

# Magical Correspondence from Hogwarts

During the last week of July, Camp UU Hogwarts was in full swing throughout "our" church building. Prospective students arrived at Camp UU Hogwarts on Monday morning by way of King's Cross Station (located at the back of the church's playground area). Each camper entered the building through the "solid" wall of Platform 9 3/4 (thanks to Alamo Drafthouse So. Lamar, from whom we received this wonderful prop via a posting on freecycle). The young witches and wizards first tried their hands at games such as Quiddich, Wizard Chess, and Wizard Dueling. They then enjoyed a dose of Magical Musicology, with Danielle Solan (the muggle director of the primary choir for the past two years). Then students visited Diagon Alley, where they were outfitted in cloaks and hats, decorated their wands, and created wizard money. The various sports and the Musical Musicology continued for the week.



Platform 9 3/4



Rousing Game of Quiddich

Tuesday morning, all the campers were sorted into their Houses. A key focus for camp was highlighting the positive characteristics for all four Houses. (Slytherin has suffered from a bad reputation in recent years!) We adorned the Great Hall (known to muggles as Howson Hall) with floating helium balloons in the House colors.

Every morning Professors led classes for groups of students. With titles such as Potions, Herbology, and Care of Magical Creatures, the children learned new skills and completed a variety of fun activities. Each afternoon, the campers learned about charitable organizations (ARCH, Operation School Bell, the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Greyhound Pets of America) and participated in service activities (making sack lunches for the homeless, cleaning equipment at the School for the Blind, preparing hygiene packs and shirts for Operation School Bell, and creating beautiful knotted fleece blankets for animals cared for at EmancipETs and Animal Trustees of Austin). Each afternoon ended with fun muggle activities: watching movies, Brentwood Pool, Dart Bowl, Bob Bullock Museum, and a water day outdoors at the church.



Prof Michelle Gray Herbologist



Evie Snackin'

First UU's resident story teller, George Denny, entertained with story telling on Thursday. On Friday, family and friends joined the campers for lunch inspired by the Harry Potter theme. During the Great Feast, the campers performed songs for the honored audience. The same musical selections, performed by several of the campers, prefects, professors, and volunteers, were featured as the anthem during the church services on August 2nd. July 27-31, 2009, will go down in First UU's magical history books as another amazing week for Camp UU!!

