



*A program of the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union partnering with its communities*

# Wings Summer Explodes!

## Wings Vision Statement

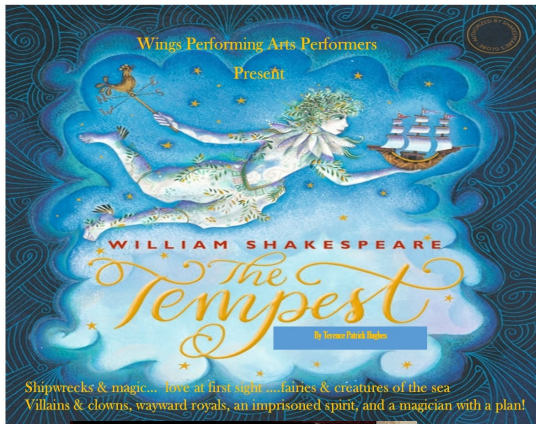
Wings will actively engage students in experiences to help them be successful in school and life as they grow into productive adults.





# Summer began with Performing Arts Camp

June 17, 2024-June 30, 2024



Auditions for the musical adaptation of *The Tempest*, began in early April. The cast of 32 quickly began weekly rehearsals in early May at school and OSEC (Old High School).

PA campers returned to Historic Memorial Hall on the first day of summer vacation, and began 7 hours a day of dance, vocal instruction, circus arts, theater games and acting rehearsals in our 13th annual Wings Performing Arts Camp.

Kindergarten thru 12th grade actors WOWed a packed house in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. This comical adaptation written by Terrence Patrick Hughes, enhanced with song, dance and circus, delighted young and old.





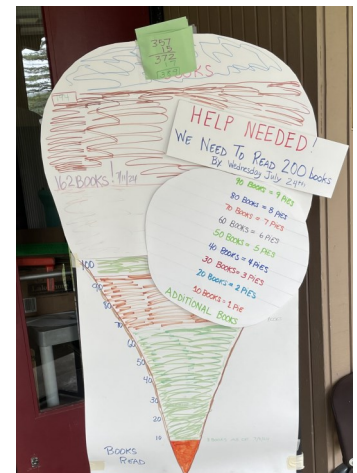


June 4 2024– July 16, 2024

Our middle and high school students hit the golf course this summer with free golf lessons offered by coaches John Keegan, Max Cramp, and a parent volunteer, Alan Boyd. 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 17, 2024– June 28, 2024

