



Newsletter

Winter 2017

E7 KIDS CAFÉ NEWS

It's been a fun and eventful winter at E7 Kids Café, and it's hard to believe that warm weather is right around the corner! Whether our students are playing and exploring with our volunteers at the center, or working one on one with our tutors at William Wells Brown, each day our kids are learning, growing, and having fun!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Continue reading to learn about our awesome volunteers and community partners, as well as field trips we've taken, projects we've started, and the success of our tutoring program. In this issue, you can get to know one of our students, and hear from the Program Director of E7!

A BIG Thanks!

Thanks to West 6th Brewing and everyone who came out for Sixth for a Cause on January 21st. We made \$1,662.01, and hooray to Erin Mattmiller who won the UK Basketball tickets. Erin is one of our staunchest supporters! In August she helped us secure a sponsorship from Stantec, and last February she sponsored breakfast and lunch for our kids at E-day.

Our Volunteers

E7 Kids Café is blessed with some fantastic volunteers, most of whom come to us from the University of Kentucky. We have a partnership with the University of Kentucky's Service Corps and we reach out to various classes with community service requirements. These students come to us from different backgrounds and communities with the hope of changing lives in Lexington. We're fortunate to see lives changing every day! Our children are richer for the love they receive from our volunteers and our volunteers leave with a clearer picture of the community where they live. At E7, everyone learns that people are just people, and they wind up seeing past superficial differences of skin color, socioeconomic status, and gender. We strive to be a community centered around love and kindness.



Buck-I Serve

Because most of E7's volunteers attend the University of Kentucky, the center always experiences lulls in volunteers over school breaks. This makes it difficult for E7 to provide our high quality afterschool and tutoring experience to children year round. To mitigate this need, E7 has collaborated with The Ohio State University to have an alternative spring break group visit during university breaks. This year we had an amazing Buck-I Serve group work with us from March 13 – 16. These fantastic Buckeyes worked hard to help us organize our space, sort various clothing items for the kids, create acoustic panels, and provide one on one play, tutoring, homework help, and mentoring to our students. So, here's a HUGE THANK YOU to an amazing group of college students.



Field Trips

One of our favorite things to do at E7 is take field trips! We went to Engineering Day at the University of Kentucky, where we experienced virtual reality, designed edible racecars, created electrical circuits, and even got to control our own crane rides at 15 feet in the air! Movie trips are another favorite for us at E7. A group of our girls went to see Hidden Figures, after which Olivia claimed that she “learned in the movie that black women are important and women can do what men can do.” We also went to a showing of Moana at the Lexington Central Public Library. A HUGE THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers who help make our field trips a possibility.

E7 wouldn't be as effective without some fantastic community partnerships. One of our newest partnerships is with the On the Move Art Studio. Once a month Josh Nadzam and his crew come to E7 Center with a trailer full of art supplies to lead us through an amazing art project. So far, we've created all sorts of things, from pumpkins to castles! The kids look forward to the first Thursday of each month and the awesome art project that always comes with it. For the March visit, Josh brought along Lex18. The Lex18 story features Art on the Move, but E7's kiddos are also included in the clip. You can find it online if you're looking for more information on this awesome organization, as well as some snippets of talk from E7's kids. *Community Partners*

Tutoring

We're in our second year of on-site tutoring at William Wells Brown, and it's been a big success. Our students work one on one with a volunteer, completing homework, reading books, and practicing math facts. The main goal of our tutoring program is to allow the kids to have a positive experience with learning and reading, which means sometimes we get creative; Jakorie has mastered her multiples of three by practicing a song and step routine! Overall, our kids are reading two books daily, and finishing their homework every week. We've seen improvements in report card scores, and in their stamina and confidence as well.

SUPER KID SPOTLIGHT



Olivia is one of our regular attendees, and she is awesome. This school year so far, Olivia has found time to participate in two dance teams, and is Captain for the Williams Wells Brown step team (the Black Diamonds). She made huts for penguins as her 4th grade science fair project, participates in the Science Explorers program and STLP (Student Technology Leadership Program), is a girl scout, and on top of all that is getting all A's and B's. But even beyond all that fantastic work, Olivia is one of the kindest children I know. In a culture where it is often “cool” to be unkind or to pick on others, Olivia is contentious, caring, and motivated. She is an inspiration to us at E7 Center, and we all try to be a little more like Olivia.



Be an E7 Pen Pal

E7 understands the importance of all of our volunteers and how influential they can be even when they're not around. That's why we recently started a pen pal program with our kids and volunteers! Our mentors who can no longer volunteer with us can become pen pals with one or a few of our students. Jesse received a letter from a volunteer he loves, and it made his day! He wrote him back, addressed the envelope, and can't wait for his second letter. Right now we only have one pen pal pair, so if you would like to become a pen pal with an E7 student, let us know and we will get you started!



Hello all!

I know this newsletter has been a long time in coming, but as you can see we've been busy at E7 Kids Cafe. The kids of E7 Center are some of the most loving, energetic, and intelligent children you could ever meet. Add that to our fantastic volunteers and staff, and my days are filled with love, support, and high energy children. We've done so much at E7 since the school year began in August! I can't believe time has gone by so quickly.

Currently E7 is experiencing low attendance and high volunteer commitments. We have the capacity and desire to reach so many more children, so please spread the word about our program! Remember this is a completely FREE after school program, we feed a snack, do homework, work on fun projects, go on field trips, and then have dinner together. If you see our flyers around town point them out, post them on Facebook, share us, like us, etc! No one can do it alone. Be part of our village as we help our kids to eat, play, and learn!

Best,

Tanya Roodhouse

UPCOMING EVENT

Luck-E7

April 24th, 5-9PM

Blue Stallion Mission Monday Fundraiser

Join us at Blue Stallion Brewing for games, a silent auction, and more! All fundraising proceeds will go to E7 Kids Café, and 10% of Blue Stallions sales are donated to E7 as well!



E7 Kids Café Contact Information:

530 North Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lexington, KY 40508
859.252.0294
E7kidscafe.weebly.com