



New Operation Cooper Street, Inc.

A 21st Century Community Learning Center



FALL EDITION

GLOBAL LITERACY



Around the World in Seven Days was the theme for our summer camp. With passport in hand, our campers learned about the cultures of many countries in the seven continents. They tasted foods, learned several cultural songs, dances, and also made crafts and costumes. They also researched customs and traditions of people from these countries.

The teen campers/counselors went online and made pen pals with teens in other countries. They also had open discussions and debates about concerns they have with everyday life.

The campers also managed to get in some swimming and other fun activities like visiting Myakka State Park, Sun Splash Water Park and they ended the four week camp with a picnic at Siesta Key.



The Telephone Pioneers donated back packs to our back-to-school give-a-way.

COOPER STREET TIDBITS

Our Annual Fundraiser was held in February and was a great success. It was the stepping stone for contributions to our expansion project.

As you know, we are feverously working with the City of Punta Gorda to add on more space to accommodate the growing number of students waiting to come to our center. We are making progress.

We are hoping to break ground on the addition by the end of September or early October. We have already added a number of new students to the program and have quite a few on the waiting list.

National Night Out

On August 8th, NOCS hosted the 25th Annual National Night Out and it was a huge success. Neighborhood kids were able to get school supplies, mingle with their neighbors and enjoy a fun evening.

The Punta Gorda Police Department was the coordinating agency responsible for this function and they did a great job in putting this event together.

Food Pantry & Kids Cafe

For the past four months we have been servicing families with food supplies through our Food Pantry in collaboration with The Harry Chapin Food Bank. At least fifty families benefit from this on a monthly basis.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays the students are fed a hot meal which is provided to us. The meals are prepared at Charlotte Regional Hospital with the aid of Harry Chapin Food Bank. On other days, they are given snacks

GED Program

This program is going full steam ahead. We have quite a few adults being tutored on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

Ms. Linda's Corner

Our purpose is to assist grades 4-5 and 8-12 with homework and various school projects. Each day, after the completion of homework, the 4 & 5th grade students read a minimum of five pages, the 8-12 read a minimum of 8 pages. We have found this to be a great aid in reinforcing the children's comprehension skills. The top ten readers in each group are rewarded every two months for their efforts in reading additional pages.

The students have access to a computer for school assignments. On a weekly basis, the students gain practice in writing by describing what they read, saw or did in their journals. A dictionary workshop aids in vocabulary enrichment and research skills.

The students are given diagnostic worksheets every quarter to assess their progress and evaluate areas in which they may need extra help.

Each Friday, the 6-12 graders have a "Teen Chat" workshop that provides lively discussions on a variety of topics of interest that they choose.

Our aim is to provide an atmosphere that allows for fun while learning.

Ms. Marie's Classroom

In my classroom, I work with 2nd & 3rd and 6th & 7th graders. The 2nd and 3rd graders come in around 2:15 pm and they all follow the same procedure. They sign in, get out their folders, and begin working on their homework. Several volunteers are also in the room to help them.

There are approximately 33 students in the 2nd & 3rd grade group and 25 in 6th & 7th grade. Once homework is completed, it is reading time and time for those who have special projects to do for school.

Each month, the names of the students who read the most pages are recognized for their efforts.

The students also earn points for following the rules, reading, good report cards and other classroom activities which are turned into fun money for the Treasure Sale which is held in December.

We also plan Field Trips for the students throughout the school year.

Rugrats Room

During the first days of school Ms. Barbara and Ms. Theresa surprised us when they used the Sponge Bob theme for our name wall. We do our homework and read every day. All Kindergarteners read to Ms. Celia.

Ms. Forte helped us with our first Arts and Crafts project of the year. We each made and decorated our own customized sun visor.

Under Ms. Celia's direction we are going to practice and perform a play from a book we all enjoy. Soon we will begin to design and make our own Halloween masks and Jack 'O' Lanterns.

Ms. Barbara, Ms. Theresa and Ms. Celia have told us that they are planning exciting projects for us for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Kwanza celebrations.

As you can see, we will have a busy year.

Recreation & Computers

This is where the kids spend their free time. After homework is finished, the students go downstairs to the recreation room where they can play Foosball, Pool, Basketball Hoops or Board games.

There is also the computer room where the students are allowed to access certain sites for homework or recreational activities.

On Mondays we have a Tennis Coach who works with those who are interested in learning the game. Basketball, Flag Football and Martial Arts are also extra-curricular activities available to those who want to participate.

The Boys Club and Better U Girls are currently working on fundraisers for their groups and it has turned into a fun competitive activity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

Teens "N" Action Car Wash
Better U Girls Field Trip
Boys Club Field Trip
Better U Girls Bake Sale

December

Better U Girls Car Wash
Christmas Party
Volunteer Appreciation Event