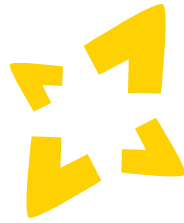
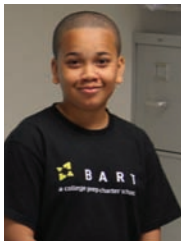


SEPTEMBER
2013
NEWSLETTER



BART

a college prep charter school

Introducing Principal West

BART is very excited to begin the 2013-2014 school year under the leadership of new principal April West. Ms. West has been a part of the BART community since 2006, when she was hired as a Humanities Teacher. She has since initiated BART's successful Advanced Placement (AP) program and taught AP English Language and Composition and AP Literature. Ms. West holds a B.A. from Bennington College in Social Justice, an M.A. in Comparative Studies from Ohio State University and an M.A.T. in Social Studies from Bennington College. She is currently completing a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Educational Leadership from MCLA.



Principal West and Troy Brainerd review Troy's schedule on the first day of school.

West stepped into the role of principal on July 1st, 2013, working hand-in-hand with outgoing principal Ben Klompus until mid-August. Principal Klompus left BART to pursue a doctorate in education from Harvard University.

"I'm excited to build from the tremendous success that BART has achieved over the past five years under the guidance of Principal Klompus. I know that we have a team in place that

will not only keep preparing 100% of our graduates for college, but will continue to push students to achieve even greater success." ✨



"At BART, we change the trajectory of students' lives. Most often, this involves radically improving their educational attainment, but it also means helping students deepen their character and develop maturity, responsibility and resiliency."

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21st Century After School and Summer Program

The summer of 2013 was packed full of activity for BART students. Summer course offerings included World Drumming, Hiking and Science, Building Technologies and Food Adventures. The program ran three week-long sessions and was filled to capacity. "Response by families to the summer program was extremely positive. Nearly 30% of our students participated for one or more weeks, and activities like Outdoor Adventures and Science & Hiking were so popular we needed to add additional sections," explained Brian O'Grady, who directed the program.

The summer program was made possible through a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program grant. This large endowment also funds enriched and extended after-school activities as well as programs during February and April vacations.

The grant spans three years, contin-



Gabrielle Fruet and Cameron Mahan prepare vegetables in the Food Adventures program this summer

gent on BART meeting the assurances and guidelines established by the U.S. and Massachusetts Departments of Education (DOE). After each year, a final report and a renewal application are submitted to the DOE, and pending approval, the grant is continued.

This program exists to support the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for students. The objective is to spur improvement in core academic subjects and complement regular school programs with recreational, educational and artistic options. ✨

Two Renowned Institutions Take Note of BART

BART's sometimes unique approach to education and our unyielding expectation of school-wide success recently garnered the attention of Harvard and the National Center on Time & Learning.

The Harvard Graduate School of Education featured BART faculty in a study about effectively analyzing student data and featured BART in an educational video. Data Wise, a program of the Graduate School, focuses on an eight-step process for using data to improve learning and teaching. This particular study centered on what Harvard calls the "ACE Habits of Mind," (ACE being an acronym for a shared commitment to Action, Assessment and



Artwork on the cover of the National Center on Time & Learning publication

Adjustment, intentional Collaboration and a relentless focus on Evidence).

Data Wise, a product of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, provides educators with a step-by-step process to analyze student assessment data and improve the overall quality of academic instruction.

The National Center on Time & Learning featured BART in their publication *Advancing Arts Education through an Expanded School Day: Lessons from Five Schools*. The piece was a series of case studies focusing on schools utilizing the longer day to prioritize the arts as they work to improve overall pedagogy and achievement ✨



Ms. LaForest assists senior Joe King in chemistry

Construction of Innovative Science Lab

Construction should be completed on the Bo and Katherine Peabody Science Laboratory by the end of September 2013. The lab was funded by a grant and via the proceeds from a special event held in honor of Bo Peabody.

The new lab will accommodate 24 students with its two large lab tables equipped with eight sinks, three fume hoods, an eye-washing and shower station and much more. Unique aspects of the lab include use of a special dry-erase paint that will enable teachers to write on any of the walls, and a large graphic mural of the periodic table.

Science classes at the school previously had to conduct their experiments at one of MCLA's laboratories, an arrangement that was much appreciated although not always ideal for the students. The work is being carried out by Burke Construction Company of Adams, MA. Burke was also involved in the last two phases of facility improvements.

Be on the look out for more news from BART when the lab is 100% complete! ✨



11th Graders Taylor Eddy and Ciera Dowling perform an experiment

Class of 2013

BART graduated 21 young adults in 2013, making for the school's largest graduating class to date. Twenty of the graduates will be attending college in the fall, (40% to a 2-year program and 60% to a 4-year program), and one student is enlisted with the U.S. Marines. Included on the list of college destinations are Emmanuel College, MCLA, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and Russell Sage College.

