

# Wings Summer Explodes!

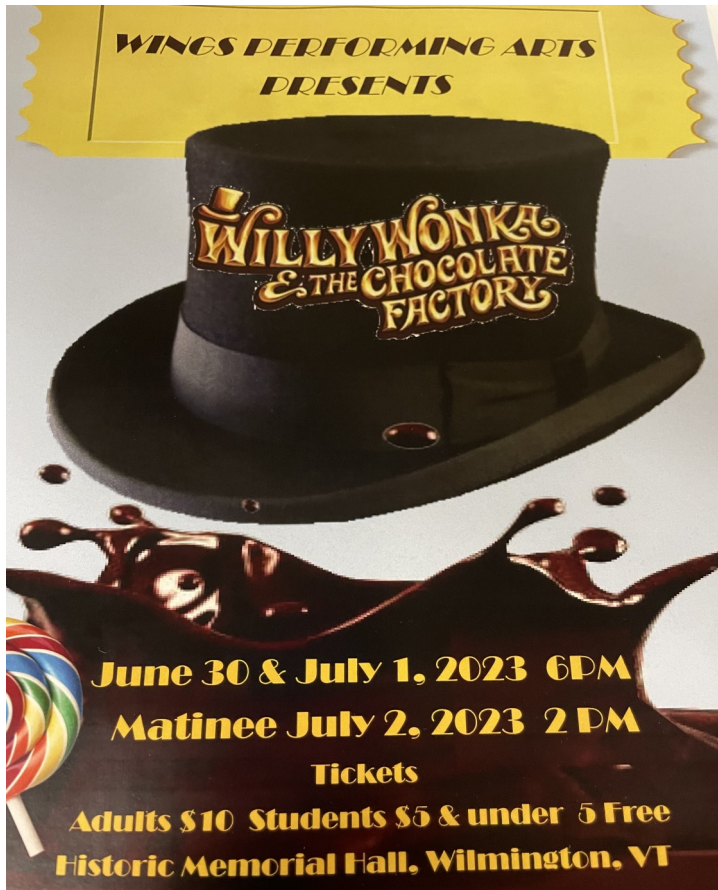
## Wings Vision Statement

Wings will actively engage students in experiences to help them be successful in school and life as they grow into productive adults.



# **Summer began with Performing Arts Camp**

June 17, 2023-July 2, 2023



Auditions for the musical Willy Wonka, began in early April. The cast of 51 quickly began weekly rehearsals in early May at local schools and OSEC (Old High School).

The day after school dismissed for summer, PA campers returned to Historic Memorial Hall and began 7 hours a day of dance, vocal instruction, circus arts, theater games and acting rehearsals in our 12th annual Wings Performing Arts Camp.

Kindergarten thru 12th grade actors WOWed a packed house in this fan- favorite musical

Performing on June 30, July 1 & July 2.





June 13, 2023– August 15,

Our middle and high school students hit the golf course this summer with free golf lessons offered by coaches John Keegan, Max Cramp, and former Twin Valley High School student, Thomas Marchionna. A HUGE thank you to John Keegan for coordinating the program and Mount Snow Golf Club for providing the space and equipment for our young golfers! The program was a smashing success with 17 middle and high school students playing golf every Tuesday evening (weather permitting) from 4:15-6pm. Our young golfers had the opportunity to experience golfing on the Mount Snow Golf Course and driving the ball at the driving range, while learning important golf techniques and, of course, etiquette!

Wings looks forward to continued collaborations with Mount Snow Golf Club to offer future golf programs.

## **Summer Shenanigans**





# Library Camp

Whitingham Free Public Library collaborates with Wings!

June 19, 2023– June 30, 2023



Whitingham Free Public Library  
**SUMMER CAMP**



June 19-23 10 am - 2pm Grades k-2

magic show, wildlife tales, stream exploration, nature crafts,  
make your own stuffed animal, and more!

June 26-30 10 am - 2pm Grades 3-5

magic workshop, painting class, nature skills, treasure hunts,  
storytellers, and more!

