

Academy Notes

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

Focus: Graduation 2007

If there is a more exciting time than the beginning of the school year, it has to be graduation. This year's graduation was no exception, as seniors Hygor, Liz and Marlin greeted their futures with confidence. Along with a staff address from Kathleen Pignone, this year's graduation presented attendees with a rare treat: a student address from a graduating senior, Hygor Pontes. The following is the full text of Hygor's speech.

I still don't believe that school is really over in less than five hours. I'm not good with change, and this will be



Above: Graduating senior Hygor Pontes addresses the staff, students and guests of Bay Cove Academy.



The Class of 2007: Liz, Marlin, and Hygor

one heck of a big one. But then again this school is all about change.

It was hard coming here to Bay Cove Academy. I had pretty much given up on myself. I expected the fake smiles and cold walls of a program, so I retreated into my shell and didn't talk much. But slowly I realized people here actually cared, that the school made sure they hired good people and never sacrificed quality for the budget's sake. So I started talking and for a while everything was good and comfortable. But little did I know they don't like comfortable around here.

Around that time I had a good job at the public library, but staff noticed that regardless of what I did, as a volunteer, I didn't get the feedback or

challenge I needed to grow. So off I went to competitive employment at a teen-run bookstore, where for every mistake I made, I learned ten new things.

So back in school staff came to me and pointed out that yes, I did talk, but never to students. I, to tell you the truth, didn't want to try talking to them, we were so different, there was nothing to talk about. So instead I tried listening. And that's when I found out I was a bad listener too.

And this is where I'm supposed to say how I found out we weren't that different, that once I got to know them we were the really same. But that's not true. I only found out that past the stereotypes, the masks, and everything else, we were different. And that's why we were here in the first place.

Because all our lives we, our parents, families and ancestors have had to fight for everything we have. That if anything was ever handed to us it only meant we'd have to pay double later anyway.

So it only made perfect sense when senior year was as hard as it

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was. The three of us had to pay back double in effort; and we had to fight a lot of demons. The ones you can touch, like the SAT and the MCAS, the ones you can see, like society and ourselves, and the ones that come out of nowhere like the past. Some of us are still fighting, because in the end that's what we all are. Whether a geek, a smooth comic, or a princess in the end we're fighters.

You see what this place did for us was simple, but important. Sure, we came in with no choice and we're leaving full of them. We're smarter now, more mature and better equipped for the future. We walk out of here fully aware that everything will not be perfect, and that it will be hard. We know perfectly well that we will always have to fight, the difference is, that now, despite all odds, we want to try.

So thank you.

AN



Carrie Nelson, above, shared her talents with the students and staff of Bay Cove Academy for five years

Notes from the Career Development Department

by Kathleen Pignone

As we look forward to a new school year, it is with a heavy heart that I put pen to paper, or shall I say fingers to a keyboard. This is my seventh year here at BCA and I can't wait for another great school year. Each year brings great success, new challenges and funny tales. Unfortunately, this year also brings a difficult goodbye. Carrie Nelson, Senior Career Counselor, will be relocating after five years here at Bay Cove Academy.

Carrie has been a tremendous asset to the career development program. She is a true team player and has a great rapport with employers. Her strong communication skills enable her to represent the career development program in a professional light. Carrie has developed a tremendous amount of confidence in her individual work with students around career choices. She has refined her marketing skills to highlight the program's strengths and increased the employer base. She always writes catchy newsletter articles that represent our program so well. Carrie continues to ask a lot of questions and is always looking for ways to improve the program.

We are so grateful for the dedication and hard work that Carrie has given to our program over the last five years. Her enthusiasm and energy have brought innovative new ideas and exciting new job opportunities for many students. Her professionalism and graciousness are exceptional. She has truly made a difference here in her relationships with employers, students and staff. Carrie has a generosity of spirit and a gentle kindness that is rare. Thank you, Carrie, for all that you have given -- you will be greatly missed!

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Exploring Boston

Summer classes get students thinking locally

by Michelle Eckert

Summer at Bay Cove Academy is always exciting. However, this past summer was not only exciting but enlightening as well. In addition to participating in the Career Development Summer Jobs program, the students had the opportunity to embark upon an intensive study of their own backyard: the city of Boston. Each teacher structured their summer coursework with a specific Boston theme.

For example, in history, the students studied the culture and history of Boston's neighborhoods. And in English, the students wrote children's books to be read to young children at an inner city day-care. As the summer program came to an end, the students emerged as newly minted Bostonian experts, a fact that surprised some.

"I've lived in Boston for four years and I learned so much new and interesting stuff I never knew about."

As one student noted, "I've lived in Boston for four years and I learned so much new and interesting stuff I never knew about."

The first day of the summer program, the math class began with an activity that tested their knowledge of Boston. They were questioned on facts about Boston and were asked to do the ABC's of the city. The students successfully named famous places and streets in Boston, such as Boston Common and Charles Street. This was a great activity to get their minds thinking all about the city. As the summer program continued, the



Michelle Eckert leads a discussion about Boston's demographics

math class studied the demographics of Boston in depth, as well as a map of the city and its neighborhoods. Meanwhile in history, the students spent each week studying individual neighborhoods in detail. For example, the students spent a week learning about the history of the North End and finished the segment by cooking calzones, a popular food in that neighborhood. English and science classes were studying various aspects of the city as well, from the literature of famous Boston writers to the scientific history of the city. For instance, in science, the students began the summer with a study of the topographical history of Boston that culminated in learning

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about the mechanics of the Big Dig. Each class helped the students gain a comprehensive perception of Boston.

One of the highlights of the summer was the school-wide field trip to Boston. In July, the students went on an excursion to the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston. The field trip began at the State House, where the students walked through the building and admired all the paintings and statues. Fortunately, they were even able to enter the governor's office. After the State House the students walked back toward Boston Common, making many educational detours and stops along the way. The students explored historic streets in Boston and learned unique facts. The field trip ended at the Frogg Pond in Boston Common, where the students fed the ducks and talked about the trip.

Each summer at BCA is an adventure, and this summer was no exception. Studying Boston and its neighborhoods was of great interest to the students and they learned a lot of information that was especially relevant and useful to them. As a teacher, it is always rewarding to teach your students something that they not only enjoy learning but is useful to them outside of school as well.



Upcoming Events

October

10 Midterm
26 No School
(Staff Professional Day)

November

6 Parent's Night
12 Begin Term 2
20 Student-Staff
Basketball Game
22-23 Thanksgiving
Break

December

4 College Fair
14 Midterm
21 Holiday Brunch
24 - January 1
Winter Vacation

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