



# CAPAC CHRONICLES

# JULY 2025

## Newsletter



VOLUME 4



Week 3 of the 2025 Full STEAM Ahead Theater & Robotics Summer Day Camp — Exploring Planetary Dreams! — ended on a high note with imagination, innovation, and unforgettable moments!!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we closed out CAPAC's 2025 STEAM Camp, my heart overflowed with pride and gratitude. From day one, our campers inspired us with their creativity, curiosity, and fearless spirit. The finale was truly magical—showcasing all they learned and the lasting bonds they formed.

Thank you to our incredible families, devoted volunteers, generous partners, and phenomenal staff for pouring your time, love, and energy into making this camp a resounding success. Together, we created a summer filled with memories, growth, and inspiration.

Until next time—keep dreaming big, creating boldly, and reaching for the stars!

*Denise McPhail*

Contact us

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The Senator Charles J. Colgan  
Community Arts Benefit Fund

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VOLUME 4

CAPAC CHRONICLES  
**JULY** 2025  
*Newsletter*



THE CREATIVE AND PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

OPEN CASTING CALL

# BLACK

*Nativity*

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

BLACK NATIVITY IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY OF WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

THIS IS A NON-UNION AND VOLUNTEER PRODUCTION.

DIRECTOR, KHANNER HANCOCK-ESSIX  
MUSIC DIRECTOR, BOBBY LACY II  
CHOREOGRAPHER, TANDU-LA LOMAX



## AUDITIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025

6:30PM-9:00PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

10:00AM-1:00PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025

6:30PM-9:00PM

## CALLBACKS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025

10:00AM-1:00PM

Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo Building  
15941 Donald Curtis Drive  
Woodbridge, VA 22191

**For more information**

Seeking Actors, Singers, and  
Dancers of all ages, NO  
EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.

To audition, please prepare 32  
bars of a song selection or dance  
number that best displays your  
talent. No monologue required.

Register via the website below  
and QR code attached.

[www.capacweb.org](http://www.capacweb.org)





# MONEY SMARTS IN ACTION

On Monday, CAPAC campers kicked off the week with an engaging and practical session on money management, led by the knowledgeable and energetic Ms. Ali. The presentation introduced campers to essential financial literacy concepts, helping them build a strong foundation for managing money wisely.

Ms. Ali shared helpful tips and strategies for making smart financial decisions—from saving and budgeting to understanding needs versus wants. She encouraged campers to start thinking about how they can be responsible with money now and in the future.

To reinforce what they learned, campers participated in a fun and fast-paced game of Financial Jeopardy, where they teamed up to answer questions related to basic financial concepts. The friendly competition sparked excitement and teamwork as campers raced to show off their new knowledge.

Thanks to Ms. Ali, campers walked away with valuable money skills and a boost of confidence in their financial futures. It was a fun and informative way to learn that being money smart starts early!





# EXPLORING OCEANS & OPPORTUNITIES: MARINE BIOLOGY WITH MRS. WILLIS

On Tuesday, CAPAC campers had the exciting opportunity to meet Mrs. Willis, Marine biologist with the Boeing Corporation, who shared her inspiring journey through science, the sea, and STEM success.

Mrs. Willis spoke about her fascinating career studying marine life and how her passion for science led her to a unique role at Boeing. She encouraged campers to think about what they want to be one day, sparking conversations about future careers, college paths, and the many fields they could explore through science and technology.

Campers asked thoughtful questions and shared their dreams—from becoming scientists and engineers to artists and astronauts. Mrs. Willis emphasized that with curiosity, dedication, and education, the possibilities are endless.

To help them stay grounded and focused, Mrs. Willis gifted each camper a stress ball, reminding them to take care of their minds as they dream big.







## STRAWBERRY DNA & LAB DISCOVERY

On Wednesday, CAPAC campers stepped into the world of real-life science at Katherine G. Johnson Hall, where they were welcomed by Dr. Jason Calhoun, Director of the Governor's School @ Innovation Park and Dr. Kristen Herring, a scientist and educator who brought biology to life—literally!

During this hands-on workshop, Dr. Herring guided campers through the fascinating process of extracting DNA from strawberries using simple, safe materials. Campers learned what DNA is, where it's found, and why it's essential to understanding all living things—from fruit to humans.

