

Summer Adventures in Reading

WAYAK' Eco-Edu Camp 2010

Puerto Aventuras, Riviera Maya Mexico



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Sponsoring Organizations

Crecer Juntos™



JkGlobalConnections™

Promoting Global Literacy and Professional Development



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THE CENTER FOR **READING**
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Date of issue of this report: 10/06/2010

1. Short summary

In the Spring of 2010 the Summer Adventures in Reading/ WAYAK' Summer School received a \$10,000 donation from Cambium Learning Solutions to fund the implementation of the RAVE-O and ReadWell programs in the summer camp. The Summer Adventures in Reading/ WAYAK' Summer School developed out of a collaboration between JK Global Connections, the Center for Reading and Language Research of Tufts University, Crecer Juntos, and Cambium Learning Solutions. The 2010 event attracted children from 8 families from the area surrounding Puerto Aventuras, Mexico, and was organized on the basis of three themes: providing balanced, hands-on learning opportunities, putting the RAVE-O and *ReadWell* programs into practice in a summer school setting and providing cultural and environmental experiences.

The program involved four days per week of literacy instruction using the *ReadWell* phonics curriculum and RAVE-O, a systematic fluency and comprehension curriculum. In addition, two weekly cultural or environmentally themed excursions, water sports, art and musical instruction and other social events were a part of every day of the summer camp. RAVE-O and *ReadWell* instructors were under the supervision of Dr. Katharine Adams, an original author of the RAVE-O program. WAYAK' camp began on July 5 and ended on July 30 with children attending either on a week-long, 2 week or month-long basis from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm. The evaluations of the Summer Adventures in Reading/ WAYAK' Summer School were positive or very positive, but included also helpful suggestions for future events. The project has resulted in several new personal contacts for those involved, new knowledge and inspiration, and some ideas for future camps adventures. Most importantly, the program served as a model for teachers in the area of Puerto Aventuras to replicate in their own classrooms and the RAVE-O program, in particular, has sparked great interest in the schools of the surrounding area.

2. Summer school organization, ideas, preparations and participants

The organizers were representatives of three organizations, Stephanie Gottwald of the Center for Reading and Language Research, Joy Koller of JkGlobal Connections and Alicia Meno, director of Crecer Juntos Language Learning Center. The camp took place on the campus of Colegio Puerto Aventuras, an educational institution based on a bilingual curriculum in the heart of the resort town of Puerto Aventuras in the Mayan Riviera.

The ideas shaping the CRLR, JkGlobal Connections and Crecer Juntos Collaborative Summer School

The theoretical framework of the Summer Adventures in Reading/ WAYAK' Summer Camp, grew from discussions between the three organizations outlining a plan to achieve the following primary objectives:

- Provide systematic and proven reading instruction to camp participants, both English language learners and native English speakers struggling to become fluent readers
- Provide area teachers with an opportunity to observe implementation of systematic reading instruction
- Cultivate interest in future RAVE-O workshops among area schools and teachers

Preparations

The summer school was discussed at numerous preparatory telephone or web-based meetings in 2009 and 2010 between the three primary representatives, in particular between Joy Koller and Stephanie Gottwald. Responsibilities for preparation were divided in the following manner:

Stephanie Gottwald- CRLR

- Identification and recruitment of RAVE-O and ReadWell teachers
- Development of marketing content of the educational component of WAYAK' camp
- Identification of funding sources for teacher salaries, travel and lodging costs

Joy Koller- JkGlobal Connections

- Liaison with CRLR for recruitment of teachers and distribution of funding
- Organization of lodging and travel for RAVE-O teachers
- Development of marketing and web content
- RAVE-O Coordinator for Summer Adventures in Reading and Instructional aide during reading instruction

Alicia Meno- Crecer Juntos

- Liaison with Colegio Puerto Aventuras
- Recruitment and supervision of Camp counselors
- Organization and oversight of excursions
- Camp marketing and registration
- Parent contact

O An important event for the successful collaboration and involvement of the RAVE-program was the involvement of Cambium Learning Solutions, publisher of RAVE-O and *ReadWell*. Cambium agreed to provide funding for teacher salaries, travel, and lodging expenses. In addition, Cambium provided *ReadWell* materials at no cost to the WAYAK' program.

3. Program of the Summer School

The Summer school started on July 5, 2010 and ended on July 30. The month involved literacy intervention, sports and water activities and a number of excursions outside the school grounds. Below is a sample of the daily schedule for students boarding at the camp:

7:00 Wake-up/breakfast

7:45 Shower and duties

8:00-8:30 All Camp Activity

8:30-10:30 Rave-O Reading Adventures

10:30-11:00 Lunch

11:00-12:00 Rave-O Reading Adventures

12:00-13:00 Rest hour

13:00– 16:00 Camp activities

17:00– 18:00 All camp activities

18:00—19:00 Rest and Relaxation
19:00 Dinner
20:00 Night activities
21:30 Cabin chat and games
20:00 Lights out

Excursions and other activities

Excursions were custom made and designed to influence and enhance the artistic, social, and physical skills of the campers. Activities alternate from experiencing and supporting the culture of the Mayan community to enjoying the Mayan Riviera beaches and cenotes.

4. Feedback from Parents

Each of the parents were asked to provide an assessment of their experience with the summer school. The reports have been included as an appendix to this document. Overall, the reports were quite positive. Comments included the following:

- I was very impressed with the teachers we met who came to teach the RAVE-O program. My daughter loved going every day, and obviously developed a good relationship with the teachers.
- They have been very excited to show us the “work” they are doing in camp and continue to practice the lessons into the evening and beyond. It is sticking with them and they really enjoy explaining all the concepts to me. I now know all about “fat rats” and “ender benders”.

5. Future Directions

Crecer Juntos and JKGlobal Connections are very excited about the prospect of continuing the Summer Adventures in Reading/ WAYAK’ summer camp. Crecer Juntos has committed to a plan to train tutors in the RAVE-O program for implementation in summer 2011. In addition, Joy Koller has worked diligently to spread the word about RAVE-O to many neighboring schools. Ms. Koller and Ms. Meno see growth potential for RAVE-O and other Cambium products in the Mayan Riviera. In particular, the goals they are currently pursuing are the following:

1. Continuation of our summer RAVE-O pilot program in 2011
2. Further recruitment of interested schools
3. Local marketing efforts to promote RAVE-O and internet marketing efforts, such as future RAVE-O Webinars
4. Potential Web-based trainings and sales
5. Potential Master Rave-O teachers in Mexico
6. Consulting efforts by Mexican team

Specifically, a RAVE-O training session is in the planning stages for March of 2011. Attending this first workshop would be tutors from Crecer Juntos as well as teachers from schools in the surrounding area.

6. Conclusions

The Summer Adventures in Reading/ WAYAK' summer camp was a great success in many ways. First, many parents are seeking summer education opportunities for their children, but are not willing to sacrifice their children's needs for relaxation and entertainment during the summer break. The language and literacy instruction provided by Dr. Katherine Adams and Kate Jones was not only successful and entertaining for the children, but was an essential attraction to the program for many parents.

Second, teachers from the surrounding areas had ample opportunity to observe and participate in instruction. They were not provided with merely a set of sample materials, but had the rare chance to see RAVE-O in action and over time. Third, these schools are now expressing great interest in RAVE-O and *ReadWell* to supplement their English language and reading instruction.