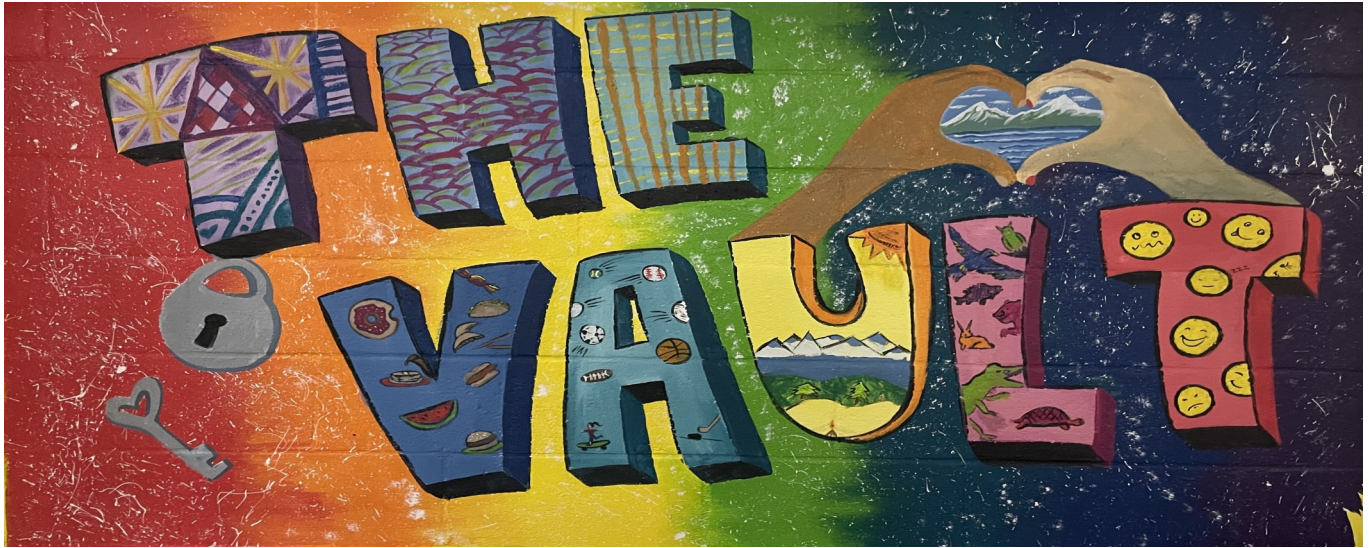
Camp includes free lunch & snacks through the FDA Summer Food Program.

Each day we will play games, make crafts, and enjoy hands on museum  
workshops, guest artist, and award winning storytellers.

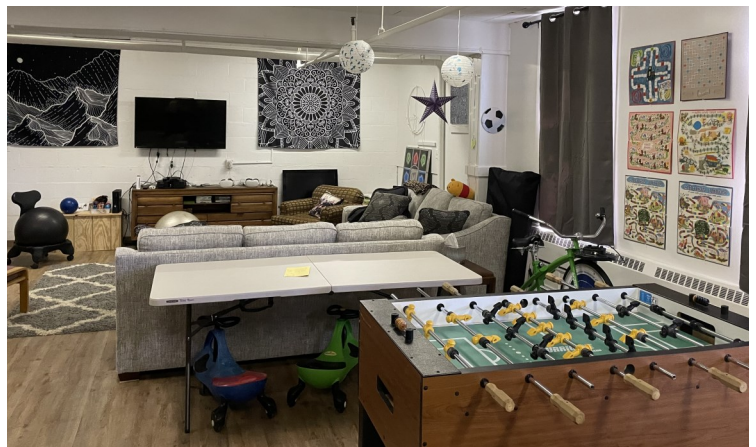
Join the fun at the library!







The Vault is a safe space for high school students to socialize, challenge friends, old and new, to ping pong, basketball shoot offs, or Mario Kart. Engaged, friendly trusted adults supervise the space that is completely student invented and driven. Students can come for a few minutes or for hours, twice a week at the Old High School Community Center in Wilmington. This space was created during the school year and continued throughout the summer. A closet of donated good-as-new clothing and personal hygiene items are available at the Vault for all and have been a popular stop for youth summer shoppers.

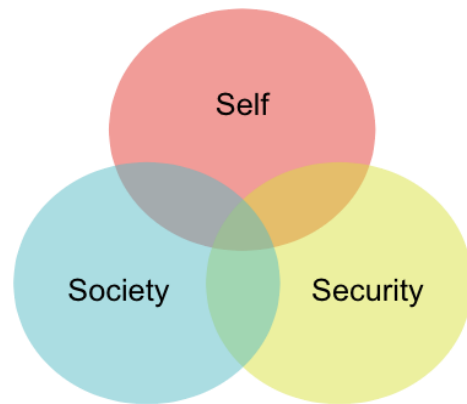


# Possible Futures Camp

## Possible Futures Camp

July 3, 2023– July 14, 2023

### Lenses on the Future



Possible Futures was a pilot program that Wings was honored to be chosen to offer in our summer lineup for middle school students. The objective of this program, designed by VT After-school in collaboration with UVM, encouraged students to look to their futures. Possible Futures provided career foundations to encourage campers to be future-ready thinkers and young professionals. This program challenged students to explore career options. Students developed an understanding of their personal identities by reflecting on their interests, traits and skills and how these relate to a large variety of career options.

