



A's & Aces - Summer 2010 Newsletter

A's & Aces Reading and Tennis Summer Camps

June Camp at Dillard University

Thirty-seven children, predominately rising third and fourth grade students, participated in the A's & Aces Tennis and Reading Camp at Dillard University for four weeks in June. Our staff of three tennis instructors from nationally ranked college teams were supported by two Jesuit High School service learners and worked with half of the campers individually and in small groups on the courts while the other campers and staff read in the classrooms. Campers rotated between tennis and reading sessions once in the morning and again after lunch.



QuickStart Tennis at Dillard



Forehands and Fun

Initial reading evaluations were conducted by a Dillard professor of children's literacy, and the A's & Aces staff of Dillard education majors were led by current Ben Franklin HS teacher, Brendan Gonzalez. The program used a wide selection of multi-leveled books for individual reading. Children read one-to-one with teachers, aloud in small groups and silently together in the large reading room. Students completed story worksheets and kept journals as part of a "writing to read" approach and stickers were earned to redeem for prizes and books.



Professional Evaluations



Group Read-Aloud

Our “Word-of-the-Day” program focused on the vocabulary and concepts of sportsmanship, and examples from the life of Arthur Ashe promoted this theme. Using this background, campers were able to participate in the USTA’s National Junior Tennis and Learning Arthur Ashe Essay Contest.



Children’s advocate, Babs Johnson, and Xavier tennis coach, Alan Green, celebrate Summer Learning Day by reading from Arthur Ashe’s autobiography, *Days of Grace*.

July Camp at Edward Hynes Charter School

In partnership with Edward Hynes Charter, a tennis and learning camp was held for three weeks in July to help 24 students who needed help to “jump start” their third or fourth grade year. Four members of the Hynes faculty worked in the mornings to improve math and literacy skills and the children enjoyed QuickStart Tennis in the school gym for two hours each afternoon with coaches David Schumacher and Mikhail Vaval.



Groups of Edward Hynes Campers with Coach Mikhail Vaval

Special Recognition

We are very appreciate of all supporters and partners and would like to specially thank the 2010 Unified Summer Grant Collaborative and the **United Way for the GNO Area in partnership with Capital One Bank** for providing dedicated funding, and **Dillard University** for providing in-kind and logistical support, all of which was essential to the A’s & Aces Reading and Tennis Summer Camp.