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QUEST Summer Enrichment Program a Success

Jul 27, 2015 09:37AM, Published by Audrey Sellers, Categories: [City+School](#), [Life+Leisure](#), [Today](#)

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Summer school: These are two words that don't typically get kids jazzed up. But through the [QUEST Summer Enrichment Program](#), summer school is actually fun. It's because kids do so much more than sit in a classroom; they get engaged in learning.

Now in its seventh year, the QUEST Summer Enrichment Program is a 17-day program organized by [Community Storehouse](#), a nonprofit children's charity focused on keeping children active and thriving in the Keller, Northwest and Carroll Independent School Districts.

QUEST's main focus is on improving reading, but kids who participate in the program get exposure to other learning experiences including art, music, science and physical education. They also receive breakfast, a snack and lunch. It's all at no charge. Kids attend for free.

The program, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., is open to children who are currently in kindergarten, first or second grade, and who meet the qualifications to attend. This summer, 102 students participated: 31 from Northwest ISD, 60 from Keller ISD, six from IL Texas in Keller, and five from Carroll ISD.

QUEST is different from other summer-school programs in that it's geared toward not only identifying and addressing students' academic needs, but also providing an upbeat, encouraging environment to help students connect what they are learning in the classroom with the world around them.

Some members of the *Southlake Style* team got to see the QUEST program underway at Westlake Academy, and it reminded us of summer camp. Kids, who ranged in age from five to eight years old, were divided by brightly colored shirts into three groups: faith, hope and love.

We saw volunteers guiding children through fizzing science experiments outside. We saw children creating their own construction-paper masterpieces in an art classroom. And we saw books. Lots and lots

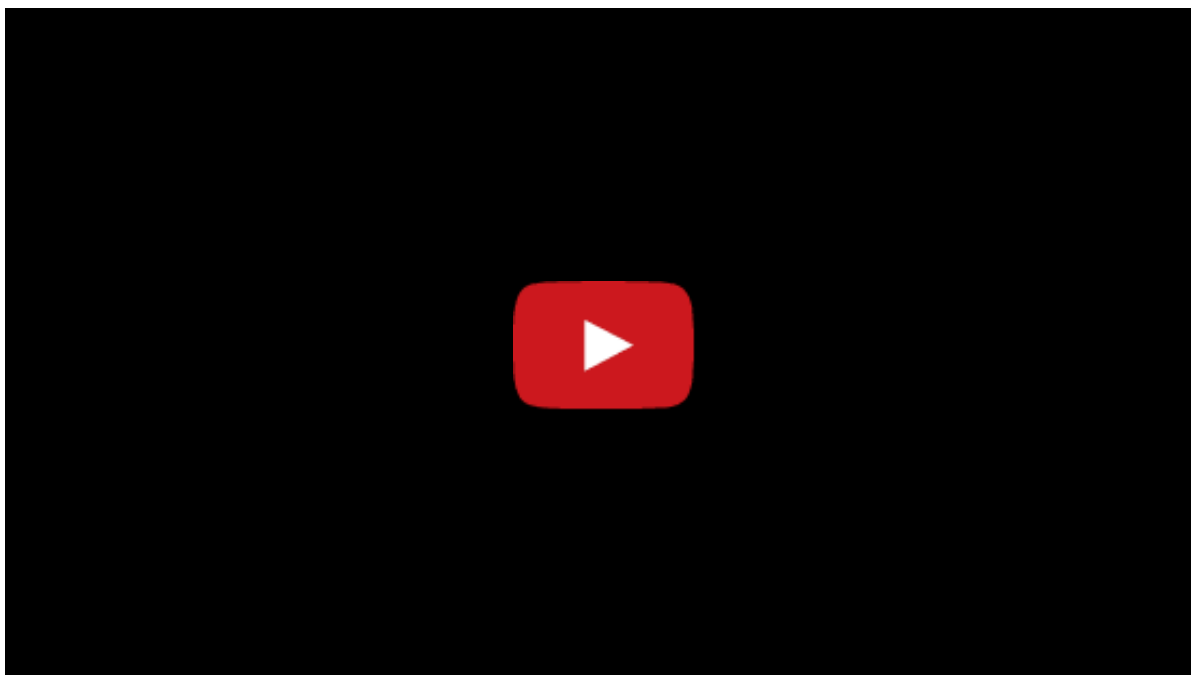
of books. Building early literacy skills is a key part of what QUEST does.

“Our main focus is on improving reading,” says Tracey Hill, QUEST Director. “Kids have so much confidence after participating in our program.”


This year’s program runs through July 31. Community Storehouse welcomes new volunteers and donations of all kinds – whether you’d like to contribute financially or you have children’s books or supplies to donate. Also, consider participating in the nonprofit’s upcoming event: the [16th Annual Run in the Dark](#).

[Click here](#) for more information.

Watch this video to learn more about Community Storehouse.



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