

## From Student Support

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students, and Friends,

For the Boston Arts Academy community, the past 9 years have been about “moving on”, from one educational paradigm to a completely new one. It has been frightening, compelling, daunting and euphoric by turns. We are still learning to dance on this thin, new ice.

We have been part of an experiment: a bright, young transformative setting in which to grow and learn. We have “made the road by walking” (as authors Paulo Freire and Myles Horton would say). Does this principle apply to our lives as well? Are we our own piece of music, our own choreography, a moving sculpture malleable in our own hands, a self-scripted play? How do we choose from the many enticing or frightening possibilities?

Does RICO help us here? Let us re-order the letters. Try C first: Connect. Deep in your wishes, dreams and fantasies are the delineations of your essential self. Go there! The arts give us that fabulous permission to explore. Have the courage to Own what we find there. Is this frightening? Yes, sometimes, but the real danger is in losing touch with this powerful source of ourselves

How do you map the next stage of your life? Like a spider casting out from the center of her belly the tenuous weave of her web, so we shape a path for ourselves out of the center of our own being. We start the whole process with our Identity Boxes and Autobiographies in the 9th grade. We move into our Wellness Plans, Advisory Letters and RICO Presentations. We scale the ladder to the Sophomore Review, the Inferno Project, our College Essays and Resumes. We ascend by gradation to the Artist’s Bio, the Senior Dance Project, Senior Exhibition, and the Senior Grant Proposal. We whirl deliriously from juries to recitals to Senior Showcase. And we light our way through Soul Element, AYUDAS, VOI-SIS, Common Ground, GSA, Slate Blue, Community Service through National Honor Society and Advisory among many sources of shared and personal wisdom encountered in school life. Your plan, a life-plan, based on the principle of “inside-out-ness” a tapping of the inner world before moving on to the outward, will gradually emerge. This is the paradigm that we, as artists, constantly offer our community at large. This is our Invention.

As writing is re-writing, so our lives are subject to the re-shaping process. One aspect of intelligence itself might be measured as an ability to adjust to changing circumstances. Refining is central to every teaching practice at the BAA, as it is in the decision making culture of the school.

And what of mistakes along the way? Miles Davis spoke of his gifted young drummer from Boston, Tony Williams, who would play the rhythm of the Orange Line as he rode on the T. If a technician stumbled over a cable during a recording session, Williams would try to play the rhythm of the stumble. “There is rhythm in everything,” Miles said. “There are no mistakes in jazz, only opportunities!”

We leave you with a lingering, cellular knowledge, the second wind with new sight, intuitions trained and given sacred authority to inform, even to lead, to balance the mind with the heart, the spirit with the body, the inner with the outer.

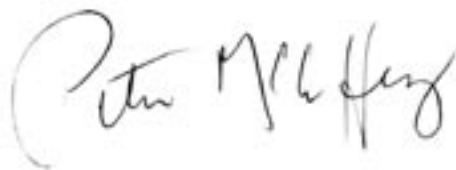
There is a new rhythm in the air. Do you hear it?

Shake.

Shake, Shake,

Shake, Shake, Take!\*

Sincerely,



Peter McCaffery

Student Support Team Coordinator



Members of the BAA Student Support Team. L to R: Parent/Caregiver Coordinator Lana Niles-Malcolm; Freshman Coordinator, Allison Wade; Co-Headmaster Carmen Torres; Wellness Coordinator, Diedre O'Halloran; Team Coordinator, Peter McCaffery; College & Career Coordinator, Cynthia Hairston.

\*As we say in our ceremonies at BAA,  
shake two hands before you receive the award.

## Families, you are invited!

After the Parent/Caregiver Council meeting on Monday, June 20th at 5:30 pm, BAA is having its End-of-Year Reception with Co-Headmaster Carmen Torres. The reception will start directly after the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Linda and Carmen are asking parents/caregivers to come and share a couple of experiences that went well for them this year and one thing that they would like to change. Parking will be provided in the Fenway Garage located opposite the school starting at 5:00 pm. Please inform the parking attendant that you are attending a meeting at Boston Arts Academy. A light dinner will be served.

## Prom 2007

This year's Prom *Casino Royale* will take place at the Seaport Hotel, Harborview Ballroom. Festivities begin 7:30 pm with a 7:30 reception followed by a sit-down dinner served between 8:00 and 9:00 pm. Presentation of the Prom Court will be at 10:30 pm. Cost is \$80 per person and \$150 per couple. Junior and Senior classmen only. A letter with prom details and information was mailed to senior families in May. For more information, please call Mr. Gonzalez at 617-905-8212.

## Linda Nathan on sabbatical

Linda Nathan was one of 12 Boston recipients of the prestigious 2007 Barr Fellowships. Awarded every two years to seasoned, value-driven leaders with proven accomplishments, the fellowship includes a trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe and a three-month sabbatical as well as two continued years of individual and small group leadership experiences. Ms. Nathan leaves for Africa on June 7th and will visit programs and schools in Zimbabwe and South Africa as a part of her experience. BAA has been preparing for Linda's absence for many months. Co-Headmaster Carmen Torres and the Senior Management team are aptly prepared to carry on in her short absence

## Professor Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot conducts seminar for seniors



From L to R: Senior class president, Karla Heredia, Co-Headmaster Linda Nathan, Professor Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, senior class vice-president, Narissa Clarke and senior class secretary, Zetmara Lorenzo.

