

Summer SEALS Day Camp 2013 Annual Report

April 2, 2014

With the completion of its seventh consecutive year, the 2013 Summer SEALS Day Camp continued to build upon the successes of the previous summers, *enriching lives...* for 30 youth academically, socially/emotionally and behaviorally... *one summer at a time.*

Programmatically, the staff worked to improve campers' core reading and mathematics skills while exposing them to a host of related activities to maintain a high level of engagement in learning through out the summer. The three integrated units in 2013 were: first – **The Titanic**, second – **Ancient World of Egypt**, and third – **Dinosaurs**. Campers received a *Magic Treehouse* book to keep for each unit, and they wrote and solved math problems related to each. Field trips included: a visit to the Sphinx and Mummies Galleries at the University of Pennsylvania, Clyde Peeling's Reptile Land, and the Selinsgrove Pool. Additionally, the campers sponsored the free community car wash and collected clothing for the Mustard Seed. And of course, the campers visited Mike & Kathi Flock's pond in Kreamer where Mike and John Bickhart delighted them with a nature experience – an annual highlight. The end of camp celebration included campers giving presentations to parents on the various units. They all received diplomas and prizes to celebrate their many achievements.

The figures below (i.e., Figures 1 and 2) speak to the effectiveness of the summer camp program and its core academic goals in reading – oral reading fluency and reading comprehension skills. Mathematics comparisons, however, were not possible due to changes in the district's math assessments from spring 2013 to fall 2013.

The set of bars on the left of each graph represent assessments that were completed by the school district in May 2013, just before the end of the 2012-2013 school year. The middle bar of each graph represents assessments completed by the summer camp staff (with campers only) in August 2013 at the end of the summer program. The set of bars on the right of each graph represent assessments that were completed by the school district in September 2013. We acknowledge and offer a special thank you to Holly Morgan, Counselor at the Selinsgrove Area Intermediate School, for compiling this data.

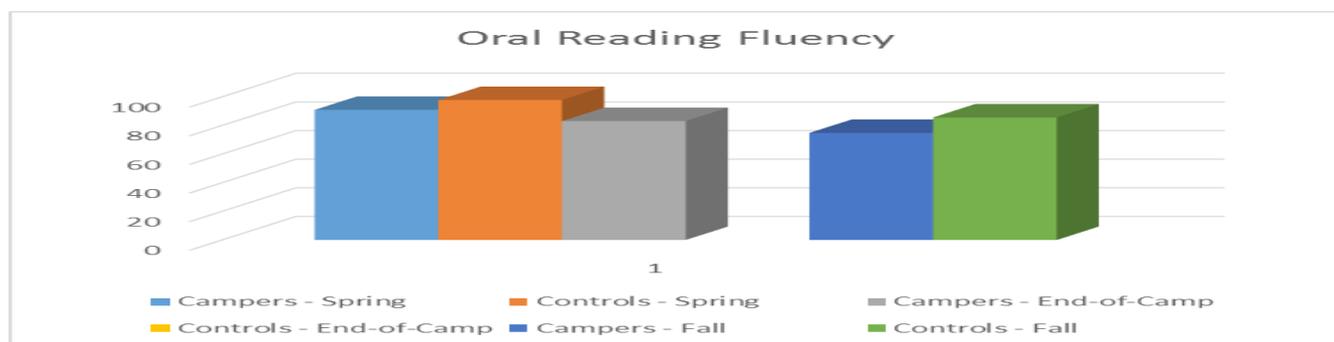


Figure 1. Reading Fluency Assessment Data for 2013 Summer Campers v. Non-camper Peers (i.e., controls)

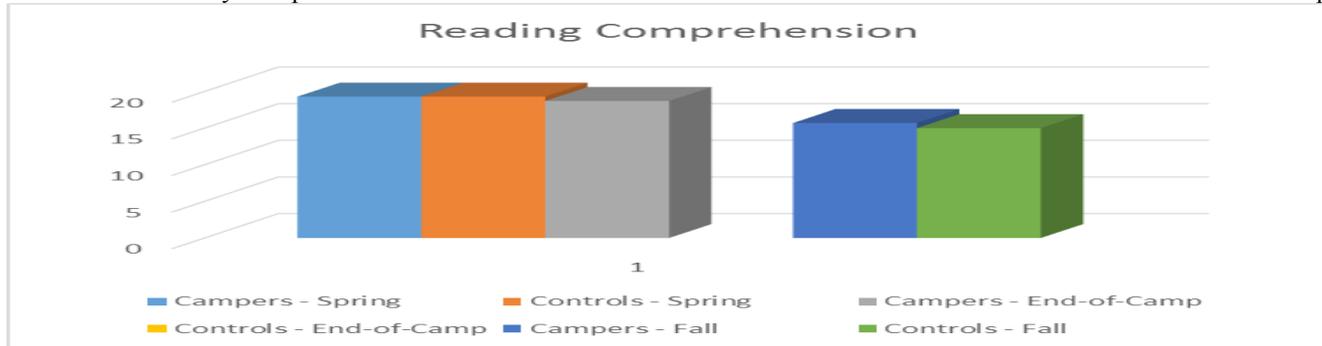


Figure 2. Reading Comprehension Assessment Data for 2013 Summer Campers v. Non-camper Peers (i.e., controls).

Concerns about the less than expected gains in campers' reading scores have led the Board to ask for assistance from Elaine Sautner, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, in the design of the academic portion of the program for 2014.

Beyond these programmatic and academic concerns, the Summer SEALS Day Camp strives to maintain its fundraising efforts and we continue to use the program video, produced by Patterson & Brandt, our web site and, new in 2013, a Facebook page. The web site links to our annual reports and EITC information, serving to inform others of who we are and what we aim to do. Of increasingly significant assistance to us, is continuing to be approved by the state for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program for the third grade portion of our program. The fundraising goal for 2014 is \$50,000 in order to finance the 2014 program while we also work to grow our endowment funds.

The charitable contributions received from 01/13 to 12/13 totaled \$75,439. This includes EITC contributions from M&T Bank (\$20,000 – our largest ever corporate donation), Weis Markets (\$10,000 – second largest ever corporate donation), Mifflinburg Bank & Trust, Northumberland National Bank, Susquehanna Bank, and Swineford National Bank, as well as proceeds from the 5K and, of special note, monies raised by one of our first campers, Kayleen Long, who has selected Summer SEALS as her senior project. With expenses totaling \$35,132 we were able to continue to build our cash reserves. Having raised more than \$50,000 in 2013, the Board continued to engage the services of accounting firm, Herring, Roll & Solomon, P.C., to complete a compiled report. We are grateful for the prudent work of the summer camp director, Lauren Hoover, and the teaching staff for holding the line on expenses while providing an excellent growth opportunity for all of the campers.

We cherish the ongoing support we receive from established individual, business/corporate and foundation donors. We also hope to expand our base of loyal donors each year with new contributors. We are committed to remaining good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by so many. The Summer SEALS Day Camp's success continues to reflect the collaborative synergy of its partners and the broader community.

Report Compiled by:

Michael P. Hayes, Ph.D. & Dorothy M. Anderson

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