

# CAMP OFLA

OHIO FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION/JUNE 2009

## Camp OFLA 2009

Campers from all over Ohio came to Tempel Hills in Bellville to learn Arabic, German or Russian this summer. The camp's theme this year was art. The Arabic painted vases and other glassware, the Germans designed murals for the Camp Berlin Wall, and the Russian designed Khokhlama boxes.

Many of our campers have returned for their second, third or fourth years. One camper, Mariah Branyan, came back for her fifth year!

As usual, there were the normal Camp OFLA activities: language lessons, arts & crafts, the campfire, the Treasure Hunt, the evening cultural sharings, and Hollywood Squares. Campers also participated in the first Camp OFLA water balloon toss & egg toss. Our teachers even got into the competition with our first Ice Cream Sundae Eating Competition.

Be sure to read about all the things we did this week! We can't wait until next summer. Hope to see you again!



## Camp OFLA goes green!

Camp OFLA made efforts this year to go green to help the environment. You've already noticed how we're cutting back on paper consumption with the electronic newsletter.

Camp OFLA is also using Imageshack.us to host the camp

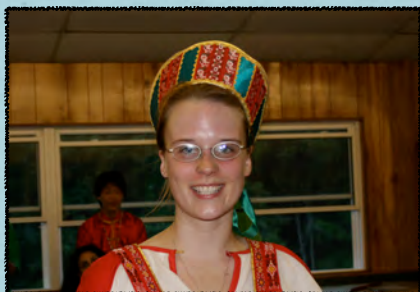
OFLA pictures. This site stores the photos taken over the week. This allows us to cut back on additional plastic waste of CD-roms.

To access the photos, go to [imageshack.us](http://imageshack.us). Add CampOFLA as a contact, then you'll be able to access our image gallery.

## MEET OUR TEACHERS



LAURA HELPMAN is our Russian teacher. She has been teaching Russian/Gifted Education with Toledo Public Schools for the past 16 years.



CALEY MOORE returned for her 2nd year to teach German with camp. She works for Deer Park School District, outside of Cincinnati.



SANAA JOUEJATI is our Arabic teacher. She recently started her own Arabic school in Toledo.

## CHALLENGE COURSE

by **Adam Backscheider**

*Counselor*



On Monday the kids participated in an obstacle course. The point of the exercise was to build team skills. First the campers learned about the three C's (communication, cooperation and congratulation) and the STOP method (Stop, Think, Organize, and Proceed). They then practiced their skills by forming two circles and sitting on each other's laps.

The next challenge took the campers into the woods. They had to fit themselves under ropes, but each camper had to go under a different way and they could not touch the ropes.

The final challenge involved a hanging rope and three hula hoops. The kids had to swing over a small, imaginary ocean into one of the hoops.

The challenge course was indeed a success. Everyone had fun and had their team skills strengthened.



Campers complete a Challenge Course activity

## DEUTSCHE KLASSE

by **Mia Kern, Mariah Sampsel and Carrie Stratton**

*Counselors in Training*



In language lesson with Frau Moore we had a lot of fun as we learned German. In class we went on a hike and drew monsters with German instructions on white boards. Frau Moore was a great teacher and with her we were able to learn and accomplish many things in German. To practice our vocabulary, we played charades along with other games. We hope that next year the lessons will be just as informative and fun!



A piece of the OFLA Berliner Mauer

## ARABIC LANGUAGE LESSONS

by **Sanaa Jouejati**

*Teacher*



Arabic time was so much fun during Camp OFLA. We learned the Arabic Alphabet, the numbers, many words and expressions that we could use every day.

We talked about what Egyptian kids do for fun. We learned a nice Arabic folk song about a child talking to a little bird, and we were singing that all the time.

We played the memory game of the Arabic alphabet. It was awesome... The teacher also showed us a lot of things that came from Egypt and, especially beautiful, were some pictures of painted glass, and then we got to paint our own glass vases.

We liked it a lot and we know that we want to come next year to Camp OFLA to learn more fun, cool stuff in Arabic.