With curiosity high, campers smashed strawberries, mixed solutions, and watched in amazement as DNA strands became visible before their eyes. Dr. Herring made the science fun and easy to understand, sparking excitement and curiosity throughout the group.

In addition to the workshop, Dr. Calhoun led campers on an informative tour of the building's labs, giving them an inside look at the cutting-edge spaces where students and scientists bring research and innovation to life.

This memorable experience reminded campers that science isn't just something found in textbooks—it's something they can see, touch, and explore. A special thank you to Dr. Kristen Herring for inspiring our young scientists and showing them the power of hands-on discovery!







# BREAKDANCER ROBOT

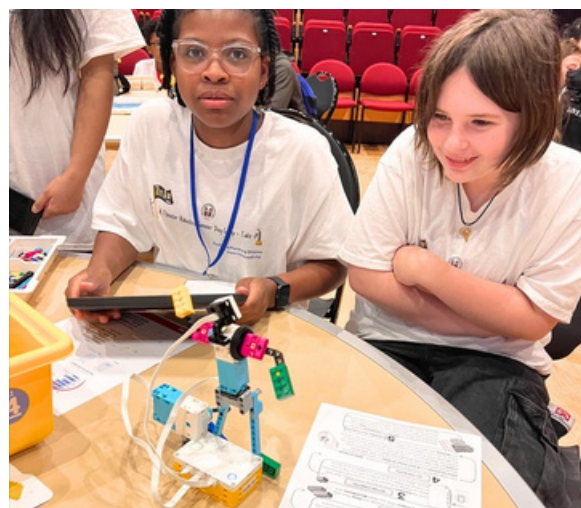
## WITH CREATIVE HUT

On Thursday, CAPAC campers experienced the perfect blend of creativity, engineering, and fun during a special presentation from Creative Hut, an Amazon partner. The excitement was high as an Creative Hut representative guided campers through a hands-on activity where they built functioning robots out of LEGOs—but with a twist: these robots could breakdance!

After learning about the basic principles of robotics and motorized movement, campers rolled up their sleeves and worked together to assemble their LEGO robots, piece by piece. With focus and teamwork, the campers brought their creations to life—culminating in a dance session where the robots moved to music, spinning and twisting just like real breakdancers!

The room quickly turned into a joyful celebration as campers joined in the fun, dancing along with their robot companions. Laughter, cheering, and amazement filled the space as technology took center stage in the most entertaining way possible.

This unforgettable session reminded campers that STEAM is not only about science and engineering—it's also about imagination, movement, and joy. A big thank you to Creative Hut and Amazon for inspiring our campers and showing them how innovation can dance!





# MINDFUL MATH & MOVEMENT

On Friday, CAPAC campers wrapped up the week with a calming and inspiring session led by Ms. Pamela Forshay, a retired engineer who brought a unique fusion of math, mindfulness, and movement to the camp.

Ms. Forshay guided campers through a gentle yoga session, helping them stretch, breathe, and center themselves—just in time for their big performance the next day. But this wasn't your average yoga class. She creatively incorporated math skills into the practice by having the campers count backward from 100 to 1, blending focus and numeracy in a peaceful and playful way.

After stretching and counting, Ms. Forshay led campers in a powerful visualization exercise, inviting them to reflect on the important roles they would play in making their theatrical production a success. She encouraged each camper to see themselves as a vital part of the team, capable of shining on stage and behind the scenes.

This thoughtful session reminded our campers that success comes not only from preparation and practice—but also from mindfulness, confidence, and believing in themselves.











## CAMPERS SHINE IN SPACE SCHOOL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

On Saturday, the curtain rose at the George Mason Hylton Performing Arts Center as CAPAC campers took center stage in their stellar production of Space School Musical directed by Mrs. Khanner Hancock-Essix!

After weeks of hard work and dedication, our young performers, directors, and crew brought the story to life with energy, creativity, and heart. From acting and singing to set building and backstage support, every camper played a vital role in making the show a success.

The performance was a true showcase of teamwork, talent, and imagination—and the audience loved every moment. Bravo to our incredible campers for launching Space School Musical into orbit!















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# PRODUCTION TEAM & BACKSTAGE CREW

## SPACE SCHOOL MUSICAL



PRODUCTION TEAM



REHEARSAL



BACKSTAGE CREW