

Academy Notes

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

Rep. Smizik Heads Back to School at Bay Cove Academy



Above: Rep. Smizik with members of Ann Ambiel's History class

State Representative Frank Smizik (D-Brookline) visited Bay Cove Academy this January, where he toured the school and joined a history class to talk with students and field their questions about his role as a legislator.

In preparation for their meeting with Smizik, the students spent time researching many of his positions and votes during his current service as House Chair of the Legislative Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. A number of bills sponsored by Smizik had special resonance with the students. In particular, students were actively interested in Smizik's initiatives concerning MCAS reform, as well as his co-sponsored Fresh Air Bill, which would guarantee people receiving services from the Department of Mental Health to daily access to fresh air and the outdoors.

During Smizik's talk, students asked for his thoughts and opinions on issues ranging from education, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, health care, and the environment. They

SMIZIK *continued on next page*

In This Issue:

Rep. Frank Smizik Visits Bay Cove Academy - Career Development - Employee Recognition Program - Notes from the Classroom

Honoring Bay Cove Students for Jobs Well Done

Employee of the Month Program provides incentive for motivated student workers

One of the biggest obstacles facing new members of the youth workforce is finding the motivation to maintain long-term employment. With the development of its Employee of the Month program, Bay Cove Academy's nationally recognized Career Development department has implemented a strategy to help overcome this obstacle.

"We wanted to create a program that was modeled after real-world workplace initiatives, one with authentic guidelines that would offer students a challenge to achieve something they really wanted," says Kathleen Pignone, Career Development Director. "The Employee of the Month honor is about rewarding students who have kept and are keeping their jobs, students who have shown on-the-job improvement and continue to improve. It's about maintaining long-term employment."

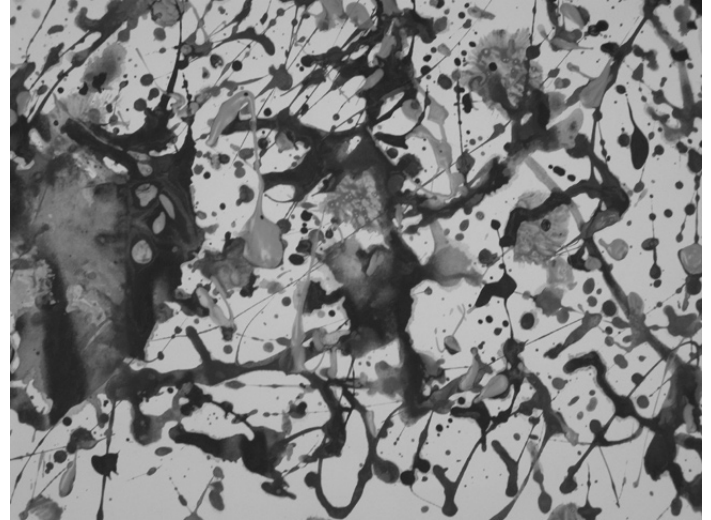
The entire structure of the Employee of the Month program, from criteria to rewards, is crafted to provide incentive for students to become fully involved in their roles as workers. In keeping with the authentic professional model, the standards are high: in order to

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qualify, students need to have a positive attendance record, to submit a self-evaluation, and to have their employer submit a monthly evaluation of their performance with ratings of “good” or “excellent” in all categories. The rewards for the honor make it an attractive goal for students, as well as affirming their identities as successful workers. The Employee of the Month is announced at the school-wide Town Meeting, and the student receives a portfolio to carry resumes, a Bay Cove Academy pen and, as in many other professional workplaces, a cash bonus.

In a unique addition to the traditional Employee of the Month structure, the student receives further recognition in the form of an employee biography, which is posted for the next month both at school and the student’s workplace. The biography provides an overview of the student’s job experience, and it includes positive comments about their performance from both the employer and the student. Equally important to employer feedback is the opportunity for students to assess themselves. Says Pignone, “When the students discuss their strengths and weaknesses, it bolsters their ability to discuss themselves both positively and fairly with future employers. Interviewing this way gives them a chance to articulate what makes them stand out, and what makes them a good employee.”



Above: the Art classes at Bay Cove Academy have created paintings inspired by the works of Jackson Pollack. They are currently on display at the school.

If you would like information on how you can provide an internship experience for a young person, please contact Kathleen Pignone at (617) 739-1794 x228.

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 Bay Cove Academy Basketball team!



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were also curious about the day-to-day workings of the state legislature and asked questions about his daily schedule.

The students were impressed by Rep. Smizik’s respectfulness and willingness to make time to discuss important issues with them. By the end of the meeting, students felt empowered by their dialogue with Smizik. When they asked what they could do help him with his initiatives, Smizik encouraged them to register to vote, to use their vote, and to become active in their communities. When the student council co-president asked Smizik the toughest question of all, “What do you regret most in life?”, Smizik responded with a pitch perfect answer for inquisitive students: his greatest regret was not consistently working as hard as he could in high school.

