

A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR THE VISUAL AND  
PERFORMING ARTS

*Boston Arts  
Academy*

# newsletter

## From the Center for Arts in Education

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students, and Friends,

"You are looking at the agents of change" one group announced about their school. Sitting in the audience on that summer day, we looked at the goose bumps on our arms. Whoa! This is the work and these are the transformations that we hoped for. Teachers and administrators around the BAA assembly hall had just completed three days of our Summer Institute, where they were intensely focused on their work and the work of their students. We imagined the recipients: the many students that each of these teachers and administrators represented.

What does it mean to be a beacon in education? The Summer Institute at the Boston Arts Academy was created several years ago to address that part of our mission. Since that first Institute, we have worked with educators around the world, country and city on the kind of transformations that thrilled us on that summer afternoon. Our focus over time has changed from being a model, where we show people what we do for them to replicate, to a resource where we sit beside educators and coach them through their questions about the arts and education. Schools come to the Institute with a vision and we work with their questions and structures to help shed light on potential paths to their goals.

How does our beacon work fit with current trends of school reform? What are our goals, and how do we achieve them? We address these topics in our Summer Institute workshops through themes that include personalization, interdisciplinary work, differentiated teaching and learning, exhibition and assessment, and school climate and culture.

Implied in these areas of focus is our belief that school reform is more than adding minutes to the school day, more than breaking schools down into smaller units and changing their names to something catchy and hip. True school reform is about changing the dynamics that occur between the teacher (school) and her or his students. It is about helping students and their families realize the dreams and aspirations students have for their future. In our school day, Boston Arts Academy works on these themes. We continue to succeed with students who would lose their motivation if they were in a school without a priority of connecting with its students.

The Summer Institute is designed to do two things: To convince educators that to increase achievement they must improve the way they address their students, and to serve as a resource for the change that is needed. School reform is difficult work. Everybody has an opinion and a vision of how it should look and feel. We try to show our participants not just how school reform looks but why it works, the theoretical basis of our work. The Summer Institute helps educators become agents of transformation. In the end, we hope that our work will enrich not only the student but also the teachers as they pursue their life's work.



*Educators participating in Summer Institute, July 2007.*

Sincerely,

Kathleen Marsh

Ramiro Gonzalez

Corey Evans

## Parent/Caregiver Council elections

Several new BAA Parent/Caregiver Council members were elected at the November meeting of the Parent/Caregiver Council Board. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Congratulations and thanks to new co-chair alternates Tom Harstgrove and Dhonyale Jones.

## Two artists-in-residence at BAA

Through a generous grant from The Clowes Fund, BAA is hosting a residency entitled *Inner Voices* exploring students' personal experiences as an asset to their work as artists.

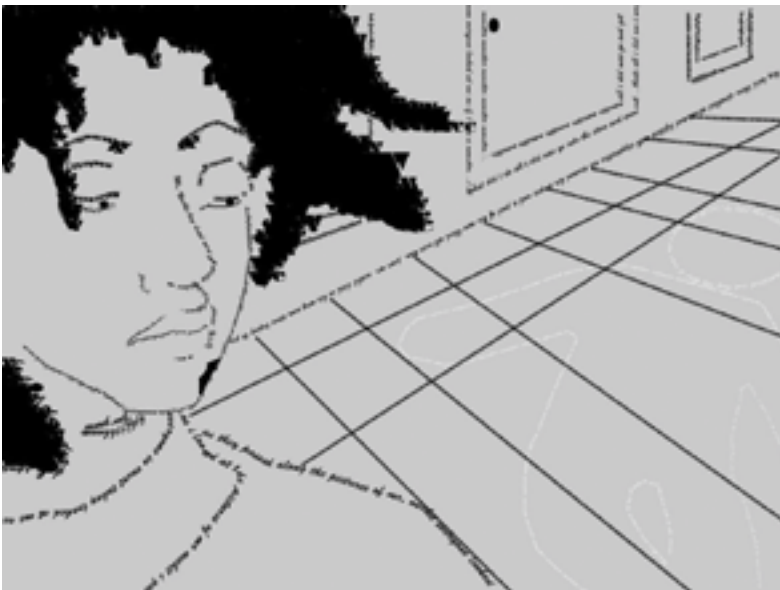
In November, Miami-based visual artist Carlos Estevez worked with World Language students and Visual Arts majors. His work will be shown in the Gordon Gallery until January 25, 2008 (see below).

Melinda Lopez is a playwright and actress. She was the first recipient of the Charlotte Woolard Award, given by the Kennedy Center for the Arts to a "promising new voice in American Theatre." She will work with World Language students and Theatre majors.

## Carlos Estévez, *Inner Voices*

The Sandra and Philip Gordon Gallery will show the work of artist-in-residence, Carlos Estévez, from November 29, 2007 to January 25, 2008 (please see page 2). Gallery Hours are Monday-Friday, 8-4 pm. The Gallery is closed for holidays from December 21 to January 4. Admission is free.

