

SUMMER TUTORING

A small group of students worked through the summer with their tutors, Monday and Thursday afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and Monday evenings.

In June, an 11-year old boy couldn't speak English. By mid-July he was speaking English clearly.

His tutor/mentor talked with him about gangs. His friends talked about gangs, but he didn't want to. He asked his mentor, "Will you be my friend?" Another time he asked her, "Do you do God?"

A 10-year old boy rarely smiled. He looked like he had the world on his shoulders. During the summer as we worked on reading and vocabulary the boy was excited about learning new words. "See my list of new words!" he told one of the other tutors.

Another 10-year old boy hardly smiled two years ago. Now he is smiling all the time, always full of joy.

A first grade girl (seven-years old) loves science and loves to read about the planets.

Another 7-year old girl could hardly read. She worked and worked. She took three Spanish books home. When she brought them back, her brother said, "She read those books! She read a lot!"

SUMMER TRIP TO THE TERRA MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Several students along with Rosetta Pillow and Beth Palmer took the bus downtown to the Terra Museum of American Art one morning where tutor Stefanie Shanebrook works. Stefanie led the students in discussing many of the paintings. She also gave the students a sketch-pad and had them draw several of the art works. As the students looked at and talked about painting after painting, they began to see more and more things about the paintings. Their eyes were opened. The shy students began to share their thoughts. They all began to draw. It was a tremendously worthwhile trip. Afterwards, we went to the plaza by the Water Tower and had a sandwich and juice. Everyone had a good time.

SUMMER TRIPS TO THE AQUARIUM

In July we got a pass to the Shedd Aquarium from the library. The pass was good for a week, so on Tues., Weds., Thurs., and Fri., we took four groups of children to the Aquarium. Altogether fifteen children, a parent, and a tutor were able to go. Upon recognizing the group toward the end of the week, a staff member of the aquarium said, "That's what the pass is meant for. Good for you!"

The children loved the aquarium. They noticed everything. They were excited about everything. They "ooh-ed" and "aah-ed" at all the fish in the Caribbean reef. The fish zoomed by them close to the glass and they jumped back in excitement. They especially liked the hammerhead sharks and the giant sea turtle. They saw poisonous frogs and large stingrays. They saw the beluga whales and the dolphin show. The children said, "We had a great day. The aquarium was a lot of fun."

They loved taking the train to get to the aquarium. Some of them had never been on a train before. It was scary in the subway tunnel!

Children's reports on the trip to the aquarium are on the website www.geocities.com/InspiredYouthChicago under Student Work, July 2004.

NEWS OF STUDENTS

Gustavo (now 4th grade) was in the summer tutoring program. At the end of the summer his mother asked Beth Palmer in Spanish if there would be room for Gustavo in the program in the fall. She said there would be. The Gustavo's mother begged Ms. Palmer, "Please find a tutor for my son. Can you find a tutor for him?" Ms. Palmer said, "Your son can be in the program. He will have a tutor." Gustavo's mother pleaded with her a third time, "Will there be a tutor for Gustavo in the fall?" Ms. Palmer said, "Yes there will be."

Fermin (5th grade) asked Beth Palmer at the end of the summer, "Are we going to have tutoring on Halloween and Christmas?" She looked at a calendar and noticed that Halloween was on Sunday. She asked, "Why do you ask?" Fermin said, "Because I like tutoring and I want it to be every day."