History News

by Ann Ambiel

The History classes at Bay Cove, have been exploring a variety of topics. Civics class has learned about the Constitution and the Supreme Court. Ancient Civilizations has been learning about worlds of the past, beginning with Japan and Egypt, and later moving onto the Aztecs, Incas & Mayas. As part of their unit on Egypt, students mummified oranges to learn about the process done to the pharaohs. Modern History focused about World War I and has been reading the novel Johnny Got His Gun by Dalton Trumbo. Psychology class has been learning about

and/or project. The next project for Group B will include applying their knowledge of triangles while building toothpick bridges. Group C spent the first half of the year studying algebra. The second half of the year is being spent studying concepts more individually based. Each student picked a subject or area they wanted to focus on and topics ranged from life skills math to special concepts in geometry.

Writing News

by Claire Higgins

Throughout the first two terms, students in Groups A and B were enrolled in Writing class, where they worked on a variety of projects. The first assignment entailed the creation of a scrap-

second semester marked the start of Magazine class, in which Group C students are working toward the development and publication of a literary magazine. They will study and produce different types of writing, edit the works of others, and compile final drafts for publication. The magazine will include written and artistic work from all members of the student body.

Science News

by Evan Nabel

Bay Cove Academy's science curriculum was slightly altered this year in order to prepare our students better for the MCAS science exam. Beginning with

English News

by Chris Labbe

In English Class we have just finished a drama section. Group A completed *Romeo and Juliet*, Group B read *A Raisin in the Sun* and Group C read *Macbeth*. We are beginning a new novel in group A, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, and group B is reading short non-fiction selections. Group C loves plays and will read *Oedipus Rex* and compare the characters to those in *Macbeth*.



Above: Evan and the group perform a dissection to investigate the structure of a heart.

Math News

by Michelle Eckert

This year has been an exciting year in math. Each class begins with a warm-up exercise. These are puzzles that challenge and sharpen their skills.

Group A has been studying pre-algebra, mastering fractions, decimals, percents, and simplifying algebra expressions. For the rest of the year, Group A will continue their journey towards solving basic equations, which will include graphing and inequalities. Group B has spent the year studying geometry. This has been a great hands-on class because each concept is linked to an activity involving a construction

book, where students recorded their thoughts and feelings about their experiences at Bay Cove Academy. This project highlighted students' artistic and creative abilities, as they included illustrations and keepsakes related to their experiences at school. In this course, students also produced persuasive essays, in which they argued over the effectiveness of curfews for teenagers. They studied poetry and created poems of different styles inspired by what they read. Finally, they used their knowledge and skills to teach others how to perform a specific task in their expository essays. Topics ranged from baking to fashion to technology. The beginning of the

the class of 2010, passing this exam (in either biology, chemistry, or physics) will be a graduation requirement. Students now follow a two-year biology track that begins with animal biology. In this first year, students will learn about the diversity of life in the five core kingdoms, analyze the theory of evolution, and study the interactions of life on earth via ecology coursework. Lessons are aided by the use of hands-on dissections and laboratory studies of numerous organisms. In the second year of biology, students

will gain a detailed understanding of how the human body works by studying each organ system in the body. Students will also follow the statewide biology curriculum frameworks by learning about heredity, DNA replication, and the tenets of evolution through an analysis of the evidence of the human species' evolution. In years three and four, science coursework rotates among various topics, including earth science, geology, astronomy, chemistry, and more. Upon completing this course of studies students will graduate with a strong foundation of scientific theories and practices.

Art by Alison Hodge

This year the art classes have been focused on sculptures and installations, the elements of art, and altered books. The Elements of Art class studied how art can be studied and created with an awareness of the elements and principals involved in it. Students created 3D effect color posters to illustrate their appreciation of these concepts. We have also been working on two large collaborative multi-media projects; a trainscape of a movie theme, and an installation based on the work of Japanese artist Misaki Kuwai. In addition, Group A has been honing their drawing skills and are creating some wonderful altered books. All of this work will be finished and on display in time for graduation.

Electives by Ed Summers**Music**

Once a week for the first two terms of the year, students studied "History of Hip-Hop." They examined the evolution of the three elements of hip-hop over the last 30 years. The first third of the class was devoted to graffiti; the middle third of the class was devoted to B-boys and break dancing; and the last few weeks to the music. Overall the students were able to see how what began as a small movement in New York City has evolved into a worldwide phenomenon.

Current Events

For this half of the year, the focus is on news: where we get our news; who owns and manages our news sources; and how it shapes our opinions on daily events. One specific story we will be following throughout the 3rd and 4th terms will be coverage of the presidential election. Practicing reading and writing skills are the primary objectives for the students.

Upcoming Events

May

9 Mid Term
15 Parent Advisory Group Meeting
26 Memorial Day

June

3 Field Day
12 Graduation
13 End of Term 4
16-20 Field Trip Week
23 Begin Summer Term

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