

ACADEMY NOTES

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

A Year of Fun and Achievement at Bay Cove Academy

Class of 2004 Graduates Amid Fanfare, Smiles

Principal Judy Gelfand's Comments to those assembled

We are gathered here together to honor the hard work and achievement of our six graduates and to celebrate their graduation from high school. What a proud day this is for all of us. While each graduating class shares many common characteristics, I have come to realize that each also has its own unique identity. In thinking about the Class of 2004, I am reminded of the words of an ancient Chinese philosopher:



A journey of one thousand miles begins with a single step.

Each of you deeply understands this single *continued on next page*




Students Learn, Grow, Have Fun Along the Way

New Activities, Skills Add to Repertoire of Young Adults

Students participate

in a variety of trips and skill-building activities in addition to their classroom learning. Bay Cove students, some with little experience outside their own neighborhoods, travel to the sea to fish, visit museums and zoos, attend theatrical and musical performances, and learn about the world beyond the school walls. In many cases, our students

have their first exposure to these broadening experiences on Bay Cove field trips. 



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Graduation Comments

step, because you took it. And it was hard, and it has been a long journey. But why was it so hard? Taking that single step meant once again believing in the future. And, in the past, that belief had been trampled upon, and there had been pain and disappointment along the way. Some of you even gave up for periods of time.

The act of walking through the front doors of Bay Cove Academy to begin again was nothing short of an act of courage. Taking that first step showed strength of character, determination, and hope that life could get better.

When you came to Bay Cove our promise to you was that we would walk alongside of you every day with every step and misstep you took. Your courage somehow allowed you to trust us, and, more importantly, to trust in yourselves.

And so we arrive here today to celebrate the end of this long journey. It has been truly a journey of vision, a vision of hope for the future. But a vision is only achieved through the act of putting one foot in front of the other each and every day. And here at Bay Cove Academy that has meant going to school 220 days

a year. It has meant persevering even in the face of failure. It has meant having the daring and determination to deal with the obstacles life placed in your way and still hang on to the vision.


The path you all have traveled has been truly inspirational to those of us who have had the privilege of walking alongside of you.

Today marks not only an end, but also a new beginning. Tomorrow you take the first step into the next chapter of your life's journey, and you carry a high school diploma with you. What will this diploma mean now that you have graduated? It means the future. It means that despite any barriers that get in your way, you now know that you can accomplish whatever you set your mind to. It means you have the personal resources to con-



Clinician Jen Kane with two from the Class of 2004

tinue to move forward into the unknown. It means you are done with high school!

Congratulations. 

Summer Jobs Help Students Grow

By Carrie Nelson

Most high school students have a tough time finding a summer job. Competing with thousands of other students as well as adults, finding steady employment in an unsteady economy can be impossible for a 16 year old with little to no work experience.

Students at Bay Cove Academy, however, have a unique edge on the job market. Through the school's Career Development department, students interested in working for the summer have the opportunity to participate in the Summer Jobs program, which provides up to 25 paid hours of work per week. In this highly individualized program, students identify an area of interest for long-term career planning. Career Counselors then work

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Bay Cove Academy gratefully acknowledges the recent support of our business partners:

- Employment Resources Inc.
- American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel
- Anthony's Shell Service Station
- Bay Cove Human Services Office of Development
- Best Western Terrace Inn
- Brigham and Women's Hospital Materials Management Dept.
- Brookline Animal Hospital
- Brookline Comm. Ctr for the Arts
- Brookline Golf Club at Putterham
- Cambridge Community Art Center
- Career Advancement Resources
- Ellen M. Gifford Cat Shelter
- EPA - Office of Resource Mgt.
- Friends of Beth Israel Thrift Shop
- Hattie B. Cooper Comm. Center
- Lip-Hop Cosmetics
- Nat'l Tay-Sachs & Allied Dis. Assoc.
- Newton Comm. Golf Course
- Patty's Pantry
- Russell Call Children's Center at Northeastern
- St. Elizabeth's Hospital Shipping and Receiving Dept.

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Written by
Angela Burke, Carrie Nelson, Jonathan Silverman
jsilver@baycove.org • 617.739.1794

Student Book Reviews

PUSH Sapphire

Push is a novel written by an African American woman named Sapphire. This book is about a young African American girl named Precious Jones. Precious is one of the unfortunate ones of Harlem who doesn't know how to read or write.

