

BELL Scholars Society Bulletin

A NEWSLETTER FOR BELL ALUMNI AND THEIR FAMILIES

Welcome to the BELL Scholars Society!

Welcome parents and scholars! As a graduate of the BELL™ program, you are invited to join the BELL Scholars Society. The BELL Scholars Society is a special group of scholars that have completed the BELL™ program and are now in middle school (or starting middle school in the fall).

What is the BELL Scholars Society?

The BELL Scholars Society is exclusively for former BELL™ scholars and their families and aims to help members navigate their way through middle school and high school; access local academic and extracurricular programs; and connect to college planning support, resources, and scholarships. We have had the great pleasure of meeting some of you in person at our first events - our Dinner and Induction Ceremony on March 26th, and our workshops on May 27th and June 11th. We can't wait to meet more of you!

What is the BELL Scholars Society Bulletin?

You are holding in your hands the very first edition of the BELL Scholars Society Bulletin. This issue is full of ideas to help you and your family have a fun and enriching summer as well as some tips for staying safe and thinking about the future.

The BELL Scholars Society Bulletin will arrive in your mailbox four times a year and will share valuable articles that:

-Connect you to online and print resources for important information for scholars and parents;

-Alert you of upcoming events sponsored by the BELL Scholars Society and our partners;

-Draw your attention to important issues in education;

-Showcase some of our very own outstanding BELL Scholar Society members; and

-Challenge your mind with fun puzzles and games.

We hope you enjoy it, and please feel free to recommend articles to include and scholars to spotlight. This is your newsletter!

How can you get more involved?

To get more involved, complete an information form and join us at our events. If you have questions, you can always give us a call at 617-282-1567 ext. 154, or email us at alumni@bellboston.org.



Dr. Lauren Smith addressed the BELL Scholars Society at the Dinner & Induction Ceremony at UMass-Boston on March 26.

Dr. Smith is a pediatrician and Medical Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Summer 2009

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Inside this issue:

Scholar Spotlight: Bailee Brewer	2
Staying Safe Online	2
Check out Boston's Museums	2
Brain Teasers	3
Tips to Combat Summer Learning Loss	4

Join the BELL Scholars Society the evening of Thursday, July 23rd for a Families First parent workshop and fun scholar activities. Watch your email and mail for your invitation with more details.

Plan Ahead for College

Summer is a great time to learn about careers and colleges, and Boston has great (and air conditioned!) places to do just that: TERI College Planning Centers at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square and in many more neighborhood branches. They have everything you need to make career and college decisions: information on thousands of colleges, universities, and technical/vocational programs;

counseling on choosing a school and paying for it; help completing admission and financial aid applications; computerized college, career, and scholarship search systems; and much more! Help is available in several languages and it's all free!

Watch for our early college planning workshop this fall!

TERI College Planning Centers

617- 536-0200 or www.TERCollegelplanning.org

Boston Public Library - 700 Boylston St., Copley Square
Open Mon-Thurs 9am-9pm, Fri & Sat 9am-5pm

Codman Square Library - 690 Washington St. Thurs 12-8

Hyde Park Library - 35 Harvard Ave.
Mon 12-8pm, Wed 6-8pm

Egleston Square Library - 2044 Columbus Ave. Wed 12-8

South Boston Library - 646 East Broadway Mon 12-8pm



Scholar Spotlight: Bailee Brewer Speaks in Front of Hundreds

Imagine it in your mind: Hundreds of education professionals are gathered for the National Center for Summer Learning conference in downtown Chicago. A young woman walks up to the microphone, smiles brightly at the crowd, and says with a wave, "Hi! My name is Bailee Brewer, and I'm here to talk to you about summer learning." For the next seven minutes, the crowd was silent as they listened with complete attention.

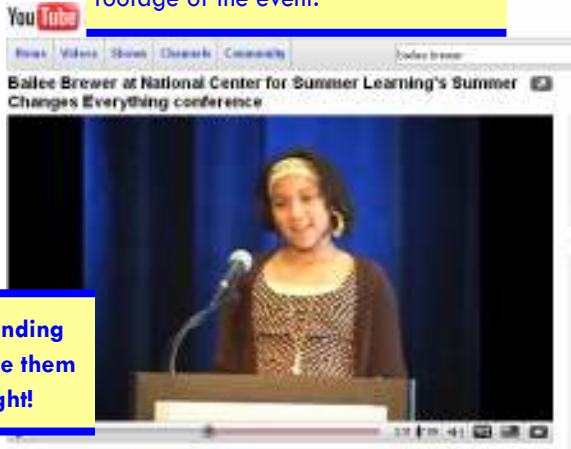
Bailee told the group, "I am now a BELL™ scholar. Do you know what that means? It means that I am educated, I am positive, and I am confident. And as a BELL scholar, my future has endless possibilities."