Salaam



Isaiah in Arabic Arts & Crafts

## RUSSIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS

by **Steven McClain**

*Counselor in Training*



One of the coolest activities of the day was the language lesson with the Russian teacher, because the whole time she would talk in Russian. Since she talked all in Russian the others and I all learned many Russian words. It was also so funny when we watched the Чебурашка (Cheburashka, a Russian cartoon).

## Skype/Game Night

by Amber Franklin

Counselor



A new addition this year to Camp OFLA was the opportunity for parents to actually talk to their campers face-to-face instead of relying on our postal system for communication. This year parents could sign up to talk online to their kids on Wednesday night via Skype, an online communication system that uses a webcam. This was the first time that parents were able to talk to their kids for a 5 minute session without mail during our week of camp. The younger campers enjoyed being able to see their parents after having left home for an extended period of time.

While some kids were skypeing, the rest of the camp was enjoying our impromptu game night. The night opened up with an egg toss, where they made a mess trying to toss eggs without breaking them. After the egg toss Lori lined up the campers to demonstrate her basketball skills. While she demonstrated her skills, the counselors lined up at a window above the basketball court, waiting for the right moment. When it finally came we started our first ever Camp OFLA water balloon fight. The counselors surprised the campers with water balloons from above. Then, they brought a tank filled with water balloons downstairs to share

with the campers, who had fun getting their counselors wet in return.

We closed out our night with an ice cream eating contest between our three teachers. Little to our teachers' knowledge, we added a twist. The counselors had to build the sundaes, and feed them as well. The counselors served the teachers a monstrous mess of ice cream, marshmallows, sprinkles, and chocolate syrup. Mrs.

\* Cheburashka poses for a picture with Christian, a fan, after Hollywood Squares



Jesse's group is hard at work to solve the next clue for this year's Treasure Hunt

Helpman ended up with more ice cream in her lap than in her mouth, and the kids had a blast. CIT Gabe said, "I had a lot of fun watching my teachers have ice cream smashed into their faces."

The kids really enjoyed our new addition to the schedule at our busy week of OFLA, perhaps we've created a new tradition for years to come?

## RUSSIAN SONG & DANCE

by Noah Dillinger  
Counselor in Training

Song and dance are just some of the cultural things that Russia has and that many love. You always seem to be in a festival that you never want to end. It has tradition and culture combined and when together it is impossible to resist.

The first song that we were taught was the ABBs, or in other words, the ABC's of Russian. The ABBs are similar to American but instead of 26 letters it has 33. Next we were taught the Ya igrayu song which is all about expressions such as "I am swimming in the pool" and "I am eating in the cafeteria." After that we learned the Russian song Kalinka which is probably the most well known Russian song. Written by a Russian composer in 1860 named Ivan Larionov, he talks about his celebration with a snowball tree at a tempo perfect for the song. Then we sang the Krokodil Gena birthday song. Gena is a Russian cartoon character, who is a sad crocodile trying to make friends and ends up finally meeting some. He also meets a Gremlin looking creature named Cheburaska. We then learned a dance called the Korobushka, which is a peddler's dance that you do with a partner.



## MEET A COUNSELOR



**Name:** Andrea

**Age:** 18

**Resides:** Athens, OH

**Born:** Toledo, OH

**Alma Mater:** Start HS

**Languages:** Studies German & Russian

**Travel Experiences:** Has traveled to Germany & Russia. Participated in a Russian home-stay.

**Awards:** 1 of 14 winners in National Olympiada a spoken Russian Competition

## International Dance



by **Carrie**

Counselor in Training

In Camp OFLA 2009 we had our traditional International Dancing night with dances from around the world, including Germany, Russia, and the Middle East. The

German students did a dance called the Holzhackentanz. To do this you needed a group of 2 or 4. Each person had a partner standing across from each other. They tap their legs and shoulders, then clap their hands. Then with their partner, they clapped left and right with both hands. The Russian students did a dance called the Troika.

