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## BAC NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6; May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### **Letter from Jaime Nicklas, Educational Director:**

As we head into summer, changes are in the air at the BAC! Marcia Daly will be transitioning to a new part-time position beginning early June. She will be responsible for conducting staff training and managing research projects. She will help us to maintain high standards and uniformity in data collection as the BAC continues to expand. Caroline Strolin, who has been teaching in the Big Kids Classroom since January and volunteering at the BAC since October, will be replacing Marcia in the Little Kids classroom.

Eric Cardenas will join us as a behavioral instructor in the Big Kids Classroom. The younger brother of lead teacher Tara Cardenas, Eric graduated from SUNY Stony Brook earlier this month with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. He has been volunteering at the BAC since early March. We are pleased to welcome him to our school and know he will be a great asset in the classroom!

### **dre.dance Workshop**

We are excited to announce a partnership with dre.dance company, a modern dance organization founded by actor Taye Diggs and his childhood friend Andrew Palermo. Andrew Palermo visited the BAC in December while conducting research for a dance piece about autism called *beyond.words*. In between touring with the company, he will be returning to the BAC to conduct dance and movement workshops for our students. Check out <http://dredance.com/video.htm> to see excerpts of *beyond.words* as well as sample movement workshops for children with autism. We are so excited to have dre.dance company share their talents with the BAC!

### **BAC Family Picnic**

We are pleased that so many of you were able to join us for the BAC Family Picnic at Sunnyside Gardens Park on May 21<sup>st</sup>! The picnic was a great success with beautiful weather, delicious food and lots of fun activities for the kids. Special thanks to Sue Laizik and Ron Kassimir for coordinating the picnic and providing the food, beverages and supplies.

Photographer Gary Thom was on hand to capture the fun. Check out his photographs at <http://joomla.afulki.com/index.php/Portraits/Brooklyn-Autism-Center-Academy-Picnic.html>. Prints can be ordered directly through the web site.

## **ABA International Conference**

Over Memorial Day weekend, Jaime Nicklas, Sydnee Jorgl, Tara Cardenas and Meghan O'Reilly-Green traveled to the ABA International Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. While there, Jaime and Tara presented new research about fluency-based teaching versus multiple exemplars in picture label retention. The conference also helped to keep BAC staff up to date about new developments in ABA, which will be implemented in programs at our school in the future.

## **Important Upcoming Dates:**

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – School closed for Brooklyn Day  
June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 1:00pm – Early dismissal for staff training  
June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 6:00pm – Lecture “Preparing for Vacations”  
July 6 – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – School closed for Summer Break

Brooklyn Autism Center Academy admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.