

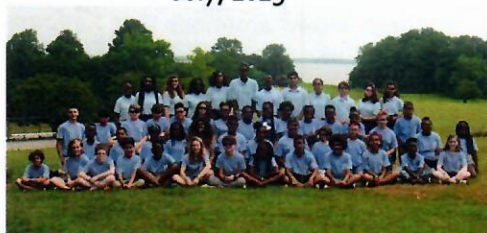
# The Climb

Fall/Winter 2019

Jacob's Ladder, Inc.®

*One rung at a time*

**JACOB'S LADDER**  
**Summer Enrichment Camp**  
**Christchurch School**  
**July, 2019**



**Susan Albaugh**  
**Executive Director & Camp Director**  
**Nicole Pearson**  
**Academic & Performing Arts Director**  
**Palmer Castrodale, Activities Director**  
**JoAnne Ruffa, Camp Counselor**

The summer started out with the Senior Climbers, who are 8<sup>th</sup> graders, adventuring on their "Senior Trip" which included a visit to the Green Bank Observatory, Seneca Rocks, the Cass Railroad and some vigorous hikes in West Virginia. This trip allowed the Seniors to bond with each other and to think about what it was going to look like for them to fill leadership roles for younger Climbers at summer camp. When all Climbers arrived at camp, we hit the ground running! Each day consisted of morning stretching, chapel, academic enrichment classes, followed by afternoon activities, gym time, clubs, and devotions. This schedule gives Climbers time to be enriched mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially.

Camp songs to begin the day



**Palmer Castrodale, Activities Director**

Summer camp was a wonderful experience this year! Climbers stayed busy with enrichment opportunities their entire four weeks. Each evening after dinner, they participated in an array of clubs planned by our staff of RAs. These included Zumba, Jeopardy, Chess, Step, Fishing, Impermanent Art, and Leadership Games. Every Climber participated in a week of swimming lessons, recreation time, and rest time in addition to their morning classes. We had many special events, field trips, and activities for all Climbers. Our Senior Climbers traveled to see Virginia Repertory Theatre's production of *The WIZ*. University of Richmond's Challenge Discovery team led an on-site field trip for team building and leadership development. Climbers visited the unique Pompeii exhibit at the Science Museum of Virginia. The following day they were rewarded with a trip to Jumpology for points earned this summer. The Climbers had many opportunities for artistic expression in addition to our amazing musical theater production. We hosted both a Talent Show and a Coffeehouse to showcase our very talented group. We focused on service projects. Climbers gleaned corn to donate to the local food bank. They raised money for Anthem LemonAid's fight against childhood cancers and contributed to a Shelter Box with Tappahannock's Rotary Club. I can confidently say our Climbers experienced an enriching summer program again this year. They accomplished so much in their month at summer camp and should feel proud of themselves!

Jacob's Ladder is a pro-active enrichment program serving children who are gifted and at risk for over 28 years.

Climbers in Musical, *Annie*



Another amazing part of our summer was the annual Jacob's Ladder musical under the direction of Nicole Pearson.

Each week a new set of teachers provided engaging classes for the Climbers in a wide variety of subjects, including coding and video game design, history, law, English, fine arts, and ukulele. A plethora of guest speakers came to talk to our Climbers, including a ventriloquist, historian, and Mr. Lawson, a long-time friend of Jacob's Ladder.

Mindfulness Training with Mrs. McDonald



Investigating the Constitution





The last night of camp, Climbers enjoyed the traditional fancy dinner. It was a special evening where all the Climbers and staff dressed up and practiced their best dining manners. Afterwards, they received their Memory Book and enjoyed a signing party!

This summer's theme was iWonder... and I wonder just how much the Climbers will reflect on this special summer, and how they will implement lessons learned into their daily lives and school year this upcoming fall!

Climbers Gleaning Corn



Climbers at Anthem LemonAid Stand



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"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

## JACOB'S LADDER

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Oyster Tasting

The 2019 Jacob's Ladder Oyster Tasting fundraiser was held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at Merroir on the Rappahannock River with delightful fall weather and a soft breeze. The crowd enjoyed the music of the acoustic duo Whiskey Bizness, returning again this year. We were served tasty Rappahannocks® (sweet), Rochambeaus® (mild), and Olde Salts® (briny).



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. Special thanks to all those in attendance who supported the Jacob's Ladder Climbers!

### Printmaking in Fine Arts Class



### Fourth of July Fun



*Believe you can and you're half-way there.*  
— Unknown



### From the Exec's Desk

#### Sue Albaugh

#### Farewell from Mrs. Albaugh

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of my recent resignation as Executive Director of Jacob's Ladder. Now seemed to be the right time to give more to my family, especially my grandson and new granddaughter. I'm so thankful for the many experiences and lessons learned during my time with JL. My heart is full of joyful memories for this powerful enrichment program and especially the wonderful Climbers it serves. "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." ~ Winnie the Pooh

#### Dr. David Niebuhr

#### New Executive Director

Dr. David Niebuhr has been appointed the new Executive Director of Jacob's Ladder. He describes himself as a life-long educator, having started as a nature camp counselor at age 14. Since then, he has had a distinguished career in both informal and formal education where he has done everything from training student teachers to leading camps for elementary students. David has an earned doctorate in marine science and a MBA in non-profit leadership and marketing. The Board of Directors and staff of Jacob's Ladder welcome Dr. Niebuhr!

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

