The Association of Chinese Americans’ (ACA) Summer Camp returned to Madison Heights after a few years hiatus. ACA’s Summer Camp has been committed to promoting Chinese culture and creating joyful and colorful summer life for children.

This year, the Summer Camp in Madison Heights was designed as a STREAMS (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Math, and Soft Skills) camp, based on Chinese culture. The camp aimed to build a base for children to have an all-around development. The camp received great attention as soon as it was announced. It was set up for two sessions of two weeks each, and it received positive feedback from the campers and their parents for the patient and kind instructors, nutritious lunches, and diverse learning activities.

The summer camp was honored to invite Danny, Doctor of Philosophy in Food Science and Nutrition, to lead the STEM courses. He has math and science teaching experience in high school which made him highly welcomed by the children. Dr. Xiuling Su, who specialized in soft skills education and youth development, lead the soft skill courses using games to explore soft power potentials to enhance leadership skills, communication skills, and teamwork skills of the campers. Through Smart Goal practice and key soft power learning activities, Dr. Su helped the campers understand what soft power means.

Under the instruction of Dr. Jamie, who is a professional in writing and was awarded an American Poets Prize, the campers focused on the three key skills of reading, writing, and speaking. The course aimed to improve their creative writing skills as well as interpersonal communication skills.

Senior instructor of ACA, famous artist Cailing Zhou, taught them leather carving, and Batik (a technique of wax-resist dyeing), and other forms of handcrafting. Dr. Zhou had served in ACA’s Summer Camp as art director, and she brings the materials needed in art classes all the way from Taiwan to give the children a different perspective on aesthetics. In the second session of the camp, ACA staff Shirley Yee provided handcrafting to the children to release their creativity. Senior Calligrapher Wei Song also joined the team giving the children a wonderful calligraphy learning experience.

The STREAMS Summer Camp in Madison Heights was a new attempt. The summer camp was a success with the help of our faculty staff, instructors, counselors, and volunteers, and we would also like to give thanks to those parents who called and emailed to send their affirmations. Credit is given to all the individuals that care about the Chinese community and Chinese culture. Your support enables us to stand firm on our belief and to serve better!