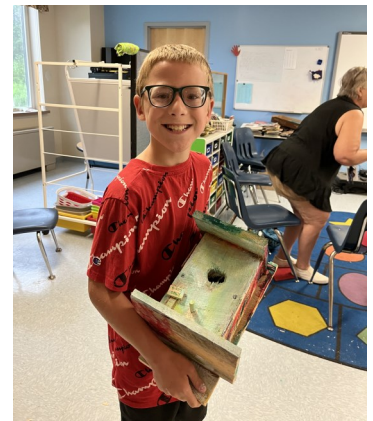
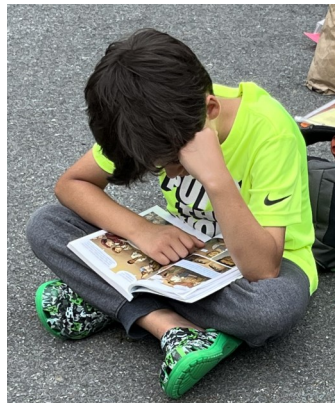


# **Celebrate Summer Camp**

**July 10, 2023-July 28, 2023**

**156 campers celebrated for 3 weeks in July at TVES. Campers were served free breakfast and lunch, met some interesting new animal friends, explored the river and woods behind school and were read to every day. Each week campers took home books for their home libraries, and turned into Mad Scientists experimenting on ooey gooey substances. Bugs, rodents and birds flocked to the pages of campers nature books. Young woodworkers crafted beautiful wooden birdhouses and Jr Explorers spent time in the woods learning survival skills and hammock and tent creations.**

**Our final week culminated with an amazing rendition of Stone Soup complete with student created costumes and sets. Local heroes returned to camp in our 3rd annual Touch A Truck event. Wilmington Police, Wilmington Fire, Deerfield Valley Rescue, Green Mountain Power, Towns of Wilmington and Dover highway, Vermont State Highway and a surprise visit from Chuck Fournier thrilled campers with full access to their big rigs as they circled the school and answered all of the campers excited questions!**





# Outdoors Adventure Camp

July 10, 2023– July 28, 2023

**OUTSIDE**

**ADVENTURE**

**CONNECTION**



Middle School campers explored our beautiful community. 37 middle school campers enjoyed experiences including hiking to local swimming holes, mini golf, kayaking, swim instruction, and team building games. Due to the rainy weather, flooding and water contamination campers also explored museums, conquered the logistics of the escape rooms, and North Star bowling, Thanks to the generosity of the Gore family, campers were able to enjoy the beauty of Lake Raponda in canoes and kayaks, and improve swimming skills under the guidance of lifeguard, Taylor.



# Vt Natural History Museum

July 31–August 7



**Southern Vermont Natural History Museum**  
SUMMER CAMP @ Mountainside Center, Marlboro, VT  
JULY 31 - AUGUST 4 & AUGUST 7 - AUGUST 11 ~ 9am - 3pm



## HIKING

Daily hikes exploring the areas around our camp, including wooded trails, streams, and beaver ponds. Weekly hike up Mount Olga.

## Nature Crafts

Children will explore using a variety of materials collected on our treks to create crafts.

## Shelter Building/ Survival Skills

Using natural materials children will work together to build shelters.

## Wild Berry Picking, Games, Water Fun & MORE!

Lunch & Snacks provided through the FDA Summer Service Food program.



For the 2nd year in a row Wing's collaborated with the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum to offer campers the opportunity to explore the wonders of the museum and the trails that surround it!





# Readsboro Summer Fun

**August 7-August 11**

Music, laughter, and kids solving mazes through teamwork spread throughout Readsboro School this summer. Campers waded and built dams in the stream and cooled off getting the most out of our August days. New friends were made, volleyball was played. The VT

Natural History Museum came for a visit with some of their special birds of prey who became friends. Trails were cleaned and enjoyed by older campers and younger campers found new ways to make bubbles. Rockets blasted into the air, making new scientists and

building upon old dreams. Read A Louds spread into Read Alones or with a friend, earning campers tickets to be used in a drawing for ice cream at the Bowling Alley. The week focused on friendships, summer fun (popsicles included) , water time and nature adventures!





