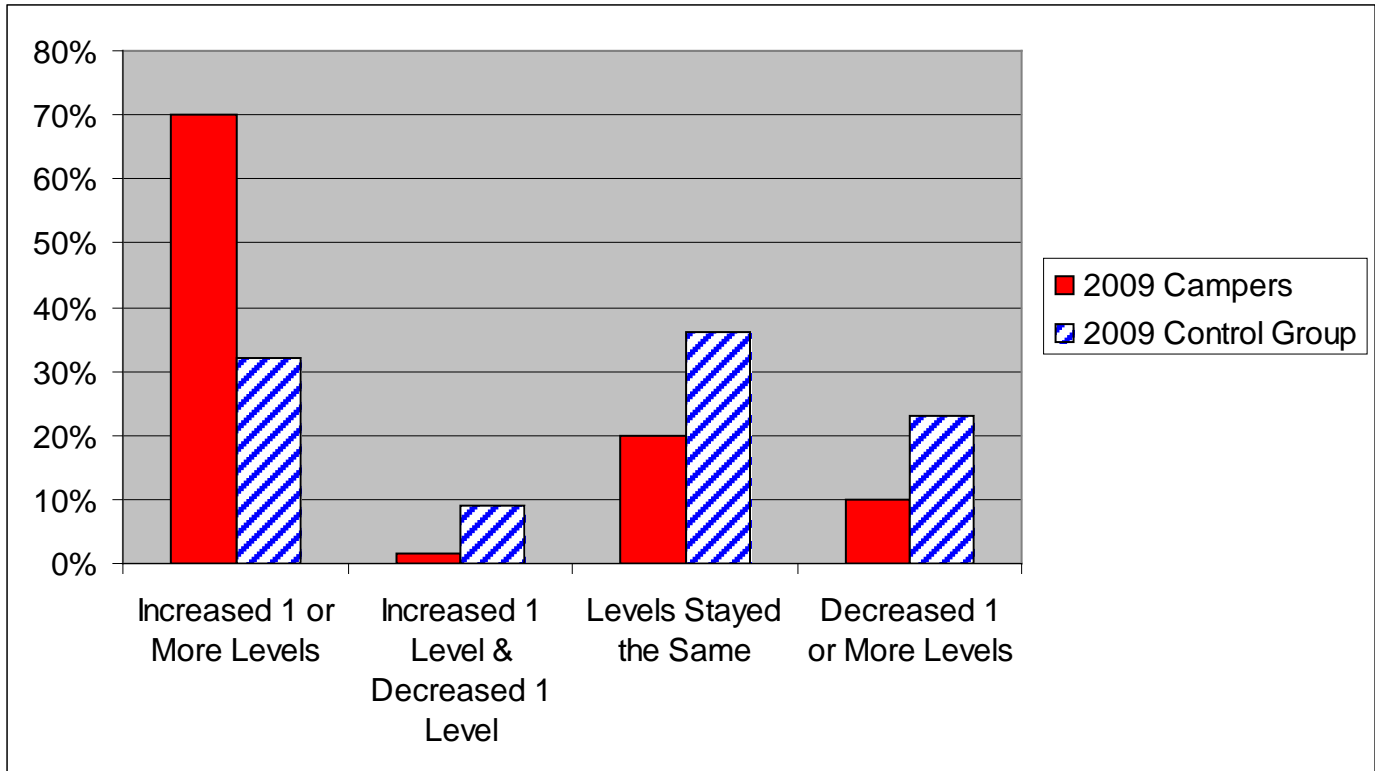


Figure 1. PSSA Performance for 2009 Summer Campers v. Non-camper Peers (i.e., controls; **N.B.:** PSSA Data for the 2010 campers will not be available until the spring of 2011, when their next administration of the PSSA occurs.)