Everyone was in groups of 3, aligned by the shortest on the inside to the tallest on the outside. Everyone then held hands walked and counted to 8 in Russian 2 times. Then the middle and shortest person made a bridge, tallest went under, then tallest and middle made a bridge, shortest went under. The group of 3 then made a circle and went clock wise and counter clock wise for 8 steps. The Arabs did a dance called Dabkah. Everyone went in a circle and put their right foot in front of their left,

### Poll Results

Camper Survey  
June 20, 2009

Liked language lessons 100%

Would recommend camp 90%

Gave camp an "excellent" rating 96%

Rated Scavenger Hunt as "favorite activity" 83%

## NUMBERS

Number of Languages Studied since 2005

7

Percentage of Campers Returning

77

The Camp OFLA Experience

Priceless

# Arts & Crafts Time/Culture Sharing

## ARABIC ARTS & CRAFTS

by **Obadah Alfaham**

Counselor

...

With arts and crafts as the theme of the 2009 OFLA camp and Egypt as the country of focus for the Arabic language the campers studying Arabic received a unique taste of art. It ranged from the old times of Egyptian pottery painting, by painting glass vases, to imitating the graphic designs of a contemporary Egyptian artist. The campers beautifully painted the glass vases with their own fun and intricate designs. Through these projects they learned names of basic colors and the culture behind some great Egyptian art. They drew faces and labeled the parts of the faces in Arabic as well. It all proved for a very creative, entertaining way to learn the Arabic language.



own шкатулки (lacquer boxes) with traditional Russian designs. After looking through books about Russian folk art, each camper chose motifs to include on their box. Some of these included berries, leaves, birds, and flowers, while other campers opted for geometrical patterns. When trying to recreate хохлама (Khokhlama) designs, campers used red, gold, black, and green, but many also opted for different colors representing parts of Russian and Ukrainian folk culture. For instance, blue represents the sky and good health and orange is used to depict the eternal sun, strength, and endurance.

I hope you enjoy the beautiful souvenir that your child brought home from "Russia!"

## GERMAN ARTS & CRAFTS

by **Gabe Scherer**

Counselor in Training

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One of the activities was for Tag der deutschen Einheit, or German Unification Day. We made a paper chain with the colors of the German flag (black, red and gold). We had a fun time making it and learning about the history of the holiday. Finally we hung it up so everyone could see it.

## ARABIC CULTURAL SHARING

by **Mariah Branyan**

Counselor in Training

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On Tuesday the Arabic group hosted a cultural sharing night. During the cultural sharing each camper was handed a card with their Arabic name on it. The campers then made their names into a super-cool picture. While drawing, everybody watched a documentary about the Egyptian stick dance called Tahtib or Wooden Stick. Before the night ended, Mary and Barbara modeled some Egyptian dresses.

## RUSSIAN ARTS & CRAFTS

by **Jesse Baum**

Counselor

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When you travel to Russia, one souvenir you are sure to bring back is a painted lacquer box, which usually depicts scenes from fairy tales. The campers this week made their very

## DEUTSCHE KULTURNACHT

by **Claire Thrasher**

Counselor in Training

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On Wednesday night the Germans had culture night. We started out by singing "Zum Geburtstag" or "Happy Birthday" and teaching it to the other campers. We then sang it to Madeline, who celebrated a birthday at Camp OFLA that same day. While singing to her we added a traditional German chant at the end, which included some of the male counselors picking her up in a chair! We then presented an abbreviated history of the Berlin Wall to the rest of the camp. We also showed them our large paper mural version of the wall, which we created for this presentation. After we showed them our version, we brought out another large blank mural and allowed the rest of the camp to try and recreate their own version of the Berlin Wall. After the camp finished their wall, we presented our snack of Schwarzwalderkirschtorte, or Black Forest Cherry Cake. Culture night was a good German experience. The presentations were all in German. So culture night was a fun learning experience.