# **Halifax Summer Fun**

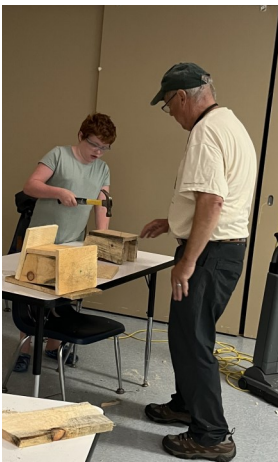
## **August 14-August 18**

Halifax camp was a HUGE hit with 56 campers attending. Students from other towns, as well as home schooled friends, joined the fun this year. Mornings were full with six different stations that each camper got to experience. Math games, literacy games, read-a-loud, and making clay gnomes were some of the favorite activities. Mrs. Youmell encouraged students to catch and release insects after identifying them and finding out all they could about each one. Mrs Brissette challenged campers to become architects and design their buildings, while Mr Howes got campers on the move! Outdoor games and woods exploration were enjoyed under his watchful eye. The week was supposed to end with a field trip and a hike, but due to the crazy weather campers hunkered down with popcorn, stories and an afternoon movie.



## Our Summer Heroes

Stephen Amidon	Carrie Blake	Ashley Blevins	Zara Bode	Heather Boyd
Katie Boyd	Tucker Boyd	Sherrie Brissette	Robert Callery	Mike Clough
Chris Contokos	Christos Contokos	Danielle Covey	Monique Covey	Max Cramp
Djeli	Alexa Doty	Samantha Duncan	Cyndal Ellis	Brianna Flannagan
Taylor Franklin	Julie Gledhill	Keli Gould	Arli Hart	Alejandro Hernandez
Paul Hoak	Joel Howes	Leanne Inderieden	Liz Inderieden	Henry Irace
Sieglinde Joyce	John Keegan	Molly Kehoe	Liam Kennedy	Dylan Lagle
Brooke Lane	Gavin Lefevre	Erin Lovitt-Sherman	Josh Lynde	Tucker Magnant
Jollene Mahon	Thomas Marchionna	Carol Millet	Julie Moore	Carina Moorehead
Jen Nilsen	Kayla Parro	Abby Pratt	Hilary Rath	Peter Rath
Angelina Read	Brandy Reynolds	Becky Richardson	Willa Roberts	Jill Sachs
M.K. Simpson	Daltyn Skwirut	Stacey Skwirut	Taylor Sprague	Christine Stafford
Maria Stewart	Caitlyn Sullivan	Brian Sullivan	Lauren Sumner	Kristine Sweeter
Catherine Thomas	Rose Watson	Rhonda Wainshelbaum		Rosa Whelpley
Matthew Worden	Merritt Youmell	Michelle Vicary	Laurel Zhaka	





For us data nerds...

- ◆ 147 children received up to 2 meals a day just in one week of camp. (Remember there was 8 full weeks of camp this summer).
- ◆ 406 books were sent home to be added to children's at-home libraries
- ◆ Camps were available to WSWSU students from June 16-August 18 FREE to ALL families.
- ◆ The new bus run that connected families from Stamford, Readsboro, Whitingham, and Halifax escorted campers to and from camp carrying an average of 50-60 students.
- ◆ Campers participated in either silent reading or read alouds (most did both) daily during summer.
- ◆ 32,284 student attendance hours were logged for summer programming including over 4483 middle high school hours.
- ◆ A very high percentage of our campers were from families that qualify for free and reduced lunch.
- ◆ High school students were required to complete professional employment applications and be interviewed to be considered for a counselor position at each camp. This is just one example of successful job skill training opportunities from summer for our local youth.
- ◆ 36 bottles of shaving cream, 41 recycled cardboard boxes and bags, 27 fairy crowns, 7 gallons of Elmers glue and one very tall top hat were enjoyed during the summer months in our district.
- ◆ Some quotes from parent surveys...

"Wings helped them socialize during summer, otherwise they might not see other children for weeks."

"I love that my daughter met friends from other schools and that live close enough so we can continue to have playdates together. She has made some great friends."

"There is always a welcoming face and knowledgeable person greeting us each morning."

"Wings camp was a positive experience for both my children and me."

"So grateful for all the leaders and helpers who make Wings possible. We feel very lucky to have access to these amazing programs."

"I LOVE the bus option. It has helped a lot!"

