

ACADEMY NOTES

The Newsletter of Bay Cove Academy

Not Just a Job: Summer Employment as Self-Discovery

By Carrie Nelson

When most people think back on their first summer jobs, they often remember flipping burgers, delivering newspapers, or other jobs typically open to teens just starting out in the workforce. What is not commonly thought of is working as an auto inspector, staffing an insurance office, or managing medical supplies in one of Boston's busiest hospitals. Surprisingly, these are just a few of the many opportunities available to students in Bay Cove Academy's award-winning career development program.

During the six-week summer term, Bay Cove students attend academic courses in the morning and 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.

Kamel Massoud of Global Service Station in Brookline has employed Brendon, a Bay Cove Junior, for over a year. Kamel explains, "He came to us interested in working in this field and eager to learn more. He helps us very much." Brendon performs oil changes, tire rotations, and is pursuing his license to become an emissions inspector. "I've already learned most of how to do an emissions check," Brendon says. "Once I take the certification course I can get my state certificate as an emissions



Brendon looks under the hood.

inspector, and that's something I can take with me wherever I go."

Through the Career Development

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Summer Garden Helps Build Healthy Habits

By Angela Burke

Bay Cove Academy's summer session emphasizes hands-on, project-oriented learning and allows students the opportunity to learn new



A student prepares the garden for planting.

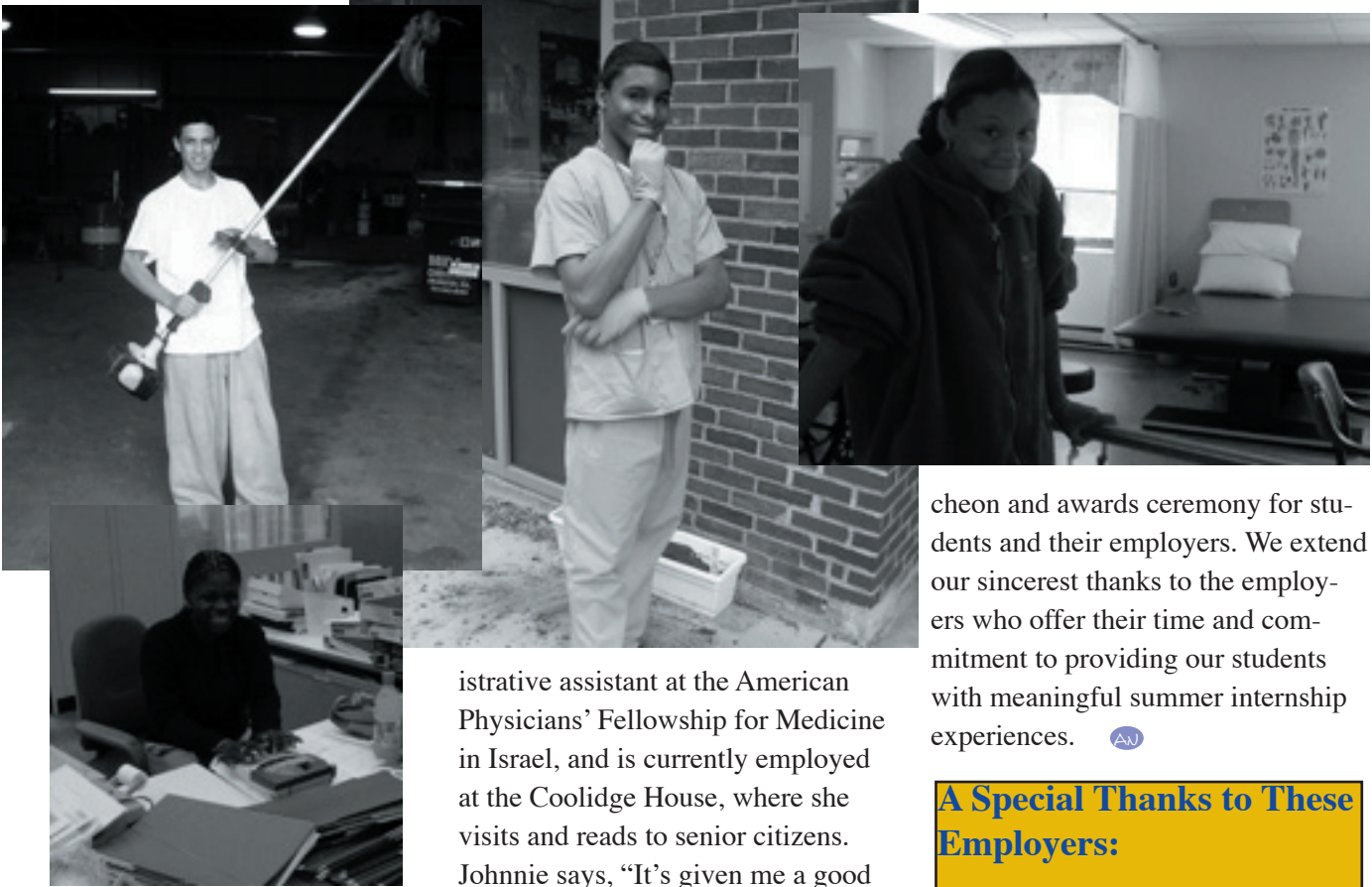
skills. This summer, staff opted to focus on the theme of food, complete with Bay Cove's own garden plot, modeled on chef Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard Project in Berkeley, California.