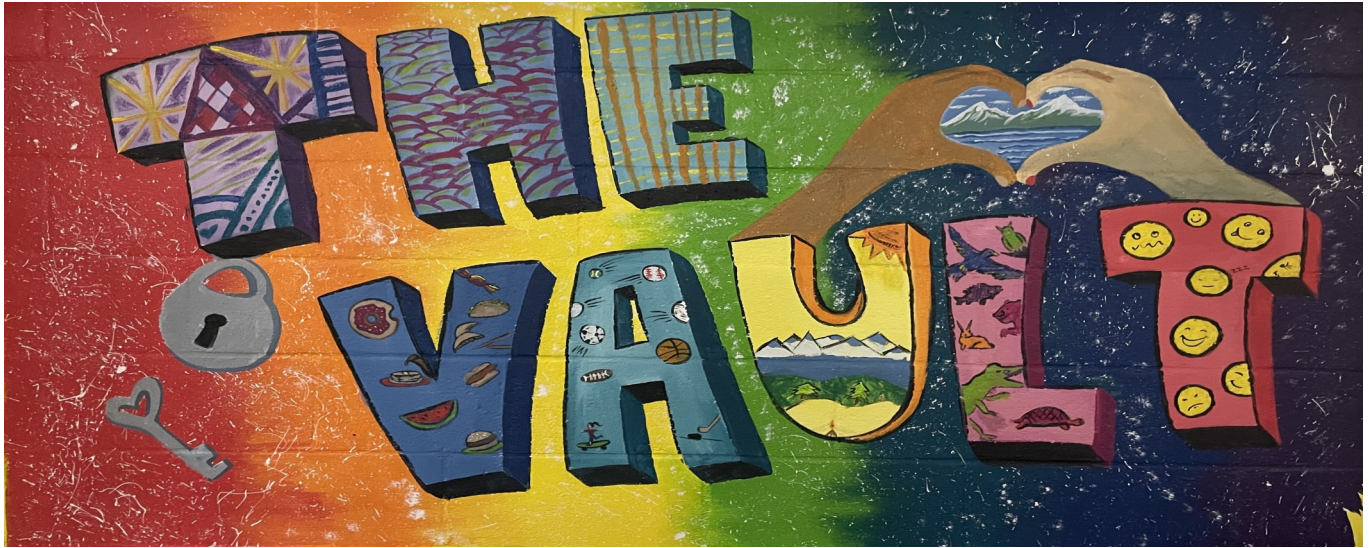


**Grades K-4 10:00-2:00**

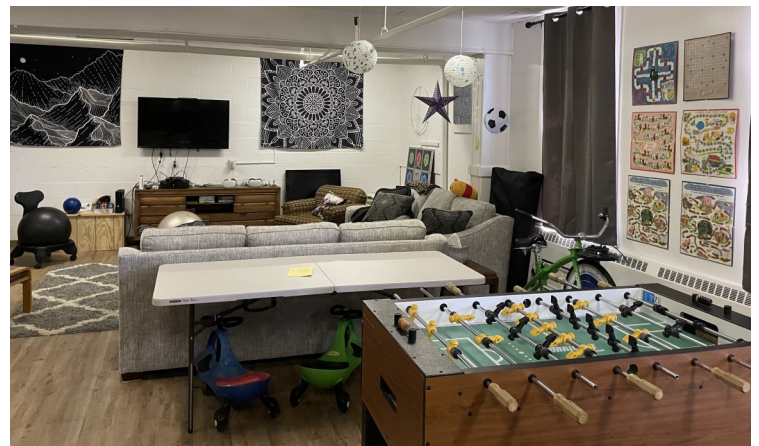
Library camp fit all the campers they could between the shelves of books and spent 2 weeks enjoying games & activities, arts & crafts, stories, and explorations. They were excited for special visitors including Mad Science, The Southern VT Natural History Museum, Weeping Willow Yoga and reading to dogs!







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, 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. 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 shoppers.





## **Celebrate Summer Camp**

185 campers celebrated 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 participated in our own summer Olympics. Every day campers did a “STOP-DROP-READ” and wrote or drew about their summer adventures in their personal reading journals. Campers took home books for their home libraries, and joined Fire Chief Moore in fire safety classes each week. A published author/illustrator, John Steven Gurney, came to camp to show campers how to illustrate their stories. Bugs, rodents and birds flocked to the pages of campers nature books and young woodworkers crafted beautiful birdhouses. There was an pig parade, pie in the face book challenge, an ice cream sundae party and badminton matches. Jr Explorers spent time in the woods learning survival skills Jr Olympians lined the paved track in front of school. And finally a magic dragon came to life on the lawn.







Local heroes returned to camp in our 4th annual Touch A Truck event. Wilmington Police, Wilmington Fire, Deerfield Valley Rescue, Green Mountain Power, Towns of Wilmington and Dover highway, Vermont State Highway, Moover, Chuck Fournier and a surprise visit from Carl Swanson with his hotrods, thrilled campers with access to their big rigs as they circled the school and answered all of the campers excited questions!