"My kids wake up very excited for camp."

"We appreciate all the work that goes into organizing these programs and making them safe and fun for my son. We are so thankful!"

## What else is happening in the world of Wings?

**\*Portrait of Student Success:** Wings is eager to continue to intentionally integrate the Portrait of Student Success competencies into our programming. Many programs that Wings has been running directly correlate with some of these competencies already. For example, Wings has hosted a Virtual Neighborhood program open to families in the evenings that morphed into Community Cooks Nights. These evening programs allowed families throughout the district to gather around their own kitchens while participating in these cooking experiences together as a community. This program was designed to promote family activities and to inspire positive social community experiences with our school programs.

**\*Another family engagement activity** sponsored by Wings, involved family fishing! Wings collaborated with **Trout Unlimited**, an organization that advocates for conservation efforts throughout Vermont and engaging youth to experience the joys of our local rivers and the trout and salmon that inhabit them. In early spring Trout Unlimited friends offered free workshops to students and their special adults to learn all about fly fishing. We look forward to many more fishing outings!

**\*Youth-led programming:** Students continue to engage in actively leading programs or serving as mentors in programs at our elementary sites. This youth-led program model engages students in creating, designing, planning, and implementing their own after school program. In 2022 Wings collaborated with Vermont Afterschool to create a Youth-Led program guidebook and model to be used across the state. This guidebook continues to be a resource for other school districts, rec centers and YMCA facilities to use in their own projects..

**\*Summer staff participated in trainings with Jen Stanchfield** designed around inspiring learners and social emotional learning. Concrete SEL focused techniques and skill building activities allowed staff to focus on the mental and emotional health of campers while designing and implementing their summer fun. These hands on activities were used by adult leaders, directors and youth counselors to support and enrich camper summer experiences.

**\*Career readiness and job skill** expansion continue to be a focus for Wings at our Twin Valley Middle High School site. We have collaborated with Christy Betit from Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (Pipelines and Pathways program) to offer students a bootcamp experience including exploring futures, Adulting 101 and back to basic job skills.





## Why is afterschool and summer programming important?

### What the research says:

- Afterschool and summer programs help students learn. After school and summer experiences enhance the school day learning in out of classroom environments, with trusted adults and varying social interactions with peers. Research examining the effect of participation in afterschool programs found that the more consistent students' participation in afterschool is, the greater the gains in their math achievement. Among low-income students, the higher the levels of participation in afterschool, the smaller the math achievement gap is between them and their high-income peers.<sup>1</sup> Afterschool and summer programs have positive and significant effects among students at risk of failure in reading or math. Researchers found positive results on reading achievement, particularly in lower elementary grade levels and in high school positive and significant effects on math benchmark achievements..<sup>2</sup>
- Afterschool increases student school day attendance. Students that seek afterschool enrichment opportunities of interest that are not available during the school day, attend school in anticipation of their chosen activities. Research shows that students who participated in afterschool programs that used evidence-based practices saw significant improvement in their school-day attendance.<sup>4</sup> Studies have shown statistically significant decreased school day truancy rates for students who regularly participated in after school programs compared to their non-participating peers. Students with very high levels of attendance (attending the program 70 days or more) demonstrated an even greater reduction in truancy.<sup>5</sup>
- Afterschool increases student engagement. Research indicates that students who regularly participate in high-quality afterschool programs demonstrate improved classroom work habits and task persistence.<sup>7</sup> Students who consistently participate in after school programs experience greater gains in classroom teachers' reports of their work habits than students who do not participate regularly.<sup>8</sup> Studies reveal that parents, teachers, and principals report improved attitude toward school, increased class participation, improved motivation to learn, and increased success with homework completion of students who participate in after school programs.<sup>9</sup> Students participating in after school programs report significantly higher self-regulation and significantly fewer problem behaviors than their peers who do not participate in after school programs.<sup>11</sup>
- Afterschool and summer programs help students develop fundamental life skills. Studies have demonstrated a statistically significant relationship between students regularly attending after school programs and fewer school-day disciplinary incidents.<sup>10</sup> According to research studies, students who participated in an afterschool program exhibited significant improvement in their feelings and attitudes and indicators of behavioral adjustment. Students in programs also saw reductions in drug use and problem behavior, such as aggression, noncompliance, and conduct problems.<sup>12</sup>

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11. Hirsch, B. J., Hedges, L. V., Stawicki, J., & Mekinda, M. A. (2011). After-School Programs for High School Students: An Evaluation of After School Matters.