

# BAYCOVE ACADEMY NOTES

The Newsletter of Bay Cove  
Academy

## Graduation 2003!

June 12, 2003 was truly a memorable day at Bay Cove Academy. Six students were honored by the entire community as they received their high school diplomas. Joleen, Kim, Jonathan, Antoine, James, and Joseph were given the “star” treatment for reaching this significant personal milestone.

The proceedings began promptly at 12:30 as the graduates entered the beautifully decorated Central Area. As “Pomp and Circumstance” blared proudly, the graduates received a thunderous standing ovation from the overflow crowd of parents and invited guests, students, staff, board members, and officials from the students’ towns. Principal Judy Gelfand welcomed the audience and spoke of the pride she felt for the students’ achievement. She then introduced the gradua-

tion speaker, Todd Smith, to the podium.

Todd gave a powerful speech on the theme, “the harder the challenge, the more rewarding the triumph.”

He spoke of graduation as a journey which includes the obvious academic pressures but also issues that deal with ques-



*The Bay Cove community celebrates graduation*

tions of character and adulthood. As Todd stated, “graduation forces us to look at these ques-

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## Verizon Announces Bay Cove Grant Award

This Spring, the Verizon Foundation announced Bay Cove Academy a winner of the 2003 Massachusetts EdLink Awards competition that supports innovative school-to-career programs developed by schools and community partners. In particular, EdLink 2003 focused on projects that build linkages between classroom instruction and workplace or community-based learning opportunities for students in grades 7-12. Bay Cove Academy was one of 25 selected for funding from an applicant pool of 137 proposals statewide. The proposal was reviewed in three phases in collaboration with a team of experts in education, community-based organizations and school-to-career programs.

### Focus on a School-to-Career Approach

As one of the largest private employers in the state, Verizon realizes the importance of schools, businesses and communities partnering to help students at all levels discover linkages between school and the workplace. To remain competitive in a global marketplace, employers need a workforce which possesses solid academic knowledge, strong technical and computer skills, effective work habits and interpersonal skills. The school-to-career approach is based on the concept that education for all students can be made more relevant and useful if students can apply what they learn through participation in work and

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## Graduation


tions. We can't hide from them." He then cited six characteristics needed to graduate and assigned one to each student who most personified the particular trait. For example, Joleen was recognized as someone who displayed the "stick-to-it-ivness" needed throughout the journey; Kim represented the ability to "adapt to changes" during the high school years; Jonathan was cited for the increase in "maturity" during his three years here; Antoine was commended on his "focus and discipline" for maintaining his long term goal of going to college; James demon-

strated the "desire from within" to graduate; and Joe reflected the "knowledge" needed to graduate.

Moments later the highlight of the day took place as Marge Lawson, education coordinator, presented a diploma to each graduate. The lively audience erupted with applause as each student rose to accept his/her diploma.

The final portion of the graduation exercise was the traditional open toast. The audience was invited by Judy to stand and offer a toast to a graduate. This proved to be the most touching and

emotional part of the proceedings as parents, students, and former staff gave toasts which spoke of pride, relief, and love. The day concluded with a fabulous luncheon prepared by our cook, Shirley Jones. Music, dancing and picture-taking filled out the remaining minutes of a wonderful day of celebration.

Graduation is a day which reflects the mission of a school. At Bay Cove Academy it gives everyone in the community the chance to see what hard work and success looks like. It's a beautiful sight. 

## Students Learn New Skills in Summer Jobs Program

Bay Cove students headed back to work this summer as part of the annual Summer Jobs Program. The six week program places students in internships throughout the Boston area after morning classes.

This year, many new sites joined an already impressive array of opportunities for student workers. Among these are Herb Chambers BMW, Russell J. Call Children's Center at Northeastern University, and the Dorchester YMCA. In total, Bay Cove students joined the staff at 18 separate sites.

Among these student workers is Susanne, Bay Cove's first student

to work at the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Disease Association. "They support families that are affected by these diseases," explains Susanne, who works in the busy office five days per week. "I do a number of tasks, like informational mailings about the diseases, helping with the newsletter, and organizing the office."

