

Academy Notes

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

Job Shadowing Puts Careers in Reach

By Carrie Nelson

How many of us grew up with dreams of becoming a zookeeper, a scientist, or a producer without really knowing what those careers were all about? For students at Bay Cove Academy, these dreams have become real experiences, thanks to job shadowing events through the Career Development Department. In December, Bay Cove students participated in Women in the Sciences Day at the New England Aquarium. On Groundhog Day, Bay Cove was one of thousands of high schools across America sending students into the workforce for National Job Shadow Day.

The goal of job shadowing is two-fold, says Bay Cove's Coordinator of Career Development, Kathleen Pignone. According to Pignone, "Students are able to learn all aspects of an industry in a way that is authentic and hands-on. Employers are able to shape their future work-



Axel tries the equipment on for size at BNN-TV.

force by giving young people a realistic look into the skills, preparation, demands, and rewards that relate to their careers."

At Women in the Sciences Day, Bay Cove students spent their day at the New England Aquarium (NEAQ) seeing and doing what professionals in the marine sciences do every day. From penguin care, to habitat research and education, to running laboratory experiments, students got an interactive experience that allowed them to spend a day in the shoes of a scientist at the NEAQ. Tanya, a Bay Cove junior, took particular interest in the lobster laboratory where she learned from biolo-

gist Anita Kim that a lobster's color could be changed by the presence or absence of enzymes in its diet. Tanya's hypothesis, "Does changing the lobster's color weaken the shell?" turned out to be exactly what Kim and fellow researchers were determining. Chalena, a sophomore at Bay Cove, promised to bring some of her newfound knowledge back to the classroom. "I'm going to make sure [our science class] doesn't use any more animals in formaldehyde," said Chalena, who learned healthier alternatives from an educator at NEAQ.

Students interested in careers in television production, automobile

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Students enjoyed a variety of experiences on both Women in the Sciences Day and National Job Shadow Day.

customization, child care and development, and zoological sciences got up close to their dream careers on February 1st for National Job Shadow Day. The day marked Bay Cove's third consecutive year of participating in the national exposure event that matches students to professionals in many sectors of the workforce. This year, four workplaces hosted Bay Cove students: BNN-TV, Ritop School for Mobile Electronics, Longwood Medical Area Child Care Center, and for a second year, Zoo New England. Students at BNN-TV conducted interviews of their hosts, learned to operate state-of-the-art equipment, and filmed a short informational piece on their job shadow experience. At the Ritop School, Bay Cove students attended classes and spent the morning in the automotive bay, where Ritop students were installing custom electronics in a Lexus. At Longwood Medical Area

Child Care Center, students filled the role of teacher for a day, leading 3-5 year olds in learning activities, song, and play. And at Zoo New England, Bay Cove students spread out across the expansive zoo, assisting zookeepers in the rainforest habitat, the Bird House, the Reptile House, and the Horns and Hooves area.

Mike, who spent Job Shadow Day at the Ritop School summed up his experience enthusiastically, saying, "[Working on cars] is something I've always thought about doing with my life. Now I know I can do it, and I know what my options are for getting there."

We offer our thanks and appreciation to the professionals who made our job shadow events a success. For more information on how you can offer a job shadow experience to a young person, please contact Kathleen Pignone at kpignone@baycove.org

A Very Special Thanks To:

- New England Aquarium
- BNN-TV
- Ritop School for Mobile Electronics
- Longwood Medical Area Childcare Center
- Zoo New England

ACADEMY NOTES

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Some Math Students Mean Business

By William Baga

In a departure from the conventions of your typical high school mathematics curriculum, some Bay Cove students sharpen their personal finance and entrepreneurial skills in an elective Business Math course. Yes, students still gulp down the prescribed dosages of algebra and geometry as part of their core class schedule. However, Business Math is offered as a quantitative supplement that some students may find more palatable, as it can more directly relate to their everyday life.

Numerous financial topics are touched upon throughout the duration of Business Math. During the Income

Unit of the course, students see the pros and cons of salary and commission pay schedules. A chapter on budgeting is often an eye-opener to students, as they realize that the real world equals real bills and results in some tough monetary decisions. After a few weeks discussing bank accounts, loans and credit cards, students are versed in the repercussions of interest rate movements.

Unquestionably, however, the highlight of Business Mathematics is the business start-up project. Students are tasked with turning a vision for profit into a viable, sustainable enterprise. Students are entrenched in every facet of the venture industry, from tallying fixed and variable costs, to developing a marketing schematic, to economic analysis. The project culminates with the student submitting their proposal for a loan

to a fictitious bank. Tanya, a Bay Cove junior, found a niche in high-end children furniture and baby cribs. Her detailed and honest evaluation of her business, now and in the future, earned her a loan for \$200K to finance her dream. Another student, Marlin, sought to bring the technology of x-ray glasses into everyday culture. He is still working with engineers in hopes of bringing his product to life.

Business Mathematics focuses on many of the basic math skills all students should have upon graduation. Still, the intentions of the course are to weave these skills into everyday financial life. While business in the class may mean students practicing balancing a checkbook, living within a budget or managing credit card debt, whether the students eventually do so is their own business entirely.

Teaching Effective Social Communication

By Angela Burke

Bay Cove Academy has made school-wide efforts to focus on “social pragmatics” this year. Pragmatic language is the “how” of communication; people use tone of voice and body language, as well as spoken language, to convey an intended message. These communication skills allow us to maintain contact with others, as well as to give and receive information. However, for those with social-pragmatic difficulties, these intended messages can often become confused or misread. Students with language-based or nonverbal learning disabilities often experience a pragmatic language deficit, making effective social-communication difficult and frustrating.

The entire Bay Cove Academy staff had an opportunity for professional training in social pragmatics. Staff learned effective and practical methods from specialist Linda Gross, of the Landmark School. The greatest lesson in this school-wide training was that pragmatic language disorders affect students in every aspect of their lives: academically, therapeutically, behaviorally, emotionally, and in terms of their employability.

One solution is to explicitly teach and practice the skills involved in social communication. An exciting aspect of Bay Cove’s focus on social pragmatics is a new group offered to students called Effective Communications. Eight students meet on a weekly basis to practice basic communication skills such as greetings, body language, tone, volume, labeling emotions, and starting a

conversation. Students have a chance to perfect these skills us-

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**Please Remember
Bay Cove Academy
This Tax Season !**

Bay Cove Academy is a chapter 766 approved day treatment school for troubled teens from the Boston area. Gifts to the school are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your gift will directly help enhance our program.

Please mail your contribution today.

Amount Enclosed

\$500 \$250

\$100 Other



Students put effective communication skills into practice in both classes and at special school events.

ing such activities as scripting, role plays, group discussions, games, and by studying communication skills in television shows like *Freaks and Geeks*. Students have an opportunity to become more effective in their daily communications by practicing each specific skill in a small and safe environment.

Each area of Bay Cove Academy--
- the Education Department, Career

Development, and the Therapeutic Milieu--- plans to further develop ways to help students facilitate effective communication by incorporating skills into every aspect of the curriculum. It is Bay Cove's hope that as students become more adept at social communication skills, they will be able to both listen to others and advocate for themselves, helping them in those necessary interactions we all deal with everyday.

Upcoming Events

March

8 Midterm
17 No School

April

7 End of Term 3
11 Begin Term 4
17-21 Vacation Week

May

17 Midterm
29 Memorial Day

June

16 End of Term 4
26 Begin Summer Term

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