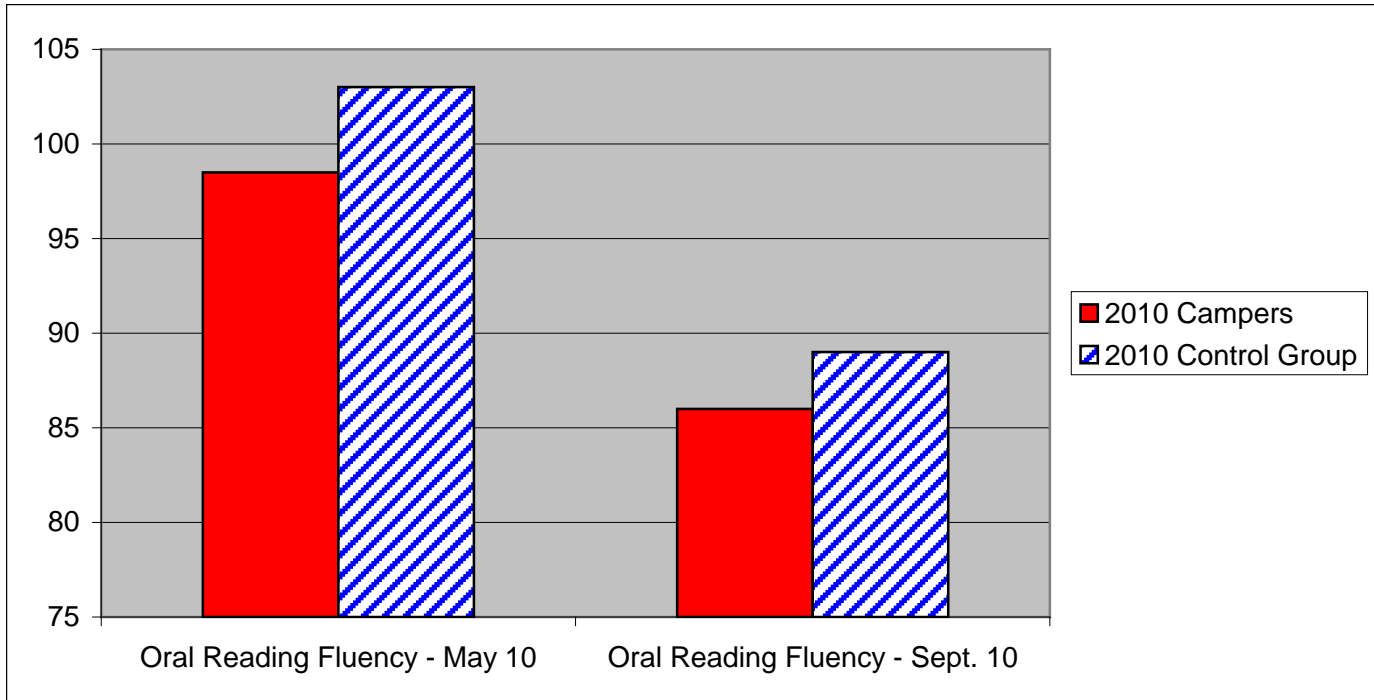


Figure 2. Oral Reading Fluency Assessment Data for 2010 Summer Campers v. Non-camper Peers (i.e., controls).

