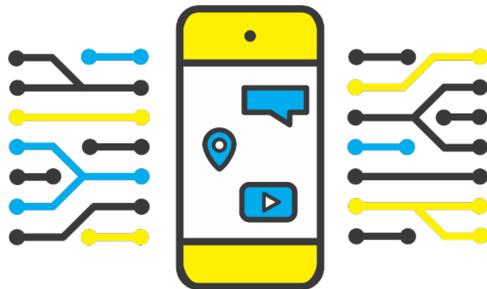




Summer Camp Recap 2018



Ready. Set.
Tech!

"During one of our rest times after lunch, one of our campers, Khloe, who was struggling with connecting with others at camp, laid her head on Sam's shoulder (one of CAN's Summer Associates). Khloe looked up with her big eyes and stated in that moment she felt like she was home."

Alexus Bell, CAN Summer Associate at Brick Elementary

Every summer, CAN operates a free six-week Educational Summer Camp for eligible elementary-aged students. This year, CAN hosted its summer camps at five locations-- Hikone Community Center, Green Baxter Court Community Center, Bryant Elementary, and Brick Elementary-- and CAN also partnered with Arrowwood Community Center to operate its original *Ready. Set. Tech!* thematic curriculum.

CAN's Educational Summer Camps are designed to prevent [summer learning loss](#) and to allow struggling students the opportunity to catch up with their peers. Not only do campers have time to develop their math and literacy skills, but they also have multiple opportunities to grow their strengths in social-emotional learning, executive function, collaboration, problem-solving, geography, science, technology, engineering, art & design, and more! Every day, campers are provided free, healthy meals, one-on-one attention from caring adults, and a retreat to a safe space for learning, making mistakes, and knowing they are loved for who they are and someone believes in who they might become one day.

For six years, CAN has partnered with AmeriCorps VISTA to hire Summer Associates who work as CAN's "camp counselors" operating our summer programs and bonding with CAN's campers as leaders and role models. CAN was incredibly grateful to partner once again with AmeriCorps to hire 21 Summer Associates this year. These are extremely passionate young adults

who sign up to dedicate their summers to working with CAN's campers and we could not "do camp" without them. Many of the stories that appear below are from our Summer Associates and it is easy to tell how strong their bond grew with our campers this year.

This summer's curriculum--*Ready. Set. Tech!*--was developed over the course of the 2017-18 school year with help from a team of experts on CAN's Summer Camp Advisory Committee who helped us narrow down an overarching theme, objectives, weekly themes, activities, and more.

Some key curricular objectives that originated from these meetings include the development of:

- Scientific inquiry and research skills
- Awareness of tech in the world
- Improving collaboration skills, and
- Building resilience/perseverance in the face of failure or disappointment (since science is about trying and trying again until we get it right!)

[View A Sample Lesson](#)

A big thanks to our committee for their expertise and insights, helping CAN turn this idea into reality:

Ronda Bergman, *Girl Develop It*
Monica Dalmia, *University of Michigan, School of Education*
Brittany Essink, *University of Michigan, School of Aerospace Engineering*
Katie Glupker, *Educator, Washtenaw Technical Middle College*
Tyler Kilgore, *Nokia*
Gilda Tong, *University of Michigan, School of Education*
Katie Tilton, *Brain Monkeys*

With an additional thanks to key staff:

Laura Amtower, *Director of CAN Art & Design*
Angie Camilleri, *AmeriCorps VISTA*
Rachel Cain-Kellman, *AmeriCorps VISTA*
Mary Lou Greene, *Director of Development, CAN Art & Design*
Louey Guillen, *CAN Deputy Director*
Courtney Kim, *AmeriCorps VISTA*
Katie Lampen, *Director of Volunteers & Program Management*
Harrison Metzler, *AmeriCorps VISTA Leader*
Rini Parekh, *AmeriCorps VISTA*
Dara Thomson, *AmeriCorps VISTA*

Below is an overview of each week at all of CAN's host and partner sites as campers explore technology from different angles, soak up the rays while reading a good book, spend quality time with volunteers who assist them with developing their math skills, and experience the joys of being a kid in the summer!

We hope you have as much fun re-living the summer as we had experiencing it. Thank you so much for your support. We can't wait to do it all again next year.

(We're egg-cited for next year's theme -- lettuce forever celebrate learning in the summer!)