**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  
Dani Coleman

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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 Center
- The Boston Conservatory
- Emerson College
- Massachusetts College of Art
- The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

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## Hispanic Writer's Week

For the first time, Boston Arts Academy participated in *Semana de Escritores Hispano* (Hispanic Writers Week), an annual event sponsored by the William Joiner Center (WJC) for the Study of War and Social Consequences at UMASS Boston and El Jolgorio de Massachusetts.

Carlos Gutierrez and his Spanish 4 students spent a week with the Puerto Rican writer Vionette Negretti. Ms. Negretti has had over 25 years experience as an author of both books and scripts as well as having had a career as a news anchor person. She has been recognized with several awards. Her most recent publication is the nonfiction work, *La Buenaventura*.



*Vionette Negretti works with Spanish 4 student, Abraham Valenzuela.*

The week concluded at the Egleston Square Branch Library where students presented their work before a select group of BPS teachers and students. Three BAA students, Maria Ticono, Jhoancy Colon and Abraham Valenzuela, were recognized for their work with a special medal. In addition senior Joana Betances and junior Amaly Miranda were invited to read their work alongside a group of renowned Spanish authors. BAA would like to thank Mrs. Negretti for her work with our school and Mr. Gutierrez for organizing this wonderful event. We look forward to this new tradition in our World Languages department.

## Summer school

Dates for summer school at BAA are July 9 to August 3, 2007.

If a student's narrative report indicated that summer school may be necessary, please note these dates and plan vacations accordingly.

**All 11th graders, 12th graders and those not planning to return to BAA next year will attend classes at Madison Park High School from July 9-August 10, from 8:30-12:30.**

Determination of summer school requirements will be made after classes end in June. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Joy Bautista at 617.359.3243.

## 2007 Springfest

### Thursday, May 31, 2007

7:00 pm Public Dance Performance  
*Special ceremony honoring Dana Brayton, composer, Boston Conservatory professor and father of senior dance major, Adriane Brayton.*

### Friday, June 1, 2007

10:30 am Outreach  
Dance Performance  
7:00 Pubic Dance Performance

Tsai Performance Center  
685 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston MA 02215  
On the Boston University campus

\$10 adults, \$5 students  
Ticket Reservations: 617-353-8725  
[www.bostonartsacademy.org](http://www.bostonartsacademy.org).

## Important Dates\*

### Thursday, May 31

Springfest Dance Concert  
See box below for details

### Friday, June 1

Springfest Dance Concert  
See box at left for details  
*Festival of Bands Concert*  
Roland Hayes School of Music  
6 pm Call 617-635-8973 for info  
Red Sox home game 7:05 pm

### Saturday, June 2

SATs at various locations citywide  
9th Grade test prep @ BAA 9:30 am

### Monday June 4

End of Term 4 for seniors  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
BAA Assembly Hall 5 - 8 pm

### Tuesday, June 5

MCAS, Science & Engineering  
9th Grade at 8:00 am  
Red Sox home game 7:05 pm

### Wednesday, June 6

Early release @ 12:25 pm  
Junior Step-Up/Senior Awards  
1:45-3:15 pm  
Soul Element Performance  
7 pm @ BAA

### Thursday, June 7

BPS All-City Band Festival  
11:45 am Berklee College of Music  
**Special Senior Schedule (see insert)**

### Friday, June 8

No School for Seniors  
Prom (see page 2 for details)  
*String Summit Concert* 6:30 pm  
Roland Hayes School of Music  
Call 617-635-8973 for info

### Tuesday, June 12

Science Fair  
Red Sox home game 7:05 pm

### Wednesday, June 13

Red Sox home game 7:05 pm

### Thursday, June 14

Graduation Rehearsal @  
Symphony Hall 12-4 pm (see insert)  
Red Sox home game 7:05 pm

### Friday, June 15

**No School**  
Graduation at Symphony Hall 10 am

### Monday, June 18

**No School, Bunker Hill Day**

### Tuesday, June 19

**No School for Students**

### Wednesday, June 20

RICO Review, grades 9-11  
Parent/Caregiver Council Board Mtg.  
5:30-7 pm

### Thursday, June 21

RICO Review, grades 9-11

### Friday, June 22

Last Day of School  
Community Day Celebration

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

† Important parent/caregiver date!

## A big Benefit thank you!

Our May 21, 2007 Benefit and Gala broke all records in terms of attendance, contributions, and creative energy. These results cast an important vote of confidence, not only for Boston Arts Academy, but for the vital role the arts play in student development and achievement. Each contribution of time, talent and personal resources adds to a growing voice that will bring the arts back to the classroom, enriching our lives and communities.

We have many people to thank, not the least of which are our event chairs, Ann Carter and Richard Rudman, and their hard-working Benefit Committee comprised of parent/caregivers, community members and business leaders. We simply can't do it without you. The evening's program - conceived by BAA faculty and students - was inspired by this year's honoree, Robert Pinsky. This union of generosity and talent truly created a night to remember. It will stand as a dynamic prelude to next year when the school will be celebrating its 10th anniversary of nurturing artists, scholars and citizens.



*2007 Apollo Awardee Robert Pinsky with students at BAA.*

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FOR THE VISUAL AND  
PERFORMING ARTS  
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