

Academy Notes



Clinical Director Todd Smith (fourth from left) poses with the 2008 graduates: (left to right) Matthew Wheeler, Tiffanee Latham, Alex Riley, Sheldon John, and Jamal Smith.

BCA teacher relives a piece of history

by Lara Collins

Bay Cove Academy's history teacher, Ann Ambiel, participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop, "Pearl Harbor: History, Memory, Memorial" in Honolulu, Hawaii, from August 2-9, 2008. Ann was one of forty teachers from across the country who were selected through a rigorous application process to participate in the workshop.

Ann and the other teachers had the opportunity to visit the Arizona Memorial, the USS Missouri, and the Punchbowl Cemetery, as well as meet other teachers from Japan and hear lectures on Pearl Harbor. The teachers also had the opportunity to meet and hear tes-

timony from survivors of both the Pearl Harbor attack and Japanese internment camps. The workshop gave the teachers the opportunity to learn more about the variety of perspectives of the attack, and the different lessons learned from what happened on December 7, 1941. Ann, whose grandfather fought in the Pacific during WWII, found the survivor testimony particularly moving. She said, "The goal was turn it into a peace memorial, rather than a war memorial."

Ann will be incorporating her experience into her history classes this year, raising questions about how we remember history, and from who's perspective. She also plans to include lessons on Hawaiian culture, in addition to the military action of WWII.

BCA students look to the future

by Lara Collins

Family, friends, and students gathered at Bay Cove Academy on June 12, 2008 for the school's 28th annual graduation ceremony. Like most graduations, this year's was filled with lots of emotion, including happiness, nervousness, and excitement.

The school's designated "central area" was transformed into graduation hall, filled with current and former students, staff, special guests and guests of the graduates. The graduates entered the hall through a procession to a standing ovation, after which Principal Judy Gelfand gave her opening remarks. The year's keynote speaker, clinician Linda Peverada, then gave her own speech, after which Education Director Marge Lawson awarded the diplomas. An open toast followed, during which family members, staff, former students and even the graduates themselves had an opportunity to speak. After the close of the ceremony, graduates and guests enjoyed a luncheon provided by the Bay Cove staff.

For BCA students, graduation is primarily about transitioning. BCA staff work with the graduates in the ten weeks leading up to the big day to prepare them for young adulthood, including a group therapy session known as "Grad Group" run every Friday. According to Clinical Director Todd Smith, whether the students are moving on to community college or full-time work, it's important that they have a plan of action that begins the day after graduation, and BCA staff work with the students to develop an effective plan that will set them on the road to success and prepare them for their lives after Bay Cove.

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GRADUATION *continued from cover*

“The fact that former students come back and attend graduation, that speaks to the program’s effectiveness,” said Smith. “They want to be here, and this program sticks with them long after they’re gone.”

For many BCA students, as with all students, graduation is a milestone in their lives – a major achievement reached despite years of hardship and adversity. Said Smith, “Our kids are survivors – they’ve been dealt a tough hand – and the fact that they do graduate says that they’re not just survivors, they’re achievers.”

Summer jobs and internships

by Christel Byrne, Senior Career Counselor

Bay Cove Academy’s six-week summer program kicked off on June 23, 2008. Bay Cove students attend academic courses in the morning, and then participate in a career internship program each afternoon. Employed at businesses throughout the Boston area, Bay Cove students work as volunteers in their area of career interest, and are paid an hourly wage by the school. The program gives the students an opportunity to gain work experience and build their resumes, while making some money in the summer. This summer was an extremely successful one for students at Bay Cove Academy. Our students were placed at over 15 different job sites, several of which were brand new sites for our program. This summer work sites included retail stores, senior citizen centers, childcare, automotive, maintenance, food service, office work, a community garden, a printing company, and more.

Matt McCarthy, a junior at Bay Cove, had the opportunity to intern at Century Type, Inc. in Boston. Matt interned five afternoons per week assisting with various printing projects. Matt was even offered competitive employment at the end of the summer. Working at Century Type Inc. gave Matt hands on experience in the printing industry and insight to a possible career for his future.



Shanaya shows off one of the projects she helped students at the Russell Call Child Care center create.

Shanaya Gumbs volunteered at Russell Call Child Care Center in Boston. She assisted in the classroom and also helped the teachers with projects. Her supervisor Regina said, “We have really enjoyed having Shanaya here with us. She’s enthusiastic, friendly and always willing to help”. Shanaya also worked five afternoons per week and had perfect attendance.

Shanaya has continued her summer internship this fall.

Jonathan Gomez, who is a senior this year interned all of last year in the property department at Bay Cove Human Services and continued there this summer two afternoons per week. Additionally, he volunteered the three remaining afternoons at Shimon’s Service Center in Brookline. Working at the gas station gave him the opportunity to learn about the industry and to shadow an auto mechanic. He learned how to do oil changes, change tires, and much more. Jonathan has a strong interest in pursuing a career in auto mechanics so these two placements were a perfect fit for him.

The summer program concluded with a recognition luncheon and awards ceremony for students and their employers. We extend our sincerest thanks to the employers who offer their time and commitment to providing our students with meaningful summer internship experiences.

Students send a message of peace

by Linda Peverada, Clinician

Last year, Bay Cove Academy embraced the theme of Peace. We wanted to give peace a voice, because all too often our attention is focused on violence: in our homes, on our streets, and around the world. Being exposed to so much daily violence can leave us feeling helpless and hopeless for the future. The Peace Initiative that we embarked on focused on what we could do as individuals to be heard and to make a difference locally, nationally, and globally.

