

# BAYCOVE ACADEMY NOTES

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

## Teens Learn Employment Skills Early at Bay Cove

The proverbial Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic have been part of a day at school since the advent of education. But what about Ramps? Shipping and Receiving? Residential moving? Thanks to Bay Cove Academy's award-winning Career Development Program these Rs have also made their way into the learning experience.

Kathleen Pignone, coordinator of Career Development, explains. "We provide comprehensive job and skills training, career counseling, career related internships and employment opportunities. Our students develop a wide range of skills as they move from highly structured and supervised job sites to increasingly independent work situations, ending with competitive employment."

Matt, a sophomore at Bay Cove Academy, works twice a week at Coliseum, a Boston store specializing in skateboarding equipment and merchandise. "They sell boards, shoes, clothes, videos – all kinds of stuff," says Matt, who has been skateboarding since he was twelve. Matt works alongside the Coliseum staff assisting customers, and helping with the stocking and clean-up of the Huntington Avenue store. "It's great having him here," says John, an employee at Coli-

seum, "he helps out a lot and is a real trustworthy character. I think this is a great program." And in a store devoted to skateboarding, there are even occasions to practice the signature craft. Matt explains, "Sometimes we have a chance to skateboard in the store. We even built a ramp once." When asked what he's learned at Coliseum, Matt replies thoughtfully, "I've learned jobs can be fun."

**“he helps out a lot and is a real trustworthy character”**

James, a graduating senior, recently began work at South Boston's Gentle Movers, which he plans to make a career of after graduation. James works alongside the Gentle Movers team keeping up the business, and preparing for the busy moving season ahead. "Right now it's a slower time for moving, so I help them clean up, and whatever else needs to be done," James explains, "but in the summer

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## New Classes and Groups Expand Horizons for Bay Cove Students

When students at Bay Cove Academy checked their schedules this term, they found a few surprises. Alongside the traditional disciplines of English, math, science, and history they found a variety of courses new to this academic year, and a few making their debut at Bay Cove.

One such class is Cultural Studies, co-taught by Dana Brinson, Bay Cove's history teacher, and Meg Lush, the English teacher. The format of the class is interdisciplinary and its purpose, says Dana, is to "provide a discussion forum combining history and literature." The first focus for the course is Africa. "We're reading Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and exploring Nigerian culture, and its similarities and differences from our own," Dana explains. The

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*Work Skills...*

I'll start doing actual moving." Though new at the job, James has already adapted to his new work environment. "They treat me just like the other employees," says James.

Mark, a Bay Cove sophomore, has found his niche in the bustling Shipping and Receiving department at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. "I deliver packages all over the hospital – medicine, rugs, air conditioners, everything – it's easy for me, but it takes a lot of time," says Mark, who has been working at St. Elizabeth's since the fall. Mark interacts often with Paul, his supervisor at St. Elizabeth's, who teaches Mark the ropes and works with him to develop job skills. Mark explains, "I like working with Paul because he's nice, and we both understand each other, and where I'm going." In the future, Mark hopes to work in a Dunkin' Donuts franchise; he knows he can rely on skills he's acquired at St. Elizabeth's to help him realize his goal. "I'll have to follow directions. At every job you have to communicate with people, just like I do at St. E's," says Mark. AN

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# MAKING THE GRADE:

## *Spotlight on Kaye*

Kaye is no stranger to hard work. At 16, this Honor Roll student and frequent recipient of V.I.P. status (a Bay Cove designation for weekly academic achievement) balances school, work, and planning for a busy future. Though Kaye whimsically admits, she didn't always feel like a pro. "My first day of school here, I thought I was in the wrong class," she says with a laugh.

Kaye, a Junior at Bay Cove Academy, has a long list of proud accomplishments. As a former participant in the Youth Opportunity Program, Kaye excelled in the areas of computer work and community service. She has also worked in a day care setting and

enjoys working with children.

An aspiring FBI agent or forensic investigator, Kaye shines in math and history, her favorite subjects, and lists drawing, painting, and speaking Spanish as particular talents. School, it seems, is not the only place Kaye excels at balance; she also professes an uncanny skill for standing on her head!

In her spare time, Kaye unwinds by socializing with friends or watching horror movies. But she remains dedicated to her work at Bay Cove, stating, "It's nice here. I learn a lot, and the teachers and staff understand when we're going through a hard time." Kaye's dedication is surely paying off. AN

*New Classes...*

course will continue to travel the globe and incorporate literature and cultural history from a variety of locales.