I enjoyed reading this book because it's about overcoming a struggle in life.

Kemelly

The Alchemist Paulo Coelho

Santiago, the main character, is a Spanish boy who left his home because of his desire to travel. Becoming a shepherd and traveling the land of Andalusia, he encountered strange dreams, which told him of his treasure in Egypt.

Colin

Life in Prison

Stanley "Tookie" Williams

This book is mainly about Stanley "Tookie" Williams' life behind bars and on death row. He talks about life in prison, how it's not a good place to be; he inspires teenagers not to do the same thing he did when he was young. Tookie was the co-founder of a popular gang called The Crips. He's been on death row for 20 years now and he doesn't like it.

Irvin

which table students were assigned to, they could be observed enjoying their privileged status or protesting their treatment.

Guest speaker George Davis, a participant in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, helped bring to life the historical significance of protest and activism. Davis recalled his experiences as an African American child in Massachusetts, his activist work in the South, and his thoughts on race in today's society.

"a language that we understand"

Students responded to his powerful style of recounting his personal experiences. As one student, Kemelly said, "He was good, he was blunt. It makes us [the students] feel comfortable when people speak a language that we understand."

Issues surrounding *Brown v. Board*, such as race, segregation, and activism, were explored in each academic subject. History classes created a timeline, math students explored disparities in the funding of urban schools, and English students analyzed the lyrics of protest songs.

The week provided opportunities for both academic and personal growth. Matt, a biracial student, commented on the personal significance the week had for him: "I liked it. It kinda made me think, touch into my own race a little bit . . . I'm

BCA Commemorates *Brown v. Board of Education*

By Angela Burke

Bay Cove Academy marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* with a week of school-wide events and cross-curriculum activities.

The week began with a "Rainbow of Change," in which both staff and students shared experiences where they had either discriminated or been discriminated against. The accounts were written on a variety of colored cards and then posted in the pattern of a rainbow.

At a segregated lunch, students and staff

were given colored stickers at random. It was then revealed that each sticker corresponded to a certain lunch table – either a formally set table with flowers and wait staff, or an ordinary table. Though students were given the same meal without regard to which table they were assigned, the segregated setting helped them to feel the effects of "separate but equal" first hand. Segregated lunch stood out for students like Tanya: "I remember the lunch thing. That was the best. It was funny to see their responses, the people sitting at the lunch tables." And responses were radically different. Depending on



The Problem We Live With © 1964 N. Rockwell

mixed; maybe if I was all white that stuff wouldn't have affected me as much. If anything else, it was good for reflection." AJJ

Summer Career Skills

to find a committed community partner who can offer an internship in that field. Unlike many of their peers working in entry-level fields, Bay Cove students enrolled in the internship program receive hands-on experience in industries often inaccessible to young, part-time workers. Students work in the fields of auto body repair, shipping and receiving, hotel maintenance, cosmetics marketing, office administration, and a host of others.

Working at job sites throughout the Boston area, students gain not only valuable



work experience, they build a reference base, learn to utilize public transportation, and learn about running a business. Tanya, a sophomore at Lip-Hop Cosmetics says, "I'm learning about creating a business plan," a skill she's learning from the Boston-based company's founder. Others enjoy the gratification of helping out. Joe, a junior working at the Brookline Animal Hospital says of his furry customers, "I walk as many dogs as I can every day, and then play with the dogs in the kennel. They love all the attention – it keeps them happy while they're away from their families."

This summer, Bay Cove students are the valued employees of eighteen different businesses throughout metro Boston. Regardless of their field of work, they all enjoy the unique experience of working in their chosen career field as high school

Upcoming Events

September

- 1 Term 1 Begins
- 6 Labor Day

October


- 13 Middle of Term 1

November

- 12 Term 1 Ends
- 15 Term 2 Begins
- 25 - 26 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 23 Holiday Break Begins

students. Colin, an avid guitar player and employee of Brookline Center for the Arts says, "I'm getting paid for something I love to do." 

Bay Cove Academy
156 Lawton Street
Brookline MA 02446

www.baycove.org/academy