We will be operating After School Programs (and more) as usual during the school year, but until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,
Your friends at CAN

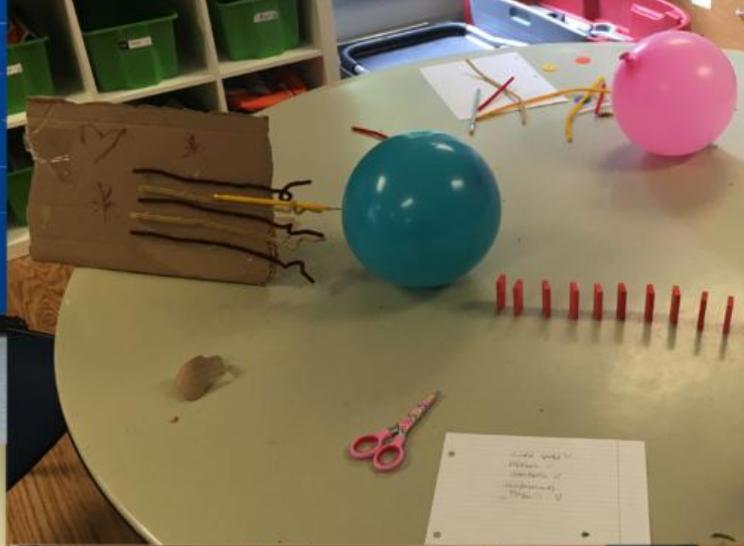
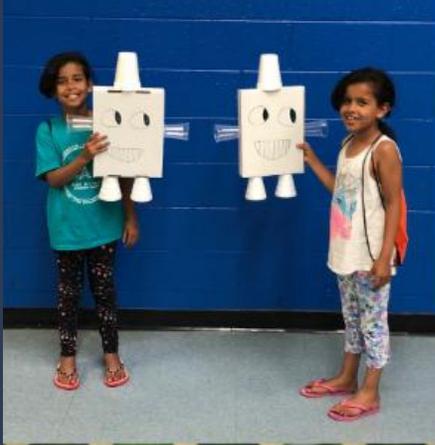


Week 1: History of Technology



Welcome to CAN!

Campers kicked their first week off with a bang. On their first day, campers learned how to use CAN's Weather Wheel, which checks each camper's emotional temperature throughout the day. CAN staff track where the campers' clips land throughout the day and if they notice a pattern, they can take the necessary steps to address it.



K What we Know	W What we Want to learn	L What we Learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They help you get where you want to go• GPS• take us to diff places• Michigan• United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to read them• How to know where you're going• How to use a compass• All countries• All states in the world	

The first week was filled with fun, warm-up activities that set the campers up for success for the rest of the summer. Nasren and Nawal from the summer camp at Bryant show off their "Scrappy Robots," which campers made on the first day to get ready to learn about technology through the lens of art & design.

Later in the week, campers put on their engineering hats to design their own Rube Goldberg Machines. Like the board game "Mouse Trap," these simple machines use a catalyst to trigger a series of events. These elaborate contraptions became known as "Rube Goldberg Machines" in the 1920s, and now there are national competitions from the elementary to the collegiate level.

Every morning, after campers settled in with a snack and overview of the day, they would rotate between reading, math, and geography-focused activities. Assyria shines as she reads outside. And, campers determine what they already know and what they want to learn about geography over the course of the summer on what is called a "KWL Chart."



Campers also explored the history of technology in the classroom, inventions around the world, and had a brief introduction to coding during the first week of camp. Ashleigh shared that her ideal learning environment includes more Internet research, use of social media, and kindness.



"This is Family"

**Niyati Kellenberg Callewaert,
CAN Summer Associate, GBC**

One of our campers, De'oni, who is five, was drawing a picture during free time. She started to draw three people and asked for help on her spelling. Letter by letter, she wrote out "This is Family" above the picture. Then, she asked me to help her label the people in her picture. She labeled them [CAN staff]: Steve, Niyati, and Maeve (who is pictured left with De'oni).

"Destini's Journal"

Yanlin Zhang, CAN Social Work Intern, Bryant

Every day, campers have time to practice mindfulness and to write in their journals.

Destini's journal is about mindfulness: "Mindfulness

gets all the bad things off my mind, and it is peaceful. Sometimes I think about how to breathe. It gets me every time. But I also think about funny times. Like when my friend Morgan sat on my whoopee cushion ON PURPOSE!" (Destini pictured left)



Week 2: Maker Space



The second week of camp was a shorter week, since it also had the 4th of July smack dab in the middle, but that didn't stop CAN campers from exploring technology in this week's "Maker Space" theme.

