

ACADEMY NOTES

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

National Job Shadow Day a Success at Bay Cove Academy

ON FEBRUARY 2, 2004, RENOWNED GROUNDHOG PUNXATAWNEY PHIL AWOKE WITH A START AS SPECTATORS WATCHED WITH ANTICIPATION FOR HIS FAMED SHADOW.

Meanwhile, in Boston, equally historic events were unfolding. Throughout the metro area, exhibit designers, printers, builders, security guards, bankers, company vice presidents, hospitality specialists, engineers, housekeepers, cosmetologists and admissions directors were all taking time from their usual schedules to host some special guests. Like the folks in Punxatawney, they too were awaiting their shadows.

February 2 was not only Groundhog Day, but also the date for National Job Shadow Day, an initiative presented by a coalition that includes the United States departments of Labor and Education and sponsored by **Monster.com**. The event, which celebrates its seventh anniversary this year, began in Boston as a way to give young people a more thorough and productive glimpse into the world of work. Kathleen Pignone, coordinator of career development, explains, "The primary objective of job shadowing is to observe the

knowledge and skills that are used every day on the job. Students are exposed to all aspects of an industry, and learn about workplace standards, job descriptions, interactivity between departments, and other work experiences." The program has become so popular that now over one million students and 100,000 businesses participate annually. Famed members of America's workforce including Secretary of State Colin Powell; Mayor Thomas Menino; and *Today Show* anchors Matt Lauer, Katie Couric, and Al Roker have all hosted student shadows to accompany them for a day on the job.

As this was Bay Cove Academy's first year of participation in this growing program, our enterprising Career Development Department scouted for an array of community partners who could make our inaugural year a success. Our four welcoming sites included:

The Museum of Science
The Brookline Courtyard Marriott
Wainwright Bank
Blaine Beauty Career Schools,
Framingham Campus

So what happens on National Job Shadow Day? This year's event kicked off at Bay Cove, where students feasted on a specially prepared breakfast and donned T-shirts that commemorate the event. Then, piling into vans, they headed to their job sites, where employees had organized 2-4 hour blocks that would give students a comprehensive look into the skills, responsibilities, benefits, and goals unique to that place of business.

At the Museum of Science, students took a behind-the-scenes tour of operations, met with several employees who detailed their roles in the Museum, and even tested prototypes for future exhibits. At the Brookline

continued on page 3



Bay Cove students flank the Marriott's Renate Auffrey

In This Issue

- National Job Shadow Day
- Student Poetry
- MCAS Update
- Summer's Coming!

New Focus on Literacy Helps Hone Students' MCAS Skills

Bay Cove has helped students achieve marked improvement in MCAS scores over the last two years. Sixty percent of test takers passed the spring 2002 math portion of the test, while only 40 percent passed the English Language Arts section. By spring of 2003, 85 percent of students taking the MCAS for the first time received a passing score in both English Language Arts and math. This spring, 87 percent of students retaking the exam passed.


BCA teachers have received MCAS-related training from Linda Lipkin, a Boston Public Schools literacy coach for Hyde Park High School. Lipkin

introduced Bay Cove staff to a range of learning strategies that can be applied to both the MCAS and the curriculum at large.

Lipkin presented teachers with a range of interesting reading materials, specifically addressing nonfiction, which has appeared more frequently on the state tests. There has been an effort at Bay Cove to make students more familiar with nonfiction, reading everything from newspaper editorials to books such as the Piri Thomas memoir *Down These Mean Streets*. Students have also practiced writing in different modes

as well, from persuasive essays to movie and book reviews.

English teacher Meg Lush and writing teacher Angela Burke have also been building students' independent reading and writing stamina, as required during tests such as the MCAS. Students read in small groups, and read and summarize individual chapters for the rest of the class. They also write every day, either generating their own topics or answering prompts in class journals.

All of these skills contribute to a student's confidence when faced with challenges like the MCAS. 

Summer Classes Offer a Welcome Change of Pace

Summer... sun, beaches, barbecues, hanging out with friends, school. School!?! That's often the response we get at BCA when students realize they have to attend a summer school session following the end of the regular school year. Like most teenagers, school is the last thing our students want to be doing when the weather is nice and there is fun to be had. In order to make it a little less painful for the students to give up their care-free summer days, teachers at BCA

attempt to come up with unique and fun ideas for the academic portion of the summer program. Offerings have included drama, the history of American music, and a measuring and building-to-scale collaboration class between the math and art teachers.

Drama class covers such topics as production roles (director, writer, set designer, etc.), writing scripts and scenes, and learning how to incorporate props. Students get to try their hand at developing stage directions, writing and performing dialogs and creating storyboards. They improvise, mime and laugh, a lot. The final project in each class is a student-run production of their own creation. This class has exposed some budding actors and given them a great opportunity to work off some energy and get silly.