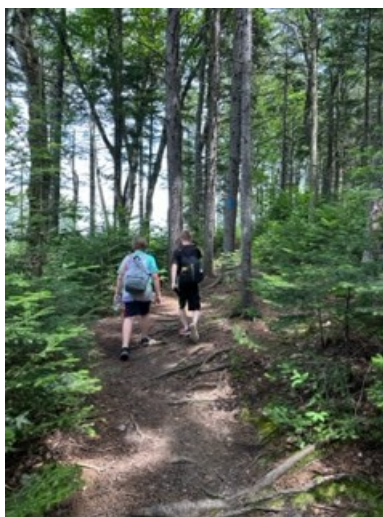
# Outdoors Adventure Camp

July 8, 2024– July 26, 2024

**OUTSIDE**

**ADVENTURE**

**CONNECTION**

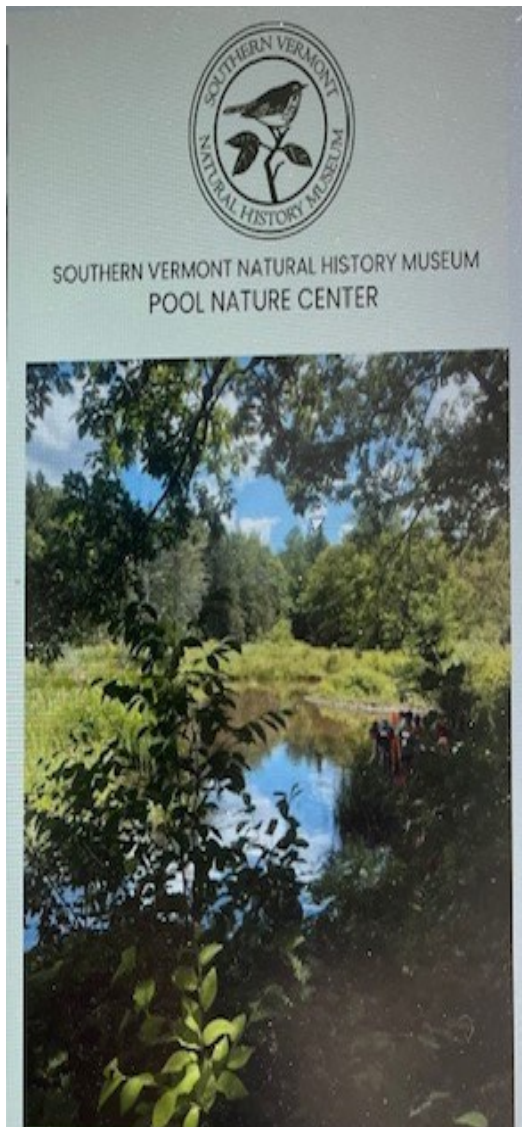


Middle School campers go outside! 37 middle school campers enjoyed experiences including hiking to local swimming holes, kayaking, swim instruction, camp fire cooking and team building games. Thanks to the generosity of the Gore family, campers were able to enjoy the beauty of Lake Raponda in canoes and kayaks, and improve swimming skills under the guidance of lifeguard and Director, Ollie. Campers went rafting and got tips on how to be safe and protect our outdoors, all while having a blast! Roasted marshmallows and hot dogs (after the healthy provided lunch of course) revitalized our weary hikers, along with a creamee or two.



# Vt Natural History Museum

**August 5, 2024–August 15, 2024**



For the 3rd year in a row, Wings 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! Thirty campers, grades 3-8, hiked, learned to identify native wild-life and flora and to build shelters.





# Readsboro Summer Fun

**August 5, 2024-August 9, 2024**

DANCE comes to Readsboro Camp! This year campers were able to sign up for ballet classes, hip hop dance and modern dance with Cyndal. 21 (not all at one time) dancers shared the dance floor to learn basic and more complicated steps along with music they enjoyed. The warmer August days did not deter the excited campers from doing science experiments, to collecting bugs, while our older campers went on long hikes and enjoyed the brook and nearby park. New friends were made, volleyball was played. The VT Natural History Museum came for a visit with some of Vermont's most interesting wildlife and some campers dared to touch them! Younger campers found new ways to make bubbles and ooey gooey ooblick! Rockets blasted into the air, inspiring new scientists and building upon old dreams. Read A Louds spread into Read Alones or with a friend. The week focused on friendships, summer fun (popsicles included) and adventures!





# Halifax Summer Fun

**August 12, 2024-August 16, 2024**

Vermont raptors came to visit at Halifax Camp! Students from other towns, as well as home schooled friends, joined the fun this year. Mornings were full with challenges at different stations that surprised campers with learning FUN! Math games, literacy games, read-a-louds, and art with Ms. Wainshelbaum were some of the favorite activities. Mr. Howes joined in the fun in the afternoons where field and fun met!