Campers deconstructed old and new technology, created their own kaleidoscopes, used electro-dough to figure out how to create a closed circuit,

and more!



Even though it was a short week, the week of the fourth was a *hot* one -- and a perfect week for visiting the pool =)



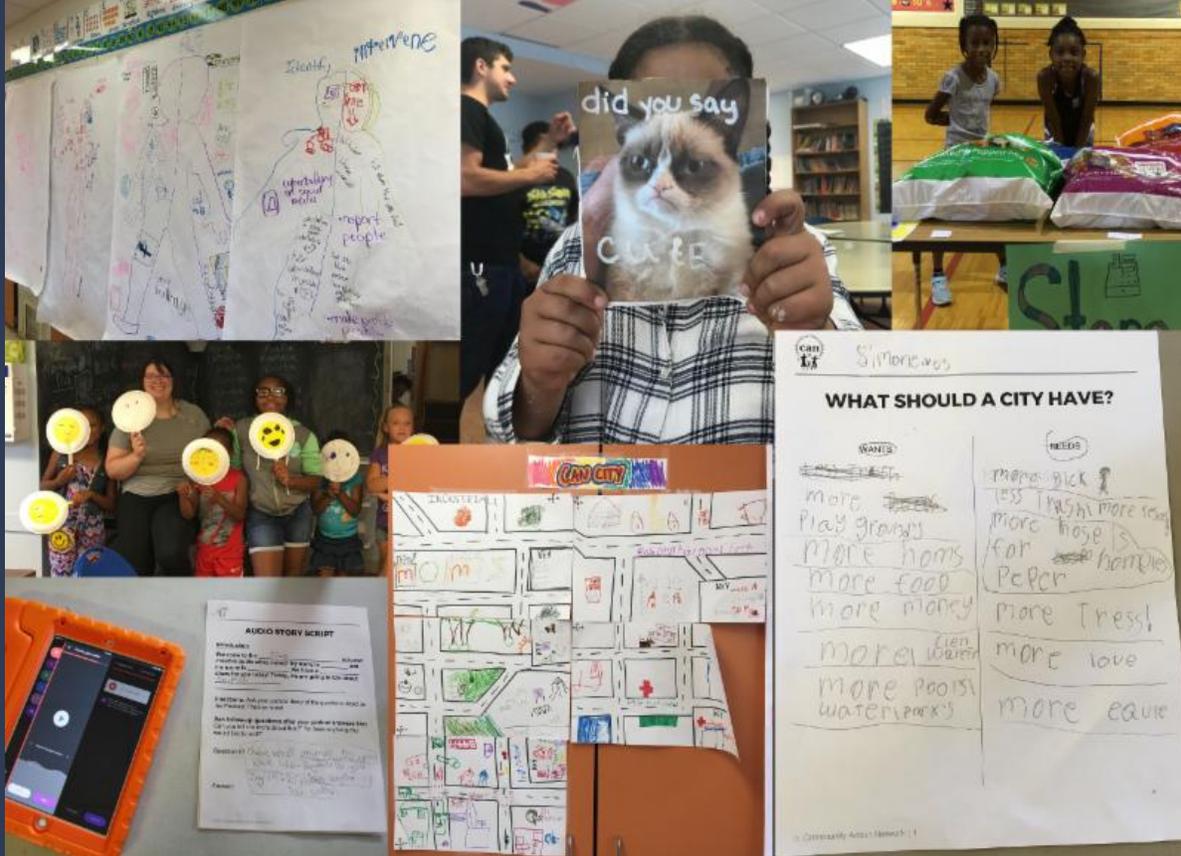
"Big Smiles"

**Alexus Bell,
CAN Summer Associate, Brick**

If there was an award for "The Most Improvement" to a camper, it would be Chris. He is a young man who truly came out of his shell and changed his attitude and the way he presents himself. He has gone from making negative comments and keeping to himself to reaching out to other campers to offer a helping hand and making the entire room light up with big smiles. He now goes above and beyond, and has become a wonderful role model to his peers.



**Week 3:
Digital Communication**



At the halfway point! This week was all about Digital Communication. Campers had conversations about identifying and validating their emotions while creating Emoji Masks, discussed conveying emotion through images and designed their own memes, and traced their bodies to create a map on ways they could identify and intervene when they see or experience cyber-bullying. Campers also wrote and recorded their own audio stories, or podcasts, and explored the various tools they could use to communicate with technology.

