



PROGRAM SUMMARY

Horizons completed its fourth successful summer at BFS, with new and returning students joining us from PS 8, 67, 287 and 307 for six weeks of exploration, fun and learning. We welcomed back 89% of our 1st-3rd graders from the summer of 2010, along with a new class of 15 kindergarteners. The majority of our teachers returned as well. Shanique Pinnock, a BFS teacher, and Amelia Williams, a teacher from Horizons partner school PS 307, joined us in kindergarten and second grade.

Our crew of committed teachers, including reading specialist Ellen Conroy, continued to focus on reducing summer learning loss through literacy. DIBELS and STAR pre and post program assessments showed that, on average, our Horizons students made significant gains in literacy over the course of the 6-week program. There were many exciting components of our literacy work this past summer, including a kindergarten study of folk tales, a 1st grade author study of Nina Crews, a 2nd grade performance of Anansi the Spider, based on an in-depth look of the story's characters, genre and moral, and an exploration of essays in 3rd grade.

Thanks to the generosity, commitment and creativity of Pam Kiernan, BFS parent and Horizons board member, and her son Sean, BFS first grader, all Horizons students received a book to take home. Books were purchased using a percentage of the \$15,850 raised by Sean's efforts in his "6-in-6" read-a-thon. Sean and his mom joined us one morning for a presentation of the books to each class. It was truly a special moment between children.

The remainder of the "6-in-6" read-a-thon proceeds were used to support and strengthen our work in all curricular areas. In particular, we were able to add Takiema Bunche-Smith to our Horizons team as a curriculum consultant. As a former public and private school teacher, an instructor at BMCC, Director of Content at Sesame Street, and the current Director of Curriculum at Brooklyn Kindergarten Society (BKS), Takiema brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to Horizons at BFS. Through pre-program curriculum meetings and on-site visits, Takiema helped support our teachers in a variety of ways, such as linking their work in the classroom with NY state standards, putting systems in place for documenting the scope, sequence and rationale for their curriculum, and brainstorming ways to implement STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) in the classroom across grade levels.

With regard to the implementation of STEM, Horizons students particularly enjoyed exploring concepts in science and math. Kindergarten students studied the five senses, and studied patterns, estimation and story problems. In science, 1st grade students participated in research and experiments to further understand weather patterns such as wind, cloud formation and precipitation, while in math they delved into subtraction and addition. 2nd grade studied plants and seeds, and recycling, and weight, measurement and multiplication. Meanwhile, 3rd graders studied water and the water cycle, and complex story problems. Our science curriculum tied into two special events, a field trip to the New York Hall of Science and a visit from Rizzo's Reptiles.

Our roster of talented enrichment faculty grew with the additions of Ian Foster Jones and Andrew Aprile. Ian conducted exuberant, engaging chorus classes based on contemporary music that had our students singing like pros, while Andrew expanded on the work of former West African Drumming teacher, Sam Bathrick, taking his students on in-depth journeys into rhythm and culture. Ian and Andrew were joined in inspiring creative exploration by returning enrichment teachers, Vicki Behm (visual art), Dawn Quigley from partner Mark Morris Dance Company (dance), and Gary Ryan (chess).

Swimming continued to be a favorite activity, with Horizons students traveling to Long Island University for instruction three times each week. Studies show that children from underserved, urban settings are at a significantly higher risk for drowning due to lack of both exposure to water and proper swim instruction. This summer, 100% of our Horizons students succeeded in passing levels 1, 2, and 3 of Red Cross level safety skills, while a third of our 1st and 2nd graders advanced an entire level across all skill sets, a big accomplishment in only 6 weeks!

In addition, an exciting moment for the Horizons students was when NY1 reporter, Jeanine Ramirez visited the program. Ms. Ramirez spent time in each classroom, observing and talking with students and teachers, and filmed our swimming classes in action at LIU. Co-executive directors, Rachel Webber and Taunya Black, and Joe Chan, Horizons Board Chair were also interviewed for the news segment. Our favorite quote of the piece came from Corrine McClary, Horizons 3rd grader, who said, "Horizons is like school, but only better". Click on http://brooklyn.ny1.com/content/top_stories/142713/brooklyn-friends-school-expands-horizons-program to see the story.

We are grateful for the support of our funders, many of whom have supported Horizons at BFS since its inception. The Adeona Foundation joined our current list of funders, with a generous contribution of \$25,000. Adeona founders and supporters sponsored a field day at BFS for Horizons students and families, leading fun-filled sports activities and joining us for a barbeque inspired dinner made by Horizons chefs, Joseph Gordon and Paula Lee Poy. Adeona's efforts on our behalf allowed, in large part, for the addition of Horizons students to our existing BFS Afterschool program. This new initiative allows Horizons students to receive academic support, via homework help sessions, and participate in a wide range of enrichment classes along side our BFS students.

At present, approximately 25 of our 60 Horizons students join us in Afterschool Monday-Friday, enhancing their opportunity for creative and intellectual expansion, and helping us forge a deeper connection with both our public school partners and Horizons families. As Horizons and BFS students play and learn side-by-side, relationships form organically. These relationships are a vital component in dismantling the social barriers that exist between communities, and opening the channels of dialogue around difference. The addition of our Horizons Afterschool Program would not have been possible without the unwavering support and commitment of BFS Head of School, Dr. Larry Weiss. Dr. Weiss' dedication to diversity, the core values of BFS, and his belief in Horizons as an agent for change has been invaluable.

With the conclusion of a successful summer and the beginning of the new Horizons at BFS Afterschool Program, we look forward to continued growth and learning.

Rachel Webber
Taunya Black