

Education Program Newsletter



Artwork from the Valli Kee Summer Program

Summer Success

This summer, students explored literacy, SEL, technology and robotics, engineering, science, and art through hands-on projects such as balloon cars, slime-making, watercolor painting, and canvas art.

These activities helped students practice problem solving, measuring, stability, persistence, and creative thinking while working toward a goal. Science projects showed them how combining materials can create new results and uses, while art gave students a space to express ideas and creativity they may

not always have the opportunity to share. We were excited to discover so many creative minds, unique ideas, and hidden talents among our students.



[Crafts and word search activity at K-3 summer program at Valli Kee Community Center]

Valli Kee Summer Program

We held a four-week summer program at Valli Kee Community Center. The children engaged in STEM, reading, and SEL learning.



[Art and reading activity at K-3 summer program at Birch Creek Summer Program]

Birch Creek Summer Program

CRB supported the Birch Creek Summer Program, Summer Splash, through July and August. The program focused on literacy, specifically phonics and reading comprehension.

Growing Through Leadership & Mentorship

We were proud to give older students the opportunity to volunteer and mentor younger students. By learning projects first, they built confidence before helping others.

This experience encouraged responsibility, leadership, and confidence, while helping students see the value of sharing their knowledge and supporting others.

Student Voice & Choice

Student voice and choice were central to our summer program. Students had opportunities to choose between activities, lead parts of projects, present their ideas to the class, explain their thinking, and respond to questions from their peers. These opportunities helped students take ownership of their learning and feel that their ideas and creativity were heard and valued.

Student Feedback

One of the most meaningful parts of the summer was hearing directly from our students. They shared their appreciation both verbally and through thoughtful letters to their teachers, with many expressing how much they enjoyed the program and hoping to see it return during the school year.

Their words reminded us how important it is to create spaces where students feel connected, supported, valued, and excited to learn.

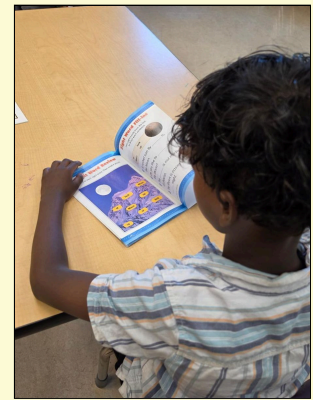
Summer in Action *Photos from our programs*



[Student at the Valli Kee Summer Program showing her pinwheels]



[Student at the Valli Kee Summer Program making jellybean structures]



[Student at Birch Creek Community Center during a quiet reading session]



[Student at the Valli Kee Summer Program showing her acrylic painting]



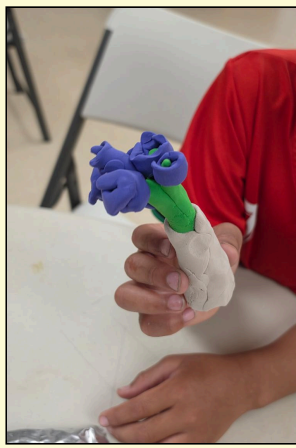
[Student at the Valli Kee Summer Program working on making a fan from wood and batteries]



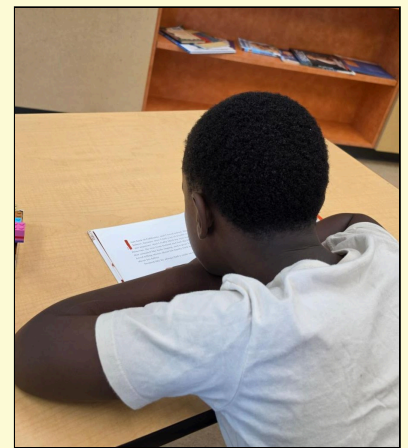
[Student at the Valli Kee Summer Program showing her watercolor paintings]



[Student at the Valli Kee Summer Program showing her watercolor painting]



[Student at the Valli Kee Summer Program showing his clay flowers]



[Student at the Birch Creek Community Center during a quiet reading session]



[Students at the Valli Kee Summer Program visited by the HERO Van for socio-emotional lessons and outdoor play]



[Students putting together robot kits at the Valli Kee Summer Program]



[Students at the Valli Kee Summer Program working on clay art]



[A student reading at Birch Creek Community Center]

Looking Ahead: School-Year Plans

CRB will continue providing free after-school programming at Birch Creek and Valli Kee, supporting families and communities that benefit from additional opportunities beyond school.

This school year, we'll build on our summer work through literacy, vocabulary, STEAM, SEL, creativity, teamwork, leadership, and student voice and choice.

More updates are on the way—stay tuned!

To volunteer in our classrooms, click this link: [Volunteer](#)

Thank you!

We are grateful to our students, families, and Valli Kee and Birch Creek staff for helping make this summer such a meaningful experience. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and participation made these two months truly special.

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