The models class crafted a park replica

The history class traces American music from its European and African roots to the present. They learn about the development of the Blues and Jazz, uniquely American styles, and how society shaped the music and vice versa. Beginning with slave field hollers and spirituals, the class follows music's development

continued on page 4

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Bay Cove Academy gratefully acknowledges the recent support of the following:

Employment Resources Inc.
Kristie Bellavance
Sally Thompson

Please send us your tax-deductible gift today. 100% of donations go directly toward program improvement.

Student Poetry

Love is Like a Rose
 by Johnetta

Love is like a rose
It's beautiful and bright
Love is like a rose
It is beautiful
But yet a fright
Close your eyes and think
Close your eyes
And try to relate
Picture what I'm saying
Picture and play it
Come into my world
Twist and give it a twirl
Start it up again
And come in
So I can show you
That
Love is like a rose

BORED
 by James

Bored is unexplainable
 Sometimes even untamable
 It comes at the weirdest times
 It's almost as plain as lines
 It's like a black in a crayon box
 It can even be as discreet as a fox

Job Shadow

Courtyard Marriott, students split up for one-on-one job shadowing with front desk supervisors, the manager of rooms care, and the chief engineer. Students at Wainwright Bank began with a tour that followed a dollar bill from the moment it enters the bank, then received mentoring from Tony Robinson, assistant vice president of community development. At Blaine's Framingham Campus, students interested in cosmetology participated in an admissions presentation, hosted by Director Jim Sullivan. They also observed ongoing classes and spoke to members of the industry.


Students returned to school with rave reviews for the event, and for the job sites. Tanya, a sophomore who spent the day at Blaine explains, "It was important because it helped me figure out what I want to do with my life. I like helping people look better and feel confident, but it never occurred to me that I should get a job in cosmetology." David, a student who shadowed at Wainwright took a lot from the mentoring time he spent with VP Tony Robinson. "We talked about what he did to get where he is today and what I have to do to succeed in life. He also taught me a lot about banking that I didn't know before. He is definitely an inspiration," said David.

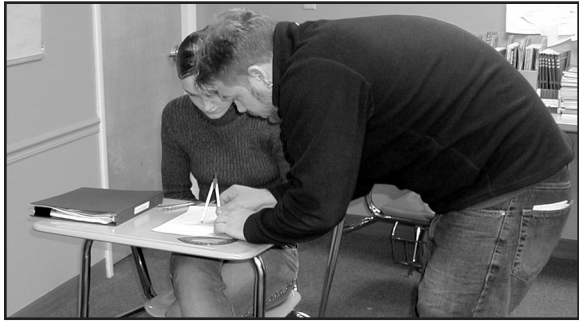
The benefits of participating in Job Shadow Day extend beyond the stu-

dents. "Employers have the opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise with students help shape their future workforce and highlight necessary skills for the workplace. Staff and teachers learn how to



integrate real world applications into their curriculum," explains Kathleen Pignone. Tisha Stima, the Museum of Science's foundation gift officer, describes her experience as being, "A great opportunity to inspire kids to pursue work in science and technology, and to show them, first hand, that you don't have to be a scientist or an engineer to have a career in the field." Tisha also reports that the day was a beneficial team-building experience for the museum staff. "It reminded [us] of the many different ways that staff, interns, and volunteers help keep this place running," says Tisha.

We extend our thanks to all the participants, who made our day such a success! 




Bay Cove's small class size allows teachers to provide intensive help to students to facilitate learning.

Summer Classes

through the 19th and 20th Centuries. The students listen to everything from delta blues, ragtime and swing to avant-garde jazz, funk and bebop. Such greats as Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Marvin Gaye are used as examples of each musical style. Activities include creating listening journals, making musical vocabulary posters and writing a biography on a famous American blues or jazz artist. The students also get to see and try their hands with a clarinet, trumpet and guitar. A few naturals have been found in our midst.

The measuring and building to scale classes give students the chance to get outside in order to measure, sketch and photograph a park and local store fronts. Small details including benches, trashcans, play-

ground equipment and door designs are noted in order to create a realistic representation. Once the information is converted to scale, the students then recreate the scenes in the art class. Using both new and recycled materials, the classes have painstakingly recreated the tiniest details. It was a lot of work to get this project underway last summer, but once it took shape the final scene was its own reward.

While the focus of the summer program is primarily on the career development aspect of Bay Cove, these classes show the education department can also pull off an exciting and fun six weeks. Hopefully, this summer it will make coming to school on those beautiful sunny days just a bit easier. 

Upcoming Events

May		
14	Middle of Term 4	
31	Memorial Day	
June		
17	Graduation Day	
18	End of Term 4	
28	Summer Term Starts	
July		
5	BCA closed for July 4	
August		
6	Summer Term Ends	
30	Staff Orientation	
September		
1	Student Orientation	

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