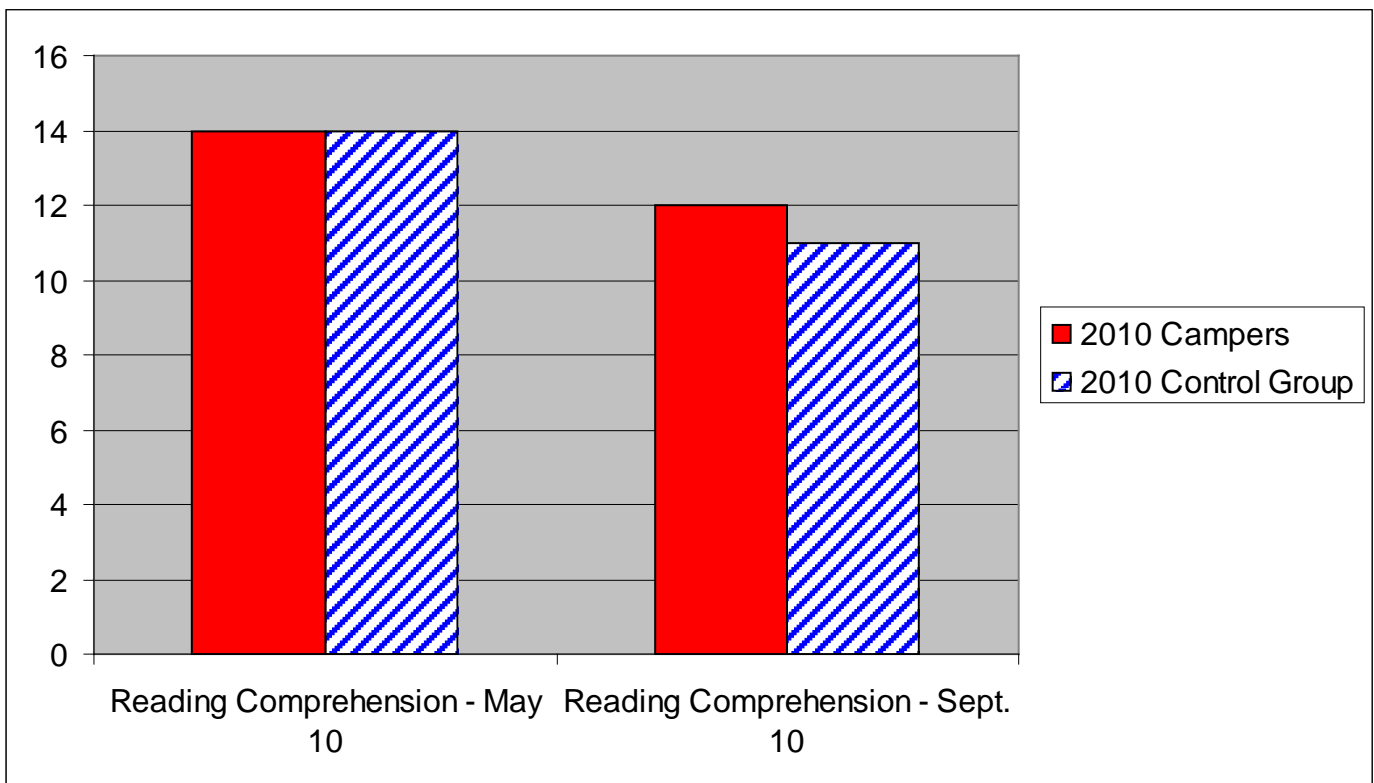


Figure 3. Reading Comprehension Assessment Data for 2010 Summer Campers v. Non-camper Peers (i.e., controls).

