

From the Prez

The Wunder Academy of Metamorphosis

This past week 15 kids, ages 5-14, and a multitude of adult volunteers (no ages given!), explored the magic of wonder and curiosity; together we celebrated the magic of play, cooperation, fun, respect and kindness. And what an amazing week it was!



Merriam-Webster defines *metamorphosis* as: (1) a striking alteration in appearance, character, or circumstances; (2) a change of physical form, structure, or substance especially by supernatural means. Yes, we even experienced the supernatural! Under the light of the moon, when no one was around, little sticks magically metamorphosized into tall sticks, and a tiny 1" frog transformed into a bigger frog of about 6" high and wide. Magic!

Through the week we morphed the ordinary into the extraordinary: white t-shirts with a playful frog logo were transformed into an array of colors through the magic of tie-dye. Interesting shells, feathers, and leaves were transformed into magnificent prints through the magic of the sun (solar print making). Old spoons turned into mobiles and wind chimes; yarn turned into crocheted creatures; 3 paper plates, 4 paper cups, 4 coffee stirrers, some masking tape and 1 sheet of flip chart paper (each for two teams) turned into 5 foot free-standing towers withstanding the light outdoors breeze. Jinxie Goo (Rev Denis) showed kids how the combination of yeast, flour and water (a bit of honey) metamorphosizes into magic goo, which transforms into dough, which then changes again into focaccia that he grilled for lunch. And so very much more!



Other activities captured the curiosity and wonder of the natural world – exploring the stream bordering the lower parking lot and using nets to capture water creatures that the kids then examined under microscopes. And learning about optical illusions – the magic of when our eyes send information to our brains that tricks us into perceiving something that doesn't match reality.

Comments from a few of the kids: "There were lots of mysteries and clues that made it fun." "I learned about the different moons and water bugs." "It was a nice way to spend 6 hours a day." "I liked that it wasn't too strict. There were recommendations of fun stuff, but no one made us do anything." "It was very good. I would do it again!"



In my mind, the biggest metamorphosis of all was turning nothing into a week-long summer program! Kudos and gratitude to Lee for her tireless work making something amazing from nothing more than an idea. Of course, it also took a village! Thank you to the huge number of volunteers that began meeting months ago, bringing creative ideas, turning those ideas into a schedule, who purchased and donated supplies, provided daily snacks, planned and led activities, drove kids to Larkins Pond, played yard games.... You know who you are! Thank you,

also, to Kenneth and Jenny Rebecca for staffing the program. I am always amazed by the generosity, the enthusiasm, and, simply, the magic of this community.

If this piques your curiosity, please join us next summer for the second annual *Wunder Academy of Metamorphosis*!

In gratitude,
Silver dragon alchemist, Kiama
(aka Nancy)