

Winter 2010

With our first year and a half under our belts, we are excited to publish our 2010 newsletter and share all of the wonderful things that our students have accomplished since last Spring!

The past 10 months have certainly brought challenges for our students, staff, and the surrounding communities. We are pleased to say that, although economic times are difficult for everyone, Bear Creek Academy has continued to improve the level of services we provide to our students. We have expanded our curriculum, added new opportunities for service & experiential learning, and established new partnerships to enhance our transition services, ensuring our students are ready for life beyond high school.

Bear Creek Academy is committed to providing the best educational services and therapeutic support we can to our students, and this commitment is reflected in both the successes of our students as well as the excellent reputation for quality we have achieved. We are proud to be an active and vital part of the communities we serve, and we look forward to many years of growth together!

From the Principal's Desk

As we enter our fourth semester, our hard-working students continue to experience success in our academic program. Our goals as teachers this year are to meet students where they are at academically and challenge them to exceed their own expectations. By using technology, group projects, extended assignments, and homework, students have built upon their existing knowledge and begun to take ownership of their education.

We have expanded our elective programs to include Creative Writing, Personal Finance, Computer Applications, Music Appreciation, and Life Skills/Job Training to give our students more options once their required courses are done. We have also implemented some digital curriculum, allowing us to offer a much wider range of electives for students who have shown academic independence and are preparing for graduation. These programs will be used to complement our existing hands-on classroom assignments and textbook enrichment activities.



BCA Student David Jackson and SVCC Middle College instructor Brenda Taylor. David successfully completed his GED studies in the Fall and is now involved in a work experience internship in Farmville. See our feature article inside for more of David's success story.

From the Principal's Desk (cont'd)

We have also recognized a need in the community to help our students gain critical employment skills and to find employers in the area who are willing to hire them. In conjunction with our existing work study program at Bear Creek Academy, we have partnered with area agencies and local businesses to provide structured, guided opportunities for mature students to receive hands-on job training in a real-world work environment.

**RESPECT FOR SELF
RESPECT FOR OTHERS
RESPECT FOR COMMUNITY**

Field Trips Provide Enrichment Opportunities



Appomattox Battlefield State Park

Ms. Lewis' history classes took a field trip to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Students toured the grounds and explored the McLean house, site of General Lee's surrender to the Union Army. The class examined artifacts and observed how people of the period lived. The day ended with a picnic and fishing trip at Wilkes Lake Park.

Colonial Williamsburg

Students enrolled in history classes took a trip to Colonial Williamsburg last semester. All of the students took an active role in colonial life - some by participating in simulated court trials and assembly meetings, others by engaging in everyday activities such as carrying water, splitting firewood, and making candles.



National D-Day Memorial - Bedford, VA

One of our summer school groups traveled to the National D-Day memorial located in Bedford, VA. During the guided tour they learned all the details about the planning, implementation, and outcome of the Allied invasion on the beaches of Normandy. Students came away with a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers involved in the operation.



Kyanite Mine - Buckingham County, VA

One of the educational venues visited by BCA students in the past year was right in our own backyard - the Kyanite Mine, a unique geological site located in Buckingham County. Mike Morris gave a personal and interactive tour and a hands-on lesson in earth science that the students thoroughly enjoyed.



BCA Student Earns GED, Begins Work Internship



Congratulations to David Jackson, one of the first students at Bear Creek Academy, who earned his GED during the Fall 2009 semester. David completed his GED studies at Southside Community College's Middle College campus while continuing to take courses in Creative Writing and Character Education at BCA.

This semester, David is involved in a work experience internship through a partnership

between Virginia's Department of Rehabilitative Services and Bear Creek Academy. In the morning, he reports to work at Kinex Telecom, a local Telephone & Internet Services Company, where he interns as a computer repair technician. During the second half of the day, David is enrolled at BCA and is taking courses in Personal Finance and Life Skills.

We are all very proud of David's accomplishments and are excited about his involvement in our work experience internship program. We also wish to thank Angela Edmonds at DRS for partnering with BCA!



BCA Students Reach New Heights

Bear Creek Academy's AWE Program (Adventurers With Enthusiasm) took a field trip to Woodberry Forest to climb their 50 foot Alpine Tower and Climbing Wall. During this adventure-based educational experience, students utilized several key life skills, such as cooperation, listening, initiative, and resourcefulness, in real-time situations. As students completed the various elements and move upward, their self-esteem and confidence also reached new heights.

Our students and staff spent a full day tackling the tower and climbing wall, facing fears and gaining confidence with each step. We were also treated to a fantastic lunch courtesy of the school. We thank Woodberry Forest in Madison County for generously providing our students with this opportunity to face new challenges.



Student Voices - Creative Writing Class

My Brain *by Jay*

My brain I love so much,
Is like little kids playing double dutch.
Thinking really hard,
Is like playing with one card.
This is why I love my brain so much.

Blue *by Ryan*

Eyes
Aqua, blue
Adoring, loving, knowing
Changing with excitement
Love

BCA Expands Environmental Stewardship Program



Bear Creek Academy has extended our recycling program to include not just our school, but the entire Cumberland County Community Center. Led by Mrs. Lake, students put a dent in the fight against littering, pollution, and the accumulation of waste in our landfills. Everyone loves a can of soda, but our students learn that if we make the effort to recycle we can help Mother Earth be a cleaner and greener place for everyone.

Extended Summer Program for 2010

In response to feedback from last year's summer program, Bear Creek Academy will be offering an extended Summer Day Program for students ages 11-18. Enrollment is open to current students and other youth. The program will include both enrichment activities and an academic component. Lunch is included. For more information about program dates and tuition, contact us at:

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