

The Climb

Jacob's Ladder, Inc.®

One rung at a time

JACOB'S LADDER

Summer Enrichment Camp
Christchurch School
July, 2018

Nicole Pearson

Academic & Performing Arts Director

Each year I am thrilled to watch teachers who are experts in their field take a week to pour into our gifted Climbers. The variety of classes this year was exceptional! Art (a different class each of the 4 weeks), Mindfulness, English, Math, Writing, Storytelling, French, Origami, Science (that focused on Oysters, Crabs and Fish), Debate, Finance, Coding, Law, and Socratic Seminar. These classes offered enrichment in the core subjects and beyond, providing Climbers the opportunity to explore and stretch their thinking. Of course, my favorite way to stretch our Climbers is in performing arts! I have done much research and am passionate about the ways performing can positively influence any career path. This year we performed the entire script (and many songs) from "A Little Mermaid Jr." I threw a huge script at them and requested that they memorize all lines in just one week. They rose to the occasion, and we were able to present our longest musical to date! It is my hope that the memories of working at this goal will inspire greatness in the Climbers in all areas of their lives.



Climber musical, "A Little Mermaid"

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans for good and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11



Senior fieldtrip to VA Repertory Theatre

Palmer Castrodale
Activities Director

The summer began with a memorable Senior Leadership Adventure to Chilhowie, VA. Our oldest Climbers all summited the highest point in Virginia, Mt. Rogers! They returned to camp ready to serve as leaders. Christchurch School was a great fit for our program and a beautiful setting for our busy schedule. Climbers spent their days in classes, swim lessons, recreation time, and numerous other activities. The Resident Advisors designed clubs such as Zumba, Chess, Spanish, and Interpretive Movement which took place each evening. Quiet reflection and community were built into the daily schedule. There were also special events that the Climbers anticipate each year, including Talent Show, Christmas in July, and Coffeehouse. On the weekends, Climbers stayed busy with field trips and special activities. Climbers learned the process of screen printing and created their own Jacob's Ladder tote bags with the Art Truck from Richmond's Studio Two Three. Senior Climbers enjoyed a field trip to the Virginia Repertory Theater to see "West Side Story" and toured several college campuses. During the last week of camp, we celebrated with a trip to the bowling alley!

Palmer Castrodale
High School Advocate

This fall marks the kick-off to Jacob's Ladder's new High School Advocacy Program. In this position, I will be connecting our 9th-12th grade Climbers with resources and serve as a mentor during their post-secondary plans. School visits are well on their way!

JoAnne Ruffa
Camp Director

I heard a motivational speaker say, "Children want to be treasured, not measured." I immediately thought of the 59 Climbers, 15 RAs, and our host of amazing teachers and speakers. I thought of the vast array of activities, trips, and cultural events. No tests, homework, or measures. Just growth! We provided enrichment, fun learning, and thinking outside the box, along with opportunities for building social skills, confidence, daily living skills, and empathy. All of this was offered in a safe, structured environment that was filled with support, understanding, and love. It was a remarkable time. Climbers also participated in three service projects. Partnering with the Rotary Club of Tappahannock, we raised \$1,000 to purchase a Shelter Box to provide emergency relief to a family impacted by a natural disaster. Climbers raised money by selling LemonAid to support Anthem's childhood cancer research. On a hot summer morning, Climbers gleaned corn, assisting the local food bank as it distributed healthier choices to residents on the Northern Neck. We enjoyed visits from JL Board members, former RAs, and former Climbers. Nearly all of the last year's graduating class gathered to see "The Little Mermaid," support the performers, and reconnect. We even had a former Climber, who had just finished basic training in the US Marine Corps, find his way back to us. In the few R&R days before reporting to his assignment on the West Coast, he explained, "Jacob's Ladder camp was the ONLY place I wanted to be before leaving for duty."



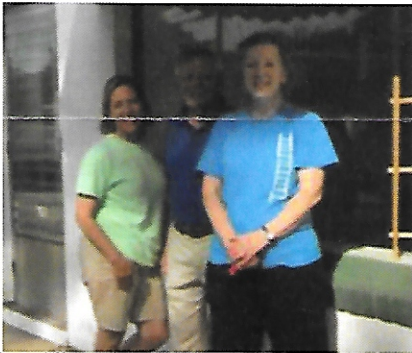
Visit with JL Board Member, former Climber and RA- Calvin Smith

Office Move for Jacob's Ladder

Madge Vosteen, Social Media

"Let him that would move the world first move himself." ~ Socrates

And move we have! The Jacob's Ladder office has relocated to 131 Cross Street in Urbanna. Although our location has changed, everything else remains the SAME – contact information, phone number, and mailing address! Shout out to Sue Albaugh and Janet Kirby for all of their hard work. JL Board member Ed Hipp shares, "This is a step toward helping the Jacob's Ladder staff have a professional environment to continue the work of making a difference in these young peoples' lives."



Sue Albaugh, Aubrey Hall, Janet Kirby



Jacob's Ladder

26th Annual Golf Classic

Save the Date – May 13, 2019!

Jacob's Ladder will hold its annual golf classic at The Club at Viniteria in New Kent County, a championship course designed by Rees Jones. Our location has changed due to the uncertain future of the Golden Eagle Golf Club. Visit Viniteria at www.viniterriagolf.com



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Jacob's Ladder 8th Annual Oyster Tasting Fundraiser



The 2018 Jacob's Ladder Oyster Tasting fundraiser was blessed with a glorious Indian Summer day on September 30th at Merroir on the Rappahannock River. Oysters actually capture the essence of the region with their unique tastes, and this 8th Annual Oyster Tasting featured sweet Rappahannocks and briny Olde Salts. Mmmm...repeated visits to the oyster bar were necessary to determine a personal favorite! The crowd enjoyed the music of the acoustic duo Whiskey Bizness while talking with old friends and getting acquainted with new. Our mission of helping intellectually gifted, at-risk students to reach their potential was the main topic of conversation as guests and staff came together for this great cause. It was sponsored in part by Revere Gas and Lawyers Title/Middle Peninsula. Special thanks to all those in attendance to support the Climbers of Jacob's Ladder!

Save the Date – September 29, 2019!



Jacob's Ladder Leadership Staff

JoAnne Ruffa, Janet Kirby, Sue Albaugh,
Aubrey Hall, Palmer Castrodale,
Nicole Pearson

*From all of us at Jacob's Ladder,
Merry Christmas!*



Climber Insights

"You can talk to anyone and they'll listen. At JL you learn so much. You learn about computers, how to play the ukulele, writing, friends, and a whole lot more."

~ Isabel

"You develop bonds with amazing people, learn new things, and have tons of fun."

~ Daunte

"At Jacob's Ladder we are a family. So we support each other to our best abilities and we make JL feel like home."

~ Saleyah



From the Exec's Desk

Sue Albaugh

As the 27th Jacob's Ladder Enrichment Camp ended, I knew one thing for certain...it was worth it! Moving to a new location brought some challenges, but demonstrated to all of us how working together reaps many blessings. A dedicated staff provided love and support to Climbers as they learned life skills, increased their knowledge through rigorous academic classes, and developed perseverance to overcome obstacles along the way. My first camp experience as Executive Director brought an overwhelming sense of joy as I watched our group of diverse personalities and talents come together for a united purpose, and I will never be the same!



Jacob's Ladder is a pro-active enrichment program serving children who are gifted and at risk for over 27 years.