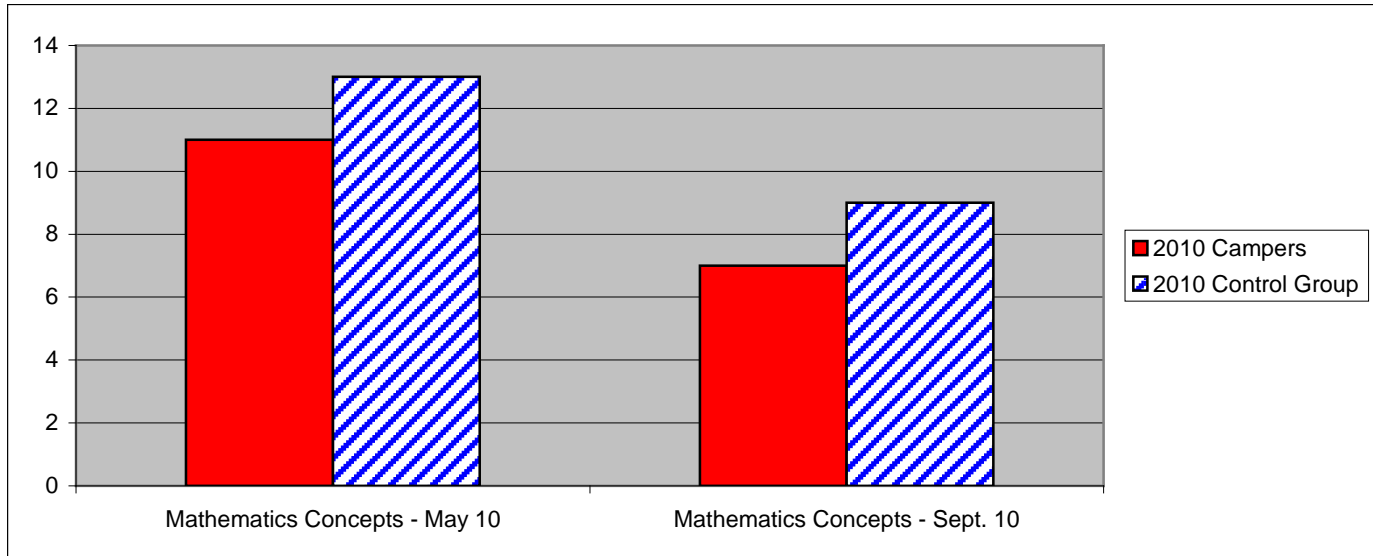


Figure 4. Mathematics Assessment Data for 2009 Summer Campers v. Non-camper Peers (i.e., controls).

At the November 3, 2010 Board Meeting, members reviewed the above data provided by Terry Heintzelman, Principal of the Intermediate School, which demonstrates outcomes for campers. As you see, some of these results are not as positive. As a Board, we are carefully considering what factors have contributed to these results so that we can correct those factors within our sphere of influence. It is noteworthy, however, that the qualitative data obtained by interviewing campers and guardians, completed by Holly Morgan, School Counselor, continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

Beyond these programmatic and academic accomplishments, the Summer SEALS Day Camp continues to develop fund raising efforts despite difficult economic times. The beautiful video about the program (available by clicking on the link at our website: www.summerseals.org), donated by Steve Patterson of Patterson-Brandt, Inc., continues to be helpful in these efforts. Approval from the state of Pennsylvania to receive business contributions through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program resulted in the program receiving very generous contributions from two local businessmen. The fundraising goal for '10-'11 is \$35,000 in order to finance the 2011 program. At the same time we look forward to beginning to build an endowment fund and have received a \$1000 gift in 2010 designated for that purpose by the donor. On Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 10 AM, under the leadership of one of our teachers, a 5 K Run is being held as a fund raiser for Camp.

The charitable contributions received from 01/10 to 11/10 totaled \$47,006.84. With expenses totaling \$33,430.88, this allowed us to rebuild our limited cash reserves. Our board is grateful for the prudent work of the summer camp director and staff in limiting expenses, making the program's continuation possible. Fund raising has grown to become a year round activity, and while we cherish the ongoing support we receive from established individual, business/corporate and foundation donors, we continually strive to expand our base of funding with new contributors. The data reported above demonstrate tangible positive results of our work as we seek to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by so many. As highlighted in our video, the Summer SEALS Day Camp's success continues to reflect the collaborative synergy of its partners and the broader community. Copies of our video are available for sharing with others in service of strengthening the community's support of the program. Please let us know if you would like a copy, and we will be happy to send it to you.

Report Compiled by:

Michael P. Hayes, Ph.D.
President, Summer SEALS Day Camp Board
&
Dorothy M. Anderson
Secretary, Summer SEALS Day Camp Board