A second course new to this year is Geography, taught by David Coleman, who also teaches science. Geography students began the term with a study of the earth's continents and major landforms. From there, they have moved on to an intensive unit of the geography of the United States. "We started with an overview of U.S. geography and the states, and now we're doing an in-depth research project, creating state reports using the Internet," says Marge Lawson who assists in the geography class, and who also holds the role of Bay Cove's coordinator of education services. "It's nice to interact with the

students in a very different way," says Marge, "as a teacher, observing how they learn."

To prepare students who are entering the job market for the first time, Bay Cove Academy offers Workforce Entry Skills, a course designed and taught by the Career Development Department. "WES is taught to give students skills to find and maintain employment," says Sherri Teixeira, Bay Cove's career counselor. Workforce Entry Skills covers a range of topics, including career exploration, job readiness skills, and interviewing and résumé creation.

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### ACADEMY NOTES

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## Fresh Cooked Meals Unique Feature at Bay Cove Academy

Ask any student about Bay Cove's perks, and one common theme invariably surfaces. "We have the best food here, I love it!" says Joseph, a freshman with high praise for the breakfast, snack, and lunch served daily in the school's central area.


Indeed, Shirley Jones's cooking garners rave reviews. As Bay Cove Academy's cook she has been tempting palates for over fifteen years. But Shirley's meals are far more than just tasty. They are carefully balanced in accordance with the USDA food

pyramid and designed to provide needed protein, nutrients, and fiber, all under the guise of kid-friendly chow.

While many schools are forced to rely on pre-packaged meals for cost and efficiency, all of Bay Cove's meals are home-cooked.

What's on a typical menu? Shirley lists perennial made-from-scratch favorites as, "fried or baked chicken, corn bread and chili, macaroni and cheese," and students can name countless other high-rated entrees. Toure, a sophomore, enthusiastically adds

to the list "ravioli, vegetable lasagna, Jamaican beef, cheese bread, stroganof."

Whatever the main course, Shirley insists that "everything is served with a vegetable and salad, and there's always a vegetarian option." Somewhere in the mix of cooking for over nearly 60 students and staff, Shirley finds time to mentor student interns through Bay Cove's Career Development Program and to plan for special events. As she puts it, "I never forget a birthday cake." 

### Shirley's Macaroni and Cheese

- 1 box Elbow macaroni
- 1/2 c. butter or margarine
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1/2 tsp. black or white pepper
- 1 1/2 c. American Cheese, shredded
- 1 1/2 c. Cheddar Cheese, shredded
- 1/2 small onion, grated
- 2 cans evaporated milk
- 3 quarts water (add salt if desired)

Heat water to rolling boil. Add salt slowly. Add macaroni. Stir constantly until water boils again. Cook about 8 minutes or until al dente; stir occasionally. Do not over cook. Drain well.

Quickly stir milk into macaroni. Add butter or margarine and seasonings. Add the cheese and stir until the cheese is melted and the mixture is smooth. The mixture is quite liquid at this stage.

Pour macaroni and cheese into a baking casserole. Top with shredded cheese and bread crumbs (optional) sprinkled with paprika. Bake at 350 degrees until bubbly.

Serve with garden salad, chicken or pork chops and vegetables of any kind.

6-10 servings

#### *New Classes...*

Conflict Resolution is a course that meets once per week and tackles the subject of interpersonal conflict. "We use a variety of media to explore the many scenarios of conflict that can arise in a given day, and multiple strategies for dealing with these conflicts," says Carrie Nelson who leads the Conflict Resolution course. "Right now we're focusing on teen dating violence and creating posters to educate our school community about what it is, and what some warning signs are," she explains.

In addition to new courses, students have also had the opportunity to join the newly founded diversity group, lead by therapist Linda Peverada. The group has attracted a number of students, who meet twice per month to highlight diversity in their school and communities. "We use the first week to raise our own awareness, so that on

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# Mysteries of Confusion

## Poetry by Joey

It's a mystery to me  
How I fall in love so quickly  
With someone I barely know

But you're a mystery yourself

One I can't figure out

Each and every day

My thoughts turn to you

Your sparkling diamond eyes

Your sweet sense of humor

And my heart melts away

With every smile that you give me

Every laugh you reward me with

I fall in love with you more and more

And when I see your smiling face

Your mystery unfolds AN

*Joey is a senior at Bay Cove who has been writing poetry for more than a year. He enjoys writing on a wide range of topics, and from varied perspectives. "I just write what I feel," explains Joey.*

## Upcoming Events

### May

9 Midterm point  
26 Memorial Day

### June

13 Term 4 ends  
23 Summer term starts

### New Classes....

the second week we can do an activity to raise awareness in our community. For example, we do bulletin boards and are planning other activities in the future to celebrate and embrace people's differences," says Linda. The group has already done activities centered on Hispanic Heritage month, Black History month, women's history, and religious holidays. AN

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