

WHAT'S GOING ON ON THE



June 21st to June 24th
2010

During the second week on the Block students reviewed the Block Code of Conduct: RESPECT, REWARD, RESPONSIBILITY, REMOVAL—the group discussed each word's meaning and the consequences for not upholding the Block Code of Conduct. RESPECT was highly stressed, and we did an activity acting out scenarios of situations where respect is key. The group also went over the consequences of violating RESPECT to the point of removal. Due to some incidents during the second week on the Block with relation to

Respect and language, the Block Staff decided to implement a three-strike system. If three strikes are given to a student about a particular aspect of their behavior, then an incident report will be filled out and filed in the individual's folder, and a parent will be notified. If the behavior persists, a student may be removed from the program. During the second week students also learned about the BP Oil spill and its effects on the people who inhabit the Gulf region of the United States.

CIRCLE TIME (8:30am to 9am) (4pm to 4:30pm)

Circle time is done in the morning and is utilized as a warm-up, often the Director will go through acting warm-up exercises just to get the students' energy flowing. Also, the time is used to

discuss any announcements or to go over any loose ends from the day before. Finally, it is a space for students to raise concerns or to discuss aspects of the program they like or dislike, or to simply share with the group.

ACTING 2 Sections (Morning 9–12)

During this week of acting, which is taught in two hour and a half sections, students were introduced to the basic play outline, and acted out improv scenes based on characters from the play. Also, they learned more advanced stage directions, and practiced their improv scenes while being directed using those stage directions. This allowed the students to become comfortable with the subject matter of the play, the Director, and with their acting.

WRITING 2 Sections (Morning 9–12)

(Afternoon 2-4)

Writing is also taught in two hour and a half sections, but is separated into two simultaneous classes in order to decrease class size and ratio of instructor to student to help them nurture and cultivate their craft. This week in writing, the basic play outline, or “skeleton” in which the students can build on, of the play was handed out as well as a character list. They wrote dialogue based on the received material and acted out the scenes they wrote for different characters. They also wrote reaction poems from the point of view of the characters to certain situations, and reaction poems to the oil spill.

DANCE Sections 1,2,3 (Afternoon 1-3)

During last week dance students continued to develop their

abilities in Classics, Modern, and Hip-Hop dance.

Students also began working on dance sequences for the show, while applying their new skills.

VOICE**(Afternoon 1-2)**

Students continued to learn basic singing skills in order to strengthen their voices and build confidence.

They were introduced to more challenging pieces of music to build skills. Also they continued to practice several songs in rounds in order to apply their skills of singing in tune as well as singing as a chorus.

ART**(Afternoon 1-2; 3-4)**

This week in art students drew reactions to the BP oil spill. Also students began working on/ designing new Writer’s Block logos and were asked to use what Writer’s

Block meant to them as inspiration.

Last week provided some challenges as students became more adjusted to the program and challenged by the work given to them.

Also, as it was stated in a letter home, a small incident occurred last Thursday July 1st, between a few Block students and kids not affiliated with the program. Some strong language was used in front of the Block children on the part of the mother of the unaffiliated children. However, we are proud of how our students handled the situation, for they did so in a mature and appropriate manner by being controlled and cautious and by using appropriate language.

REMINDERS:

+ This Friday is a voluntary Field Trip to the Standing Stones Farm. Parent

chaperones and volunteers for transportation are welcomed and encouraged!

+Open Mic is this Thursday from 7-9pm at the Block.

There is a \$5 entrance fee, and is open to the public!

+SailFest is this Saturday and the Block is performing at 3pm at the Hygienic Art Park.

Please note: The Block will not be providing transportation.

+ AUDITIONS will be held this Thursday, and students will be asked to write their own audition pieces and are encouraged to work on them at home if need be.

Best,

The Block Staff

Please feel free to call the **Block** at 860-442-5625