## Typographic portraits of fictional characters



*Ninth grade VA student Jerome Shelton's typographic portrait illustration.*

This fall, Ms. Prentiss' 9th Grade Digital Art/Design 1 Class unveiled a new show of digital illustrations at the Fenway/BAA Library. These typographic portraits were inspired by fictional characters that each student connected to in previously read books. Students selected fonts and individual letters, numbers, or punctuation that matched shapes in their drawings. In addition, students "drew" with text that they either excerpted from the novel or wrote themselves—reflecting on why they connected to their chosen characters.

The resulting images are on display as screensavers in the school library. The class goal for this project was to add visual interest to the library while increasing the visibility of design in our community.

**Co-Headmaster** Linda Nathan  
**Co-Headmaster** Carmen Torres  
**Artistic Dean** Fernadina Chan  
**Ex. Dir. BAA Foundation** Rick Tagliaferri  
**Communications Director** Helen Russell  
**Editing & Layout:** Dani Coleman  
**Photography:** Phyllis Bretholtz  
Helen Russell

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**BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY** is a collaborative project between the Boston Public Schools and the ProArts Consortium, an association of six internationally known institutions of higher learning. Each specializes in the visual arts, performing arts and architecture:

Berklee College of Music  
Boston Architectural College  
The Boston Conservatory  
Emerson College  
Massachusetts College of Art & Design  
The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

### BOSTON ARTS ACADEMY

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174 IPSWICH STREET • BOSTON, MA 02215  
T 617-635-6470 F 617-635-8854  
[www.bostonartsacademy.org](http://www.bostonartsacademy.org)



## Archbishop Desmond Tutu visits BAA



Student Gerami Groover with the Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who visited BAA with Justice Richard Goldstone during November. Special thanks to Sandra Gordon, President of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation, Wheelock College and Wheelock President Jackie Jenkins Scott for making this special visit possible.

## 2007-08 BAA Teacher Interns

Alyssa Pierce	Mathematics	Tufts University
Denise Vannucci	Mathematics	Northeastern University
Kimberly Conrad	Science	Tufts University
Noreen Yarwood	Theatre	Emerson College
Riana Good	World Languages	Boston College
Sara Arcaya	Humanities	Tufts University
Dania Diaz	Humanities	Tufts University
Luraine Kimmerle	After School Theatre	Gordon College
Jamie Andrade	Visual Art	Massachusetts College of Art and Design

### Important Dates\*

#### Thursday, November 29

Carlos Estévez Artist Reception  
Gordon Gallery 5-7 pm

#### Saturday, December 1

SATs at various city locations†

#### Week of December 3-7

Humanities 2 Exhibitions in class

#### Monday, December 3

Board of Trustees joint meeting  
and Holiday Party with  
Parent/Caregiver Council, 5 - 7 pm

#### Tuesday, December 4

Math Fair

#### Tuesday, December 11

Parent/Caregiver Council Meeting  
6-7:30 pm, BAA Assembly Hall

#### Thursday, December 13

Humanities 3 Exhibitions

#### Saturday, December 15

Financial Aid Workshop  
12 noon @ BAA  
(see insert for details)

#### December 17, 18 & 19

Winterfest Music Concerts  
(see page 4 for details)

#### Friday, December 21

Off-Campus Wellness Day

*No scheduled classes for students*

#### Monday, December 24

Winter Break Begins

*No School for Students*

#### Monday, January 7

*Students Return to School*

\* Calendar events are subject to change.  
Please call to confirm times and dates.

† Important parent/caregiver date!

## Annual Appeal

Families and friends, look for our Annual Appeal letter, arriving in a few days. Please be generous and let us know if your employer matches gifts. This can double your contribution. Thank you!

## Academy Strings hosts international musicians

Over 200 young musicians were treated to a special performance by members of the Simón Bolívar National Youth Orchestra and New England Conservatory at the Roland Hayes School of Music. Students from the Dever, the Murphy and the McCormack schools joined students from BAA, the John D. O'Bryant School and Roland Hayes School of Music for a delightful repertoire of music from around the world. Special thanks to New England Conservatory for arranging this event for BAA's Academy Strings outreach program.

## Winterfest 2007 Concert Series

**Monday, December 17**

*Chamber Music Recital*

Vocal and instrumental music students perform chamber masterworks.

7:00 pm @ Seully Hall

Boston Conservatory  
8 The Fenway  
Boston, MA 02215

Free admission

**Tuesday, December 18**

*Band and Choral Concert*

Featuring Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir.

7:00 pm @ Roland Hayes School of Music

55 Malcolm X Blvd.  
Roxbury, MA 02119

Free admission

*\*Stocking stuffer sale and raffle to benefit the Concert Choir spring tour to Chicago, IL*

**Wednesday, December 19**

*Outreach Concert*

Featuring instrumental and vocal ensembles in a performance for Boston school children

10:30 am @ Berklee Performance Center

*Jazz Concert*

Featuring the BAA Big Band, Ladies First and Men of Valor vocal ensembles, CB3 and Entourage jazz combos, Men of Valor, and Latin Jazz Band.

7:00 pm @ Berklee Performance Center

136 Massachusetts Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115

Admission \$15 families/\$10 adults/\$5 seniors, students & BAA discount



*Kuamane Brown performs at the 2006 Winterfest Chamber Music Recital.*

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