## FETIR MISHELIT



A tasty food famous in Egypt, so famous that even U.S. President Barak Obama had to stop and get some. The OFLA campers had the great opportunity to do so as well. But the campers did not only eat these great Egyptian delicacies but they were able to make them as well. Here is how:

3 cups flour  
¼ cup warm water  
½ cup vegetable oil  
Dash of salt  
1 table spoon of powdered sugar (optional)  
Honey 1 bottle

Preheat oven to 400 Deg. Mix all ingredients until it is consistent dough. Separate into 10 balls. Allow dough to rest for 30 minutes. Flatten each ball with rolling pin. Then place the dough on a greased pan and bake for 30 minutes. When finished pour honey on top as sweet as desired. The recipe used was the original and most common. A different variation is adding ricotta cheese on it before baking, and still pouring honey on top. It can even be eaten as a main dish with either seasoned ground beef, or potato and many other types. Feel free to use other favorite toppings and be creative. Enjoy!

## SchwarzWalderKirschTorte



For our cultural food sharing, the German campers baked a delicious treat straight out of Southern Germany.

SchwarzWalderKirschTorte, or Black Forest Cherry Cake is a type of cake originating in the SchwarzWald (Black Forest) of Southern Germany. Since the original recipe was so complex, we made a simpler version out of chocolate cake, whipped cream, and cherry pie filling. The campers had a blast serving the rest of the camp by way of assembly line. While the other campers worked their way down the line, they were given directions entirely in German!

The treats were a hit and if you would like to recreate our recipe here it is:

SchwarzWalderKirsch-Torte (OFLA-Style)  
1 Box Chocolate Cake Mix  
(Ingredients needed for cake mix)  
1 Tub Whipped Cream  
1 Can Cherry Pie Filling

Bake the chocolate cake in muffin tins.  
After muffins cool, cut them in half horizontally.  
Add 1 spoonful of Whipped Cream, and 1 spoonful of Cherry Filling.  
Close the Muffin.  
Guten Appetit!

## PIROZHKI



As a meal or snack, Pirozhki are a tasty & filling Russian treat. They can be stuffed with potatoes, meat, sauerkraut or fruit.

Ingredients:  
1 pk Pillsbury Buttermilk Biscuits  
1 pkg pre-made mashed potatoes  
1 small sweet onion  
salt & pepper to taste  
oil

Making Pirozhki from scratch can take an entire day, so the recipe below will save you some time.

Let biscuit dough sit at room temperature for 10 minutes.

Stretch out one biscuit to cover the palm of your hand.

Stuff biscuit with mashed potatoes & pinch shut.

Fry in oil until brown on both sides.

# Camp OFLA 2010



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Join us again next year to study

Arabic

Chinese

French

Russian

or

Spanish!

June 13-19, 2010

Templed Hills

Bellville, Ohio

Registration forms will be available during Winter  
2010 at [www.ofla-online.org](http://www.ofla-online.org).

To learn more about OFLA and Camp OFLA 2010, visit [www.ofla-online.org](http://www.ofla-online.org). Camp OFLA is an elementary language camp created by the Ohio Foreign Language Association, started in 2005 to celebrate the Year of Languages.



## FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

We were so happy that your child was able to join us this summer! We always look forward to such a busy & rewarding week of language learning. Hopefully your family enjoys camp as much as our staff. Please plan on joining us again next summer! Tell a friend.

We would like to thank the OFLA board for their continued support.

*Lori & Lucas*

### CAMP OFLA 2009 COUNSELORS

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Obadah Alfaham, Arabic            | Southview HS    |
| Adam Backscheider, German         | Walnut Hills HS |
| Jesse Baum, Russian               | Start HS        |
| Amber Franklin, German Jackson HS |                 |
| Andrea Reany, Russian             | Ohio Univ.      |

### CAMP OFLA 2009 STAFF

Lori Winne, Co-director  
Lucas Hoffman, Co-director  
Kimme Scherer, Nurse  
Laura Helpman, Russian Teacher  
Sanaa Jouejati, Arabic Teacher  
Caley Moore, German Teacher

### CAMP OFLA

ISSUE no. 5

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