

Spring 2012

It is often said, "Time flies when you are having fun!" At Bear Creek Academy this definitely holds true, as it seems just like yesterday that we had embarked on the 2011-12 school year. Our Seniors were excited and couldn't wait to finish and graduate. Most students arrived in the Fall wondering how the year would go and if summer would ever return again. As we conclude the year, we find that this year feels like it has gone by fast, as students were immersed in learning and challenged to grow personally.



The Bear Creek Academy academic approach is sensitive to each student's learning environment and believes in staying attuned to their need for emotional support. We believe that the process of learning is connected to the process of emotional growth. If we can help resolve or alleviate a student's inner conflict, then we can better surpass educational hurdles. Our staff accept that students have experienced failure in the past, and it is our job to highlight and build on the strengths of each individual so that they can believe in themselves again.



As students become empowered so do we, and a unique phenomenon occurs - feelings of increased self-esteem create a new cycle of progress that feeds on solving one problem at a time. Problems of all shapes and sizes present themselves each day, and the challenge for everyone is to discover the solution and to find the way out of the maze of negative feelings.

Congratulations Seniors!

We approach the end of this school year with four Seniors who have stayed determined throughout their time here at BCA. They have truly earned their graduation and have attained personal success with the help of their dedicated and patient teachers and their supportive families. They each made the commitment to completing their academics and showed the discipline required to obtain their high school diplomas. We appreciate their leadership in the school, and we wish them all the success and fortune as they go on to their new endeavors. Congratulations, Seniors, for having a great and productive year!



Graduating senior Cody Herndon of Buckingham County has been accepted to Ferrum College in the Fall. Cody worked hard on his academic, athletic, and personal skills while at BCA, and we are proud of his accomplishments. Way to go, Cody!

Seniors, cont'd.

Each one of our Seniors worked hard, balancing classes, athletics and/or jobs, and personal growth to successfully graduate. All of them faced many obstacles and put in the effort to overcome each one. We are very proud of them, and we can't wait to hear about their successes after high school!



Senior Jermaine Taylor of Cumberland County worked hard on his Senior Project, which focused on the recycling industry. He also successfully completed a portfolio of his schoolwork as part of his graduation requirements. Jermaine also began working at a job as part of his transition into post-secondary employment.



Senior Ryan Potts of Buckingham completed a rigorous course of study, including Spanish 2 and Algebra 2. He plans to pursue his interests in drawing and culinary arts after high school.



Senior Cody Rosen, from Cumberland County, completed his Senior Project on small engines and began a work internship in Farmville during his second semester. He also earned the rank Nation Chief, the highest rank to date, in BCA's Personal Empowerment Program.

Learning Job Skills at Bear Creek Academy

As part of our initiative to provide students with practical skills they can take out into the world, students are eligible to earn a school job at Bear Creek Academy. A student is able to request a job application when they achieve the second stage of the Personal Empowerment Program, called the Scout. The student must then fill out the application neatly and accurately before submitting it to the staff. Each student is evaluated on their academic and emotional progress; those who are ready for the responsibility of a job are selected for the next part of the job search experience, where they practice interviewing and other presentation skills.

Once hired, students learn about wages and how to track their hours and complete time sheets. Students are paid at the end of the month; most have their money deposited in a student savings account, although older students may opt to receive a paycheck. During their employment at BCA, students

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Character Education Class Field Trips



The Character Education class visited the Macon Volunteer Fire Department in Powhatan County. Our tour guide, registered nurse Sisty Cersley, has been working as an Emergency Medical Technician for several years in the community. Students learned about the commitment and the courage of the men and women who frequently risk their lives to help others.

Students learned about the equipment and training that are necessary for the operation of the volunteer fire department. We salute the men and women of the Macon Fire Department, Company 3!



The class also went to Glory Reigns, a horse ranch with a mission to help youth and veterans who suffer from various personal struggles. The ranch was founded and run by Kevin and Robin Warren with the assistance of their family. The ranch is non-profit and seeks to help those in need of healing through the Christian faith and caring instruction. Through caring for the horses and learning basic riding skills, Bear Creek Academy students gained a valuable lesson in cooperation, commitment, and integrity. We thank Glory Reigns Ranch in their noble and generous efforts to help our students and all who seek their healing through horses. Visit them at www.gloryreins.com



BCA Woodworking Class Grows

Mr. Yoder's class were busy this year with operating power tools and honing their wood working skills. Students need to show responsibility and self-control to be eligible to participate in this class. Though this class is the loudest, alive with the noise of saws, hammers, and drills, it has quickly become one of the most popular and desired classes at BCA. In addition to completing several personal projects, students have also helped build and maintain school furniture, fostering a sense of ownership and investment in the school's appearance.



Have a Great Summer! See You Next Year!



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