Early in the spring, before the summer term had even begun, seeds were ordered. Students started tomato, pepper, cucumber, and flower seedlings indoors, while lettuce, spinach, arugula, and sugar snap peas were sown directly into the soil at a space lent to Bay Cove Academy by the Brookline Fund. As the temperature

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Students in Bay Cove Academy's summer program enjoy a variety of work experiences.

Summer Jobs continued

program, students begin with job shadowing, career fairs, and classes to help them explore their work interests. They also have the opportunity to work on interviewing, resumes, and workforce entry skills concurrent with their first work experiences.


Kathleen Pignone, Bay Cove's Coordinator of Career Development explains, "We focus on providing a combination of exposure activities and real world experiences. We provide individualized career internships so students can apply job skills in an authentic setting."

Johnnie, a Bay Cove freshman, has already had two internship experiences. She has worked as an admin-

istrative assistant at the American Physicians' Fellowship for Medicine in Israel, and is currently employed at the Coolidge House, where she visits and reads to senior citizens. Johnnie says, "It's given me a good experience for what's coming up in my future. I've learned what my strengths are, that I like working with people, and that's what I'd like to do in upcoming jobs." Johnnie plans to return to the Coolidge House to continue her work throughout the school year.

Jim McKinnon has been a long time supporter of Bay Cove's Career Development Program. He heads the Materials Management Department at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and his department has employed student interns for nearly a decade. This year he supervises Malachi, a Bay Cove sophomore. According to Jim, "Malachi is doing just a great job. He is very receptive to everything [we're] teaching him. People have stopped me to tell me what a nice young man he is."

The summer program concludes on August 4th with a recognition lun-

cheon 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. 

A Special Thanks to These Employers:

Anthony Taylor's Summer Basketball Clinics
 Brigham and Women's Hospital
 Brookline Golf Club at Putterham
 Brookline Parks and Open Spaces/
 Larz Anderson Park
 Brookline Public Library
 Brookline Recreation Department
 The Community Art Center of Cambridge
 Coolidge House
 Courageous Sailing
 Global Service Station
 Jamaica Pond Boathouse
 Market Basket
 MassHighway Department
 MBTA Diversity Office
 MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Center
 Randolph Parks and Recreation
 RITOP School for Mobile Electronics
 RM Bradley Real Estate
 Russell Call Children's Center at
 Northeastern University
 Triangle Program

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Published biannually by Angela Burke

Written by

Carrie Nelson, Angela Burke,
and Todd Smith

aburke@baycove.org • 617.739.1794

Garden continued

began to rise, so did the plants. By the time students visited the garden on the first day of summer term, the plot was full of vegetables, sunflowers, ripe red strawberries, and blueberries. Students harvested their crops, composted the waste to return it to the land, and have even planted pumpkins and gourds, hoping for a fall bumper crop that will serve as Halloween decorations.


