

BAYCOVE ACADEMY NOTES

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

Celebrate Diversity!

At Bay Cove Academy, we believe it is not enough to tolerate or just accept people's differences. We go a step further and celebrate our diversity. We hope that the more exposed we all are to human diversity, the more we come to understand and accept others. To achieve this goal we offer a diversity group co-lead by a clinician, Linda Peverada, and a Tufts University clinical psychology intern, Shamora Michelson.

Each month the group studies a different theme. Past topics include Hispanic Heritage, Disability Awareness, Native American Heritage, Diverse Celebrations (Hanukkah, Christmas, Ramadan, Kwanzaa, etc), Worldwide New Year's Celebrations, Black History, Women's History, Religious Diversity, Asian Pacific Heritage, and Gay/Lesbian Pride. *continued on next page*

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Bay Cove staff gratefully accept Verizon's EdLink Award at the October ceremony. Pictured from left: Verizon's Karen James-Sykes; Bay Cove's Carrie Nelson, Judy Gelfand, and Kathleen Pignone; Verizon's Donna Cupelo; Museum of Science President Dr. Ionnis Miaoulis. See related story on page 3.

Latest BCA MCAS scores show improvement

If the MCAS scores of the most recent (May 2003) group of testers is any indication, BCA is getting better at preparing students to leap this hurdle to graduation. Six out of seven students taking the MCAS for the first time achieved passing scores (220 or higher) on both the English Language Arts and the Math tests.

Over the past few years, BCA has worked hard to train teachers and make curriculum adjustments to prepare our students for the MCAS. This includes things like incorporating more open-ended writing and problem-solving activities into classes so that students can become more comfortable using and

articulating their own methods of reasoning. As with all standardized tests, passing the MCAS has a lot to do with motivation, confidence, and a certain level of comfort with test taking – things that BCA teachers are expert in promoting with our students.

Our goal at BCA is to prepare students to be educated, competent, self-confident participants in the world. We recognize the tremendous pressure on all students to pass the MCAS and continue to improve and adapt our curriculum as we fulfill our commitment to prepare students for success. AN

Diversity


The primary focus of the group is to have open discussions about diversity so that students may learn from each other, confront their own prejudices, and examine new ways of thinking. They accomplish this by participating in activities geared to raise awareness. During Disability Awareness Month they watched a video on Terry Bradshaw's depression and its impact on his life before he sought help. They also attempted to communicate with each other in different ways to experience how challenging it is to communicate without words

or to direct someone who is blind. In one exercise they paired up and lead someone who was blindfolded through an obstacle course to pick up a certain identified item. This was especially difficult because the blindfolded person could not be physically lead but had to be verbally directed by his/her partner around the obstacles.

In addition to activities and discussions, Diversity Group also tries a different food in keeping with each month's theme. In October, they talked

about diabetes and tasted foods which would be on the menu for people with that medical condition. They discussed how challenging it is for people who need to avoid certain foods.

Diversity Group also decorates a school bulletin board with pictures and stories of the monthly theme. This is the way they share learning with the rest of the community.

Troy, a student member of the group, stated, "Diversity is good. You get to learn about different religions and people's different beliefs." 

New Staff Bring New Energy, Backgrounds



Angela Burke knows a thing or two about the three Rs, particularly reading and writing. This talented short-story writer has joined the Bay Cove staff as the new Literacy Specialist and assistant to the Education Coordinator. Angela got her start as a volunteer in the Boston Public School system. In addition to conducting individual tutoring sessions and administering

diagnostic tests, Angela teaches two writing classes at BCA. "We're exploring different modes of writing," describes Angela. "We're currently working on persuasive essays, and we've already covered poetry and memoirs." When she doesn't have pen in hand, Angela unwinds by hiking, practicing yoga, and cross-country skiing.



Tonia Henry, BCA's new assistant history teacher, began her experience at Bay Cove when she was a student in Tufts University's Clinical Psychology program. "I wanted to gain more

experience with students in a special education setting prior to going on to graduate school," explains Tonia, who plans to pursue her Ph.D. in clinical psychology or psychiatric nursing. She describes her role in the classroom as "helping students who are having difficulties on a one-on-one basis and acting as a support to Ann" (the lead history teacher). When she's not at Bay Cove, Tonia enjoys studying Spanish language and culture, an interest she developed during her studies in Salamanca, Spain. Tonia also works as a volunteer caring for children living in homeless shelters.