As a class they were accepted into 48 different colleges across the country and were offered over \$580,000 in scholarship funds. In addition, the following 10 students were recipients of John and Abigail Adams scholarships, entitling them to free tuition at any Massachusetts state college or university: Nicole Allen, Christianna Berti, Aidan Chicoine, Cassandra Chicoine, Dean Covert,



BART graduates at their commencement ceremony on June 8th, 2013

Charles Kirchner, Casey McKeever, Courtney McKeever, Jacob McNicol and Kaleigh Swift.

Congratulations graduates! 🎓

BART Welcomes Four New Members to the Board of Trustees

Joan Jones, Bill Mulholland, Frederick Puddester and Geraldine Shen join the already robust Board of Trustees at BART. Each of the new trustees has an established relationship with BART through service on various committees or the generous giving of time over the years as a volunteer. The new members bring with them a wide array of philanthropic and community leadership experience:

Joan Jones is an experienced educator who has taught in New York, Georgia and Vermont. Joan has also worked as the Volunteer Coordinator for the America Reads program at Williams College. Presently, Joan volunteers with the Saints Patrick and Raphael Parish in Williamstown and is the creator and organizer of the Williamstown Women's Squash League. She has served on BART's Charter and Accountability Committee since 2012.

William "Bill" Mulholland is the Vice President of Community Education and

Workforce Development at Berkshire Community College. Mulholland was formerly the manager of the Eaton Plant of the Sheaffer Eaton Division of Textron and the president of Berkshire Stationery. He serves on various boards and committees for local institutions including the Pittsfield Economic Development Corporation, the Berkshire Compact for Education and the Berkshire Applied Technology Council.

Frederick Puddester is Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer for Williams College and is a valued member of BART's Finance Committee. Puddester was previously the Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration at the Johns Hopkins University Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. Prior to this he was the Executive Director of Budget and Financial Planning for Johns Hopkins University and spent two decades in Maryland State government, including four years as Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management. Addition-

ally, he serves on numerous university and community committees including his service as co-chair of the Williams Faculty and Staff Benefits Review Committee.

Geraldine Shen is a Senior Development Officer for Williams College, where she is responsible for oversight and cultivation of prospects on the West Coast and in Asia. Prior to this, Shen was the Director of Curriculum Development at Better Chinese in Palo Alto, CA. Geraldine serves on the board of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and has been a valued member of the Development Committee at BART.

The addition of the four new trustees expands the BART board to 12 members. The new trustees each come from the surrounding college communities, and BART's board has representation from MCLA, Williams and Berkshire Community College, which can only help BART continue to stress the importance of college readiness. 🎓

Happy Birthday BART!”



BART has grown, has had great successes and is now commencing its 10th year! It is a time to reflect upon and celebrate BART’s amazing journey. “We have experienced 10 years of amazing growth - no one more than our students. Their academic achievements have been the inspiration for all of us as we continue to expand our program and our facility,” says Executive Director Julia Bowen.

BART is the only school district in Berkshire County designated as a “Level One, High Growth” school by the state of Massachusetts.

“ I am excited to see what we, in concert with the educational community in the Berkshires, can accomplish in the next 10 years. ”

— Julia Bowen, Executive Director

Having obtained its original charter in 2003, BART has twice successfully presented its case for charter renewal before the Massachusetts Board of Education. The most recent charter renewal was in January 2013, and it will be in effect for the next five years. In addition to being granted the new charter, BART’s enrollment cap was increased from 308 to 363, and Pittsfield was added to the list of ten cities and towns that BART is chartered to serve. ✨

Facility Expansion Coming Soon!

After consulting stakeholders including BART’s administration, staff, trustees, faculty, students and parents, BART has drawn up a new master facilities plan.

The planned facility expansion will include a proper gymnasium, a student center with a stage for performances and school-wide community meetings, and a cafeteria, among its many features. The renovation will add approximately 4,800 square feet and will be equipped with the most up-to-date technology

to support BART’s ongoing educational mission.

BART chose Paramount Project Management of Pittsfield, MA from a pool of bidders to serve as Project Manager. During the next step, the state of Massachusetts will select an architect for the expansion, again from a number of bids. The school expects to break ground in early March, 2014 and anticipates the project’s completion in August, 2014. ✨

www.bartcharter.org

Visit our website for more information. If you have questions or you would like to set up a tour, please contact Leah Thompson at 413-743-7311 xt.168 or leah.thompson@bartcharter.org.