Another Bay Cove student employee is KJ, who began work at the Russell J. Call Children's Center at Northeastern University. "My job is to look after the children – play with them, get them to sleep for naptime, and supervise them when they play outside to make sure they are safe and having fun." KJ has high praise for both his job and his co-workers. "I love everything about my job – the kids, the teachers. I get a lot of respect from the teachers. They are cool, funny, respectful, and just great people." KJ has learned a lot about

working with children and offers this advice, "You need a good sense of humor and patience. But it's fun to work with kids – they'll always make you laugh when you're sad."

David, a Bay Cove student with an interest in customer service, began work this summer at the Friends of Beth Israel Thrift Store in Brookline. "We sell clothes and things for charity, so it's important to make sure everything is in order so that customers will see what's out, and not just messy piles." To accomplish this task, David assists in the store by folding and tagging clothes, organizing items on shelves, and keeping the place free from dust. "The hardest part," says

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### ACADEMY NOTES

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Bay Cove Academy gratefully acknowledges the recent support of the following:  
Employment Resources Inc.  
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Please send us your tax-deductible gift today. 100% of donations go directly toward program improvement.

# Academy Basketball has Winning Season

Bay Cove Academy’s extra-curricular program has had significant growth this year, marked notably by the revival of the basketball program. Coached by English teacher Meg Lush and math Assistant Teacher Mark Smith, the co-ed team of thirteen students recently wrapped up their season with a winning record, making it all the way to the division’s championship tournament.

“it took a lot of dedication”

“We had a very successful year,” Coach Mark Smith explains, “The league even upgraded us to division one for the tournament because of our successes.”

The team’s skill and finesse on the court came with a lot of hard work between games. “They worked very hard in practice,” says Coach Meg Lush, “We did calisthenics, running, sprints, foul shots, we ran through plays – it took a lot of dedication.” The work paid off, and when game time came around the team showed consistent strength, particularly when on the defen-

sive. “They played 100% on defense,” Meg proudly points out. “When we had our players in there, our man-to-man defense was unstoppable,” Mark adds.

But Bay Cove’s basketball team is not resting on its laurels for next season. Both the coaches and the players have a long list of goals for refining an already impressive repertoire of talents. “I’m most proud of the sportsmanship we showed on the court,” says Coach Meg, “Despite a tough loss to Eggleston, we kept our composure very well. I’d like to continue this in the future, as well as work on continued team play, and leadership on the court from our veteran players.” Coach Mark is looking ahead not only to another quality season, but also to an extended season. He explains, “This year we had a six game season. We’d like to expand to a 10-12 game season because we were so successful this year.”

## Summer Jobs

David, “is traffic. People are always coming in and out, looking for different things. I try to bring them to the right section and show them exactly what they want to see.” The perks, for David, are working with people and interesting merchandise. “I like working with customers and my fellow employees. I just love helping people, and I see a lot of cool things – some things I’ve never even seen before – like sea monkeys.”

Scott, whose interest lies in automobiles, began work at another new site, Herb Chambers BMW. “I work with Kevin who is a salesman for Herb Chambers. The building I work in deals BMW, Porsche, and the Mini Cooper. They also do all kinds of service, repair, and detailing.” At Herb Chambers, Scott has had the opportunity to learn a host of different jobs. “I really like working as a valet attendant,” says Scott, “When people bring their cars in, I let the service advisor know what kind of issue they have. You have to be really precise.”

*For a list of our current business partners please turn to page 4.*

## Verizon

community-based learning opportunities. School-to-career activities can help all learners acquire important knowledge and practical skills that ensure productive and rewarding employment and help build strong local economies.

The focus of the grant was on

exemplary work-based learning initiatives that link students to work-based learning opportunities and real world learning activities. School-to-career activities provide students opportunities to experience the world of work by participating in field trips to employers, job shadow-

ing and mentoring opportunities, and internships in the community. For teachers, program activities may include a focus on integrating workplace applications and classroom teaching and learning, and using technology to integrate academic and workplace skills.



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 National Tay-Sachs and Allied Disease Association, Inc.  
 Roxbury YMCA  
 Russell J. Call Children's Center  
 Sassamon Trace Golf Course  
 St. Elizabeth's Hospital — Shipping and Receiving Dept.

## Upcoming Events

August

27 Term 1 begins

September

1 Labor Day

October

31 Term 1 ends

*For a full list of employers who partner with our Career Development Program or to find out how your business can benefit, please call Kathleen Pignone at 617.739.1794 x. 228.*

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