But that's not all! Every morning, campers would read, practice math, and participate in geography activities. Each week in geography expanded outward regarding space and self: "Me & My Camp/Home," "My Neighborhood," and in week 3, campers explored "My City." Campers talked about what a city's "wants" and "needs" are, created districts for their "CAN City," and then participated in a simulation in which campers played the roles of consumers, small business owners, fair law enforcers, and citizens. CAN staff had a blast watching the campers make the city their own!



"Not like a regular tomato, but good"

Colette DeRaud,

Hikone Summer Program Director

The Hikone Community Garden has been a big project we were working on this summer. Many fruits and veggies have been planted and the campers have been big helpers keeping the garden watered, weeded, and maintained. Devin, a soon-to-be



Images from Hikone's field trip to the Eisenhower Center's Hoop House. Another great experience to explore healthy food and where it comes from!

Kindergartner, is one of our campers who has been particularly excited about finding things like ripe blueberries and zucchini to pick!

One day, CJ brought in a few green tomatoes from the garden. Devin asked, "What are those?" I explained they were tomatoes that haven't turned red yet." To my surprise, excitedly he asked, "Can I have one?" My first instinct was to say no because he wouldn't like it. But I thought, *why not?* And, he took a big ole' bite! Again, to my surprise, he loved it! He continued to eat it as if it was a delicious apple and described it as "Good. Not like a regular tomato, but good." One of my goals for the Hikone garden is to have the kids enjoy tending to it and eating what it grows. Success!

Week 4: Smart Tech



This week, CAN campers practiced their story-telling skills combined with technology as they wrote, filmed, and edited their own stop-motion

animation videos.

A device that is considered "smart tech" can connect and interact with the user and other devices. Campers went on a QR code scavenger hunt, using their devices and codes to upload and interact with new information.

Every day after lunch, or whenever it makes sense throughout the day, campers and staff wind down with some mindfulness activities. By Week 4, the campers were pros! An'Mari shows off her expert mindfulness tree pose.

Campers also watched Spy Kids as an introduction to smart tech through spy gadgets, and then designed their own spy gadget prototypes!

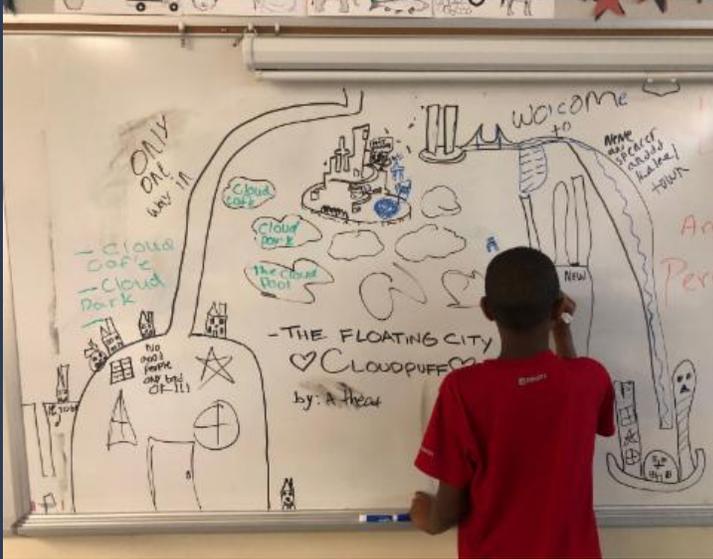
Spy Kids: CAN Edition



[View Stop Motion Animation Videos on CAN's YouTube channel!](#)



Week 5: Speculative Tech



Now that campers have explored various forms of technology and how people and society can interact with tech, campers spent week 5 using their knowledge about technology to design their own future tech. Campers created hovercrafts and future automobiles; and they constructed dioramas to show what society might look like in the future.