We conducted many projects throughout the year, such as “Pinwheels for Peace;” a “Mix It Up” lunch; a Holiday celebration that included diverse presentations of foods; and a “Random Acts of Kindness Week.” We also invited speakers from the Perkins School for the Blind, the Boston Gang Unit, BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth), and an Episcopalian pastor to talk to the students about peer pressure and diversity.

The year culminated with a “Pennies for Peace” drive, which ran from April to June. This campaign raised money for the education of children in Afghanistan, where education is limited, and primarily given to boys. Using the campaign slogan “a penny a pencil” (to highlight the impact that even a penny can have on an impoverished country), we raised \$70.25 as a community, and were recognized by the Central Asia Institute for our efforts. But even more rewarding, was the way in which this drive pulled our own community together. Students could not look at a penny without thinking, “Pennies for Peace.” Watching the pennies building in the jar was exciting and gave the message that every little bit we do is progress towards Peace.

We hope to follow up this April with another Penny drive. So...SAVE YOUR PENNIES!

Writing News

by Claire Higgins

In Writing class, students in Groups A and B are working on a variety of projects. Students in Group A have been creating picture books, where they record their thoughts and feelings about their experiences at Bay Cove Academy. This project has highlighted students' artistic and creative abilities, as they have included illustrations and keepsakes related to their experiences at school. The students in Group B have been studying the Holocaust memoir, *Night*, by Elie Wiesel. They have been analyzing the literary elements in the novel, recording their reflections in a journal, and designing memorials to Holocaust victims

Art News

by Alison Hodge

At the beginning of this new school year, we are working on three different and exciting projects in Art. The students in our youngest group are designing and creating figure sculptures. Like the Trainscape, the Kawai Pods, and the Simple Screamer monsters we have done in the past, we are using a wire and paper mache technique to create medium sized figures. Some are making their favorite cartoon or movie character, others characters of their own. Our senior group is combining an overview of the history of art, and individual artists, with research about art in the Greater Boston area, and field trips to go and see it. Our first field trip will be to the DeCordova Gallery and Sculpture Park, before it gets too cold! And finally, the Monday and Friday groups are re-designing the computer room! We have been brainstorming what we would like to do, collecting opinions from the rest of the student/staff body, and researching and pricing

our options. So far, our plans are to paint the room, smarten up the notice boards, possibly extend the lighting options and tables, and make some fantastic, computer themed art work from disassembled computers and keyboards!

Math News

by Ed Summers

Students have been working on a Fantasy Football project that will run until Christmas break. Every Tuesday in math class the students calculate, based on a scoring system, the points that players they've selected have accumulated based on that player's



Homer Simpson, above, and other paper mache sculptures made by students are currently on display at BCA.

statistics. The skills used in this project include data analysis; interpreting data; substitutions using variables; long division; adding and subtracting decimals; and the four basic math skills.

The other four days of the week are spent learning either pre-algebra, algebra, or geometry skills based on both the Massachusetts math curriculum frameworks and the MCAS exam that all students are required to pass in the tenth grade to graduate. Having two teachers in each class allows individual math

skills to be addressed on a daily basis, and many students in the same class often work on different assignments based on their needs.

English News

by Christopher Labbe

In English Class we are beginning a section on Mythology. We will read myths and folktales from several cultures from around the world in the hope of gaining some understanding of different cultures. We will also continue to build skills in character analysis, characterization and essay structure as we read about new characters.

Science News

by Evan Nabel

Science class this fall has been an action-packed four weeks of laboratory investigations. Students have explored the macronutrients of our diet (carbohydrates, fats, and protein) via hands-on investigations of the foods we eat. The pH scale was studied as students learned how to test a variety of substances, and categorize them as acids, bases, or neutral. The role of enzymes in our bodies was discussed as students observed the reaction of catalase (in beef liver) with hydrogen peroxide. Further inquiry tested the influence that pH and temperature have on the enzymes in our body that we rely on each day. In the near future students will begin an in-depth look at cellular biology. This unit will culminate in student

understanding of the structure of DNA, and how DNA replicates. Although this material is difficult, students will gain a perspective of why it is essential to understand the key processes that are happening every second within our cells. Regardless of the content that we discuss, one goal of this year's science class is to maintain rich inquiry-based instruction within each lesson. Hopefully, student's scientific knowledge will grow along with their understanding of how they learn.

Poetry corner: student poetry

Shorty : The short tailed cat
By Imani Hill

This is a photograph of my cat
Young & full of life.
Short, fluffy, and always curious.
His spunkiness was there from the start.
He runs around with happiness.
His white little paws with his “bunny”
feet.
His little round head looks like a fur-cov-
ered baseball, with two big triangles for
ears.
He has a short “pom-pom” tail.
But now he is big, and always nosy
But when I look back when he was just
a kitten,
I say to myself,
“That’s still my kitten.”

Free Verse
By Brian Yung

She was born at midnight during a bliz-
zard.
I told my parents she’d make it.
My mom was in a lot of pain.
So they rushed to the hospital.
The baby stopped crying when we were
almost there.
When we got to the hospital we rushed to
the doctor.
The doctor did his thing and the baby
started crying again.
My mom and dad were relieved.
I was happy too.
I take back everything I’ve said.

AN

Upcoming Events

October

13 Columbus Day
31 End of Term 1
31 No School
(Staff Professional
Day)

November

11 Veterans Day
27 - 28 Thanksgiving
Break

December

5 Midterm
24 - January 2 Holiday
Break

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