The moment she finished, hundreds of conference attendees jumped to their feet and gave her a standing ovation.

Bailee is 11 years old and is finishing the sixth grade this spring. She has attended BELL™ in the past and is a new member of the BELL Scholars Society. Bailee is interested in horseback riding, dance, singing, political campaigns, and many other activities.

Thank you, Bailee! Everyone here at BELL is so proud to be represented by scholars like you!

GO ONLINE FOR MORE!
You can check out Bailee's speech online. Just visit www.youtube.com, and type in "Bailee Brewer" to find footage of the event.



Do you know an outstanding scholar? Email us to have them in the Scholar Spotlight!

Staying Safe and Smart Online

On May 27th the BELL Scholars Society hosted a workshop for parents and scholars on preventing bullying and cyberbullying (bullying that happens online). The Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center gave us some great tips on how to stay safe including:

- ◆ **Nothing** you put online or send from your cell phone is really private and **nothing** is ever really deleted. It was advised, "If you wouldn't want it on a billboard, don't post it online."

- ◆ If someone is doing something online or at school (or anywhere) that makes you uncomfortable or feel bullied, **TELL AN ADULT!** Don't respond to messages, just save them and tell a trusted adult what is going on.

"If you wouldn't want it on a billboard, don't post it online"

- ◆ If it is illegal in real-life, it is illegal online. This includes pretending you are someone else, sending images that

are inappropriate, stalking, threatening, or harassing people.

- ◆ **People that are just your friends online are strangers** - no matter how long you've been chatting with them. Never agree to meet or call anyone that is only your friend online.
- ◆ If your friends are bullying someone online or in person, tell them to stop and don't pass along inappropriate or mean texts and other messages.

For more information and resources, visit www.MARCCenter.org

Looking for Fun Things to Do this Summer? Check Out Boston's Museums!

You'll be amazed at what you'll find in Boston's museums - and many have reduced prices for youth and families and many times you can go for free!

You can get free or discount passes to many museums at your neighborhood library. You just need a free library card. Call your library to make sure your branch has a pass available.

Inexpensive Museums

Museum of the National Center for Afro-American Artists (\$4 for adults, \$3 for students) 617-442-8614

Trailside Museum, Milton (\$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children) 617-333-0690

Free or Discount Passes from the Boston Public Library
Children's Museum (\$2/person for up to 6 people from library and \$1 every Friday 5-9pm) 617-426-8855

Harvard Natural History Museums (\$4/person for up to 4 people) 617-495-3045

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum 617-566-1401

John F. Kennedy Library & Museum 617-514-1600

Museum of Fine Arts (FREE for 2 people from library, FREE every Wed. 4-9:45pm, and FREE 7/19 and 8/28) 617-267-9300

Museum of Science (FREE for 4 people) 617-723-2500

The Sports Museum at TD Banknorth Garden 617-624-1234

Zoo New England (Franklin Park) 617-541-5466

Visit www.museumsofboston.org for links to Boston area museums.

Free Museums or Special Free Days
Commonwealth Museum (ALWAYS FREE) 617-727-9268

Harvard Art Museums (FREE for youth under 18 and Saturday from 10am-12pm) 617-495-9400

Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) (FREE for youth 17 & under, Thursday from 5-9pm, and for families - up to 2 adults and 2 children 12 & under - last Saturday of each month) 617-478-3100

John F. Kennedy National Historic Site, Brookline (JFK birthplace) (FREE for youth 17 & under accompanied by an adult, adult admission \$3) 617-566-7937

MIT Museum (FREE Sunday 10am-12pm) 617-253-4444

Museum of Afro-American History (ALWAYS FREE) 617-725-0022

Brain Teasers!



SUDOKU

For those scholars who are not familiar with SUDOKU, it is simply a placement puzzle. Although they're made up of numbers, there is no math involved...just logic!

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, and each 3 x 3 box contains the same number only once. Try it out!

4		5			3			
		7	5		4		3	9
	8		6				7	4
5	3		8				6	
		6		9		3		
		2		6			4	8
3	2				8		1	6
1			4		6			
			9			8		2

Did you know?
Sudoku initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and reached international popularity in 2005.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Instructions: Use the clues below to fill in the blanks.