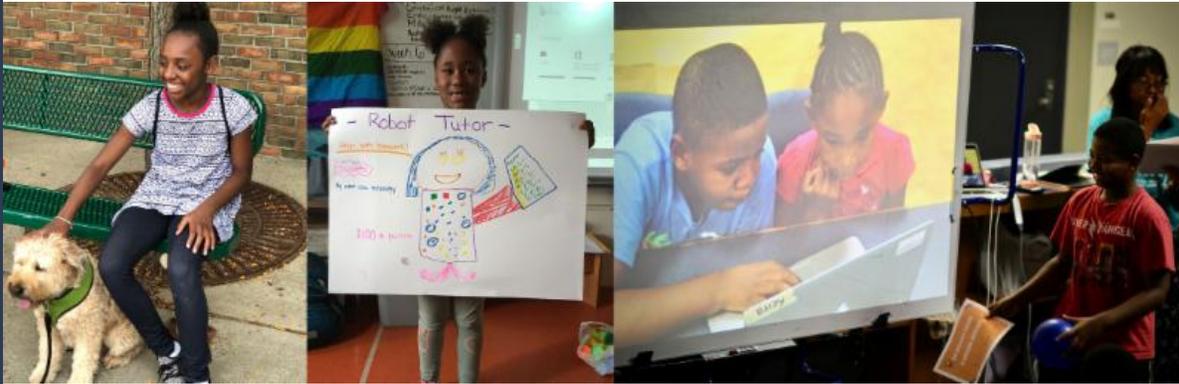


"How Do They Know?"

Sam Zeglis,
CAN Summer Associate, Brick

All of the campers were writing anonymous compliments to one another as part of an activity. As they were reading the notes, Devlan (left) came up to me and read one of the compliments he had received: "Devlan, you are so funny." He looked up to me with wide eyes and said, "How do they know?"

Week 6: Products & Inventions



On the final week, Stephanie and Ernie the dog visited Bryant to be a furry reading buddy. Sometimes, young people (and even adults) can feel more comfortable reading with a furry friend than with another person, and nothing is better than getting someone out of their shell than a big puppy kiss!

Campers used their cumulative knowledge to design and create prototypes of their own products and inventions. Kynnadi proudly shows off her Robot Tutor design.

Each site also had its own end of summer celebration in which each camper received an award. Pictured above, Kameron from Bryant received an award for being the best big brother!



"Coming to an End"

**Kalee Stringham,
CAN Summer Associate, Bryant**

Elli is a somewhat sensitive girl who started the first day of camp off by saying that she didn't know why she showed up, she didn't want to be there, and she was going to have her parents stop signing her up for these camps. But, the last two weeks of camp, she became very sad at the thought that camp was coming to an end and on the very last day she broke down. It was definitely a drastic turnaround. I am glad that we, as a staff, were able to make this such an enjoyable experience that she didn't want to leave.

End of Summer Celebrations & Highlights

GBC & Hikone Summer Olympics

Pictured below are highlights from the Hikone and Green Baxter Court Summer Olympics, which included sports, obstacle courses, Lego challenges, relay races, a dance competition, and more!

A BIG thanks to the GBC and Hikone Resident Councils --especially Kim Pitts and Jessica Frazier--for coordinating with CAN staff to put this even together!



826michigan Family Writing Lab & Pizza Party

On Bryant's last day, 826michigan visited with their famous Family Writing Lab and threw a pizza party with CAN's families! Another BIG thanks to Megan Gilson for coordinating with CAN to put this awesome event together! What a great way to end the year -- sharing stories with the ones we love <3



ByKids4Kids: Kindle Kingdom & YMCA Youth Volunteer Corps



Thank you Sheela Pandey and Stephanie Ralls for your teams' hard work and dedication encouraging young people to get involved in their community. We are grateful for your commitment to CAN's children and youth!

Because of these volunteers and volunteers like them, CAN's campers collectively read for **over 50,000 minutes** this summer;

with each camper reading on average ~350 minutes over the course of the six weeks. *That's a lot of reading!*

**This summer,
we worked hard and played hard.**



We can't wait to do it all again next year!

**Thank you to all of our partners who
helped make this summer a reality!**

Exceptional! 
ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS


LINCOLN
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

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**Ypsilanti Area
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Washtenaw Coordinated Funders



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In Memory of Ward Bouwsma

We mourn the loss of Ward Bouwsma, CAN's longest-term, most dedicated volunteer at our After School & Summer Programs.



The image on the upper left shows Ward still working with Santana five years after they became homework partners.



Ward was so dedicated that even when in hospice this summer, he made every effort to show up and help CAN students with their math.

He volunteered with us until the end when he passed peacefully in his home.



CAN will be forever grateful for Ward's devotion to CAN's children and youth over the many years he served.

[View Ward's Obituary](#)

Community Action Network | 734.994.2985
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