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Published quarterly by Jonathan Silverman
jsilver@baycove.org • 617.739.1794 x. 222

Written by

Carrie Nelson, Marge Lawson, Rick Nault,
Linda Peverada, Jonathan Silverman

For more information:
Principal Judy Gelfand
jgelfand@baycove.org • 617.739.1794 x. 231

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.

Career Development Department Gets Award, Plans for Future Events

Bay Cove's Career Development Department received Verizon's EdLink award at a ceremony at the Museum of Science in October. The award, in the form of a grant, is designed to support the program's nationally recognized school-to-career initiative and will enhance the school's ability to link classroom instruction and community-based learning opportunities with the workplace. Career development at Bay Cove has been teaching and combining basic academic and real-world life skills for years and has been honored both at the state and national level for its work.

"Verizon believes it is our corporate responsibility to better prepare students for careers that promise a brighter future," said Verizon's region president for Massachusetts and Rhode Island Donna Cupelo. "As one of the largest private employers in the commonwealth, we are committed to working with schools and nonprofits to help students forge stronger links between academics and the workplace," she said.

Looking Forward

This winter, CDP will host two important events designed to help students gain greater knowledge and perspective as they approach their career goals and is looking for employers of all kinds to help make the events successful.

On February 2, CDP will participate in

National Job Shadow Day. Coinciding with Groundhog Day, Bay Cove students will join others nationwide as they spend the day with local businesses learning about all aspects of a given industry. "The goal is to help students gain an industry-wide perspective and not just to learn about one job," said Kathleen Pignone, leader of career development at Bay Cove. Pignone said she hopes getting an overview of a business and how it fits in a larger industry will greatly expand students' horizons and ways of thinking about their futures.



Then on March 19, Bay Cove Academy hosts the annual Career Development Department's Career Fair. Representatives of local businesses from all sectors will come to the school to meet with small groups of students and to talk about their fields. This is always a successful and fun day and helps students learn about possible career paths they would otherwise not have considered.

Career Development is looking for employers and professionals from all industries and fields to participate in either or both of these events. If you or someone you know might be interested, please call Carrie Nelson, career counselor, at 617.739.1794 ext. 223. Carrie can also be reached by email: cnelson@baycove.org

New Staff



Albert Wang, a Michigan native and recent Boston College graduate, joins the Bay Cove Academy support staff as our new administrative assistant. Albert, who holds a B.A. in sociology, has interned at a number of newspapers, including the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Myrtle Beach Sun News*, as a page designer. This comes naturally for Albert, an avid photographer who also spends his time reading, playing the violin, and cheering on the Detroit Redwings. Albert hopes to pursue an advanced degree and teach at the college level.

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**Please Remember
Bay Cove Academy
This Giving 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

New Staff



Ann Ambiel has a history in history. As the new lead teacher of her favorite subject, Ann pours her knowledge of cultural and geographic history into four comprehensive history classes at Bay Cove. A Boston native, Ann has already led a number of student field studies including a walking tour of Boston's North End. "My favorite area of study is Japanese history," explains Ann, who spends her time brushing up on the Japanese language. "Later this year, we're studying the geography and ancient and modern history of Japan." Ann looks forward to a long and productive career in a special

education setting like Bay Cove. She explains, "I think Bay Cove offers a supportive environment for staff and students."



Jacob Bersin has had a lot of career experience working with youth, a role he reprises in his new job as Bay Cove's lead P.E. teacher and assistant math teacher. "I've also worked in elementary settings, but I really enjoy working with teens. They have a different attitude that they bring to the table – different viewpoints," explains Jacob, who is currently teaching indoor soccer, cardio kickboxing, and weight training in three separate sections of physical education. ^{AN}

Upcoming Events

December

5 Middle of Term 2
23 Holiday Break

January

2 Holiday Break Ends
19 MLK, Jr. Day

February

2 Nat'l Job Shadow & Groundhog Day
16-20 Winter Break

March

9 Career Fair
31 Parent Advisory Group

Bay Cove Academy
156 Lawton Street
Brookline MA 02446

www.baycove.org/academy