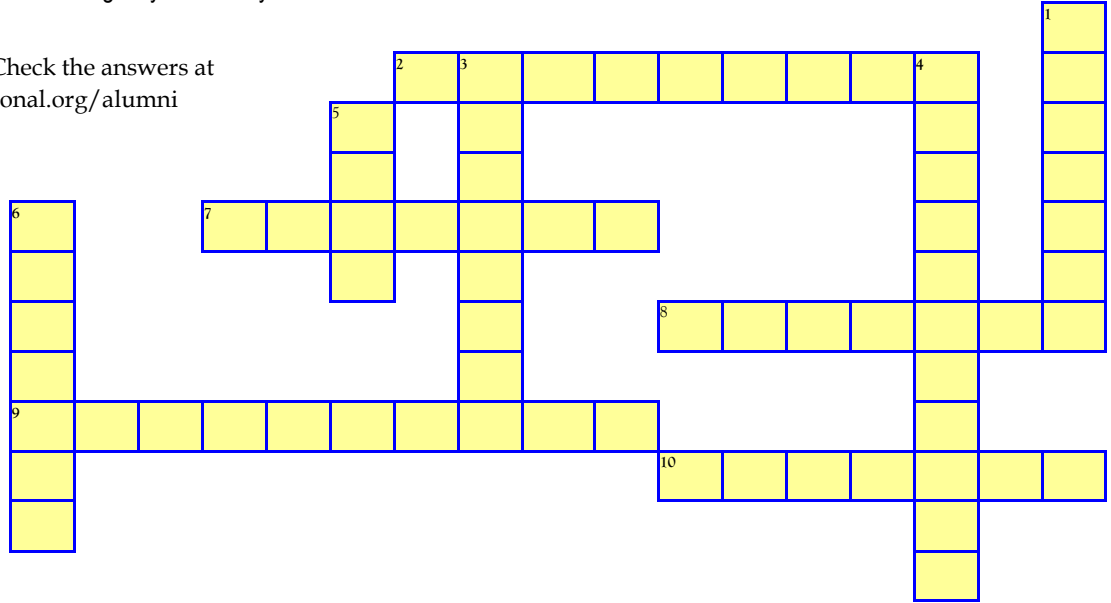
Across

- Giving up of something you want to do for somebody or something else which is more valuable and/or important (ex: giving up playing video games to study)
- The highest or finest standard
- An institution of higher learning you attend after high school
- The state of being outstanding (ex: BELL scholars achieve this everyday)
- The achievement of a goal you set for yourself

Down

- The ability to face difficulty or uncertainty without being overcome by fear
- A strong feeling of wanting to be successful in life and achieve great things
- To give someone a greater sense of confidence or self-esteem
- Something that a person wants to achieve
- A feeling of admiration toward someone or something

How'd you do? Check the answers at www.bellnational.org/alumni



Hint - These words complete the puzzle:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|----------|------------|
| Sacrifice | Empowerment | Goal | Ambition | Respect |
| Quality | College | Courage | Success | Excellence |

BELL Scholars Society

60 Clayton Street
Dorchester, MA 02122



Phone: 617-282-1567 x 154
Fax: 617-282-2698
E-mail: alumni@bellboston.org
www.bellnational.org/alumni

MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR INFO

If you haven't yet, be sure to complete and return your scholar information form so we have the most up-to-date info on your scholar's academic interests and needs. You can download a form online, give us a call, email us, or stop by the BELL office in Dorchester.

Combat Summer Learning Loss!

Summer is almost here and it'll be time to sit back, relax, and enjoy the nice weather. But before you start relaxing too much, take a look at the following statistics from the National Center for Summer Learning:

- All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.
- Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests (like the MCAS) at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer - they are losing the skills they learned during the school year.
- Most students lose about two months of grade level skills in math over the summer months. Many students also lose more than two

months in reading achievement. This puts them behind when they start school in the fall.

To succeed in school and life, young people need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. This is especially true during the summer months.

To combat summer learning loss, young people need enriching summer experiences. These can include:

- ⇒ **Summer camps or programs**
- ⇒ **Trips to museums and parks**
- ⇒ **Spending time at libraries and reading over the summer** (The Boston Public Schools and the Boston Public Library have a great list of books and events for every grade. Get a copy at the library or go to www.bpl.org/kids/ and click "Summer Reading!")



To find out-of-school time programs in the City of Boston, check out:

www.BOSTONnavigator.com

This resource brings together program information from many sources. Check back often to find out more about the many out-of-school programs available for Boston's youth.

BOSTONavigator tracks programs that are:

- ⇒ Located in Boston;
- ⇒ Provide staff supervision for youth ages 5 to 18; and
- ⇒ Operate during out-of-school time (including before/after school, summers, weekends, and school vacations).