Outdoor games, parachute antics and woods exploration were enjoyed under his watchful eye. Ms. Stafford challenged campers with Boggle games and journal writing. Mrs. Brissette welcomed campers outside to enjoy a dress up space, bubbles and chalk art while listening to fun music. Ms. Read got our incoming K campers ready to start school. Ms. Barnett brought out the scientists in our camp and built a fort in the woods. Friendships blossomed and younger campers soon learned they can count on their older camper friends for help with all of the hard stuff!





## Our Summer Heroes

Ari Adair Katrina Aldrich Sarah Barnett Ollie Beach Carrie Blake Ashley Blevins  
Alan Boyd Katie Boyd Sherrie Brissette Robert Callery Mike Clough Kyra Conklin  
Chris Contokos Christos Contokos Max Cramp Jobi DanS'y Cyndal Ellis Brianna Flannagan  
Jack Garcy Juliette Garcy Bennet Gerding Julie Gledhill Keli Gould Cheryl Green  
Ezra Hemphill Arlie Hart Paul Hoak April Horton Hali Howe Joel Howes Daltyn Hurley  
Henry Irace John Keegan Brooke Lane Nettie Lane Dave & Kathy Larsen Katelyn Macneil  
Daniel McNamara Tucker Magnant Jillian Mahon Carley Mautner Jollene Mahon  
Robert Mola Julie Moore Landyn Moore Scott Moore Josh O'Hearn Kate Oyer Chris Parker-  
Jennings Shelley Park Abby Pratt Hillary Rath Peter Rath Angelina Read Tina Reynolds  
Becky Richardson Willa Roberts David Rosso Jill Sachs Daltyn Skwirut Carla Sprague  
Taylor Sprague Christine Stafford Brian Sullivan Rebecca Sweeney Kristine Sweeter  
Glenn Thurber Naomi Ullien Eryn Vollinger Alea Walker Rhonda Wainshelbaum  
Rosa Whelpley





For us data nerds...

- ◆ 176 children received up to 2 meals a day just in one week of camp. (Remember there was 8 full weeks of camp this summer).
- ◆ 413 books were sent home to be added to children's at-home libraries
- ◆ Camps were available to WWSU students from June 17-August 16 FREE to ALL district 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. 389 books were read JUST during Celebrate Summer Camp.
- ◆ Over 35000 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.
- ◆ A camper that had never learned to jump rope before broke a record of 39 jumps in a row. Over 300 friendship bracelets were created and shared during camps. Granny Moore happily took 8 pies to the face in celebration of all of the books read by campers, 511 popsicles cooled off warm campers.
- ◆ Some quotes...

It's always a pleasure seeing the campers arrive with a smile on their face in the morning and ready to return at the end of the day!

New faces from other schools meeting new friends is always an added plus for camp, what better way to make longtime friends. We had an amazing reading challenge this year and the campers super exceeded the goal- way to go!

Julie "Granny" Moore - CS Camp Director

I have had the opportunity to participate in Celebrate Summer for the last 3 years. To say this camp is a blessing is an understatement, as the benefits for adults and children alike continue to unfold even after the magic of camp ends. At Celebrate Summer, the agenda is simply to enjoy the possibilities and excitement camp brings, for both the students and adults. We have opportunities to be our authentic selves and truly meet each other where we are at, without the agendas and timetables of a traditional school setting. This organic existence of adults and children, engaging in fun, challenging and sometimes new activities, is imperative for lifelong learning and relationship building. I often look to Celebrate Summer as an opportunity to build rapport and trust with the students I will later see in the classroom because there simply isn't another way to recreate the magic this summer camp provides. I know I am a better educator and person after leaving Celebrate Summer. It is a vital reminder to me of the simpler (and maybe more important) things in life like play, fun and most importantly relationships.

Christine Stafford— Halifax & Readsboro Guidance Counselor

It isn't so much the reading, writing or science projects that I reflect on at the end of summer. It's more than that. It is the confidence, empathy, and friendships that build during summer, and blossom. Wings creates a safe space where imaginations thrive.

That is the magic. ..That is Wings



## 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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4. Durlak, J. A., Weissberg, R. P., & Pachan, M. (2010). A Meta-Analysis of After-School Programs That Seek to Promote Personal and Social Skills in Children and Adolescents. *American Journal of Community Psychology*. 45:294-309.

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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.