

Spring 2011

As another school year draws to a close, the students and staff at Bear Creek Academy are excited to share with you the many accomplishments we have made, both in and out of the classroom.



Academic Update

Students always have a reason for not being able to learn. There is always an excuse to explain or something from the past that holds them back from trying again. We develop a fear of even trying something that has always resulted in failure or a feeling of not being good enough. Recently one of our students exclaimed, "As soon as I start understanding it you add something new and make it harder!" I smiled and responded, "Reminds me of how life works." It challenges us to learn at every corner and bend; it demands that we keep growing.



This year several of our students reached new milestones in the areas of academics and personal growth. Several students began new programs, advanced into high school level work, and one particular student is crossing the "finish line" of graduation. A number of our students are completing their third year at Bear Creek and, along with other additions, have formed a strong student body. Over the year we have continued to see our students work hard in classes and improve their social skills.

I would like to recognize all of our students who come to school each day to face fears and put forth an honest effort. They have taken pride on assignments, worked to do their best, followed teachers' directions, and taken a look at how their behavior affects other students. Trying a difficult problem before asking for help, participating in class as a group, and finishing work before play have all lead to academic success and an enjoyable classroom environment. We are proud of students' personal growth in all aspects. Our students make Bear Creek Academy a safe and successful place of learning.



Congratulations!

Bear Creek Academy would like to recognize Kendell Swanson for graduating from high school. We are proud of all his hard work, determination, and initiative. He even worked part-time though his senior year. You did it, Kendell! We are proud of you!

Cumberland Recognizes the BCA Conservation Corps

This past Fall, the Cumberland Board of Supervisors publicly recognized the Bear Creek Academy Conservation Corps for their service in a Resolution of Appreciation:

Bear Creek Academy Conservation Corps is based on the model of FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps and the cumulative volunteer hours from September 2008 to May 2011 numbered over 1,500, with 15-20 student and staff volunteers to date involved in the conservation efforts.

Students are challenged outside the classroom to learn the value of physical work and volunteering to improve their community and environment. Each conservation or service learning project is completed with pride, serving as a visible reminder of the student's own self-worth and the power of teamwork.



Conservation and community project locations include: Bear Creek Lake State Park; High Bridge State Park; Ellis Acres Memorial Park (Dillwyn); Cumberland County and Cumberland Community Center (landscaping and recycling program); Cumberland Social Services; and Cumberland Clothes Closet.

Student Essay on Conservation *by Cody G.*

Every Wednesday we go out and help the rangers keep the park in good condition. We always try our hardest to clean up any trash, fallen limbs, and any overgrown weeds. My friends and I love working for the park. When my friends and I work in the park it makes us feel like we are making it a better place for others to visit. We are trying to keep the park clean because one day we might not have it. I think that some people sometimes take nature for granted. Conservation of the park is important to me because I love being outside and helping people realize that being outdoors is one of the best things you can do.



BCA Adds New Electives to Curriculum

This Spring Semester 2011, Bear Creek Academy ushered in a new era of learning and introduced a specialized elective called Building Trades and Construction. Mr. Stacy Yoder joins the faculty and brings 13 years of experience as a certified vocational teacher. Students learn basic wood working skills and techniques to create a solid foundation for building and construction.

Students crafted small book shelves and will continue to design and construct new projects created from wood as well as learn a wide range of carpentry techniques.



Prince Edward County Planner Alecia Daves-Johnson discusses the topic of land use with students from this Spring's Ecology class.

In addition to Building Trades, we have expanded our science course offerings to include a class in Ecology. This new course combines relevant curriculum from Biology, Earth Science, and Physical Science along with current events research and semiweekly labs. Students are engaged in learning about such topics as ecosystems, land use, pollution, conservation, recycling, energy, and human impact. Of particular importance to the course is its focus on ways the students themselves can become involved in protecting and preserving their own local natural resources.

Lights, Camera, Action! *Life Prep Field Trip to Comcast Studio*

We thank Arthur Johnson (A.J.) for an exciting and highly informative tour of Comcast's Community Programming Studio in Richmond, VA. Students experienced an interactive and hands on introduction on the occupations and job skills found in a TV broadcasting studio. Students controlled the video equipment and created their own shows to get a taste of how much work goes on "behind the scenes"!



A Special Thank You!

The students and staff would like to thank Linda Eanes, our local Cumberland 4-H Extension Agent, for providing exciting and enriching programming for our students for the past three years. Linda always brings enthusiasm as she challenges our student in recreational and skill-building activities. Thank you, Linda, for being a fun and motivational force for our students!



PO Box 192
CUMBERLAND, VA 23040
804-492-9940
FAX: 804-492-9942

ADMISSIONS@BEARCREEKACADEMY.ORG
WWW.BEARCREEKACADEMY.ORG



1874 ANDERSON HIGHWAY
POST OFFICE BOX 192
CUMBERLAND, VA 23040