The time spent outside broke up the school day, allowing a chance to be physically active outdoors, while also enriching what students learned in



Students rake raised beds for spring planting in Bay Cove's garden.

their morning academic classes. In the words of one student who participated, "I really liked the experience of an off-campus class. It's always nice to get out of the building. I really enjoyed working in the garden. I really learned a lot about plants

and vegetables. I hope we can do this next year." At the end of the summer term, students used their produce and prepared a variety of healthy foods, including blueberry-infused vinegar for salad dressing, fresh vegetables with dip, and even a full meal complete with vegetable lasagna, salad, and steamed green beans.

Overall, the experience served to enrich students' learning both inside and outside of the classroom. A special thank you to the Brookline Fund for allowing us the space and opportunity to work their garden plot. 

Graduation Day at Bay Cove Academy

By Todd Smith

Bay Cove Academy held its annual graduation exercise on June 16, 2005. Five students--Jhonna, Joe, Clayton, Ronald, and Mark--- received diplomas and were honored on the most exciting day of the year.

Though the event of graduation takes only a few hours, the preparation begins 10 weeks earlier, as all potential graduates meet weekly to get ready for the big day. Graduation tends to raise issues from the past, which must be resolved in order to accept the "pomp and circumstance" which surrounds the day. These issues range from how to handle "success" to who to invite to the ceremony. The work around these issues enables the graduates to accept their transition to young adulthood.

An overflow crowd of guests erupted with applause and a standing ovation as the graduates, resplendent in caps and gowns, marched slowly up



Our most recent graduates pose before the ceremony.

the center aisle and took their seats at the head of the room. Principal Judy Gelfand welcomed the audience and spoke of how "some people are born on third base and think they hit a triple and deserve to be there. Our graduates were certainly not born on third base, but have worked hard to get around the bases. Today, they stand before you on home plate."

Judy then introduced the keynote speaker, clinical director Todd Smith. Todd's theme was that commencement meant a beginning of something new. He shared four characteristics that he believes comprise a happy and successful person: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Todd urged the graduates, and the entire BCA community, to use this fresh start to demonstrate these characteristics as "whatever road you take, the ride will be smooth because people with character are always successful."

Marge Lawson, educational coordinator, then announced "the moment we've all been waiting for" and bestowed each graduate with a diploma as the crowd offered respectful applause.

Judy then introduced the Open Toast feature of the ceremony (a unique aspect of all BCA graduations) by first noting that Shirley Jones, our beloved cook for twenty years, died this past February. She then asked

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Graduation contiuned

all staff to rise so that everyone could see the people who contributed to the success of the day. The Open Toast, as usual, was a warm and special moment. The parent of each graduate came to the podium to give thanks and praise to their child for the effort they made to



reach this goal. The various toasts reflected both the struggles throughout the process and the sweetness and reward of graduation.

The ceremony concluded with a wonderful luncheon prepared by staff, complete with a cake cut by the graduates. As the day came to an end everyone sensed the gratification

felt only by those who actually hit a triple. AN

Upcoming Events

Aug 8-Aug 29: Summer break

Aug 31-Sept 2: Student Orientation

Sept 5: No School (Labor Day)

Sept 6: Classes begin

October 4: Senior Parent's Night

October 10: Columbus Day

November 1: Parent's Night

November 11: Veteran's Day

November 15: College Fair

Bay Cove Academy
156 Lawton Street
Brookline MA 02446

www.baycove.org/academy