Project Summary

Christ Lutheran School – La Mesa, CA
• Suburb of San Diego
• Established in 1958
• Preschool – 8th grade (260 students)
• New facility built in 2008

Project Topic: Summer Program

The intention of my Van Lunen applied project was to start a summer program to maintain relationships with students and families over the summer months. What started as a plan to implement a traditional summer day camp resulted in creating “bridging events” that would bridge key family/school relationships.

Project Results

Investigated the feasibility of starting a summer program
• Developed a survey about summer program and then analyzed the results (sent to current school families)
• Visited local summer program coordinators
• Attended workshops for summer program leaders
• Formed a “think tank” of Christ Lutheran School parents and staff for ideas and input
• Completed a budget analysis for income and expense

Pursued summer “Bridging Events” in lieu of a summer program/camp
• Developed a “Meet & Greet” event for 2011-2012 kindergarten families
• Developed a “Kick-Off to Summer Fun” for Preschool – 2nd grade families
• Christ Lutheran School will host Vacation Bible School for students from our school and community this August

What We Have Learned

• A traditional 9-week summer program/camp was not a good fit for Christ Lutheran School
• Christ Lutheran School could not financially compete with other local camp options
• Reanalyzing the purpose for considering the implementation of a summer program made the need for “bridging events” a new target
• The implemented “Bridging Events” provided families multiple summer touch points on our campus and helped to “bridge” the time between school years