



The Residential Moon

Volume 4 "Seasonal Reflections" Summer/Fall 2010

Fireflies, Bumblebees, and Dragonflies - Joseph

Hufnagel

By the time summer solstice arrived on June 21st, marking the first official day of summer, it seemed as though summer was already well underway. For those of us associated with The Community School, summer actually unofficially began this year on May 28th when the students of Term 72 threw up their graduation caps and marched proudly onto the next chapters of their lives. (Cue the fireflies.)



Virtually every night thereafter throughout the months of May and June, my daughter, Zoe, and I would venture outside before bedtime to watch the brilliant display of fireflies (aka lightning bugs to my fellow New Yorkers) light up the night sky like fireworks synchronized to the rhythmic chirping of crickets. Indeed, the first few months of summer for us felt like a beautiful and exciting celebration of life and wonder. It certainly was not lost upon me that our recent graduates were likely feeling the same way. Eventually, the cool evening breezes of May and June were whisked away by the hot mid-summer days and nights of July and August, and so too went the fireflies. (Cue the bumblebees.)

I never really paid much attention to bumblebees before Zoe was born. Incidentally, I have since developed a somewhat remarkable habit of mowing *around* clover patches in my lawn so that we can watch the bumblebees buzz around the yard and eat the pretty purple clovers after I get home from work. As a matter of fact, Zoe and I spent so much time observing bumblebees together throughout the months of July and August that I actually began to draw parallels and metaphors between them (the bumblebees) and relevant work-related concepts. For instance, July and August were extremely busy months at the school. I suppose you could say that the place was *buzzing*. (Sorry about that one.) But it's true. The admin team stayed extremely busy throughout these mid-summer months with tasks such as: finalizing admissions, interviewing candidates, hiring new staff, developing curriculum, conducting program reviews, attending conferences, scheduling trainings, holding meetings, crafting a new school-wide budget, finalizing reports, responding to inquiries, cleaning, fixing, repairing, painting, and rearranging all sorts of things in and around the school, and more. Like a methodical and odds-defying fleet of bumblebees, we fluttered through mid-summer steadily accomplishing our tasks and achieving our goals with a remarkable sense of resolve and predictability. (Cue the dragonflies.)

STUDENT PROFILES



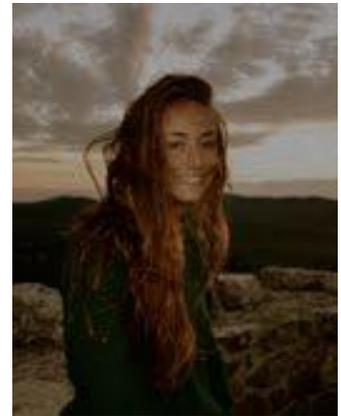
Meet the Students of Term 73



Everett Polches is from Indian Township, ME. He is currently working at Right Click Computers in Rockport. When not busy with school or friends, Ebbie, as he is fondly referred to, enjoys basketball, art rap music, cars, mixed martial arts, Native American history and computer technology. His current post-graduation plan is

to move to Nova Scotia with his girlfriend and open up his own computer shop.

Hailing from Block Island, RI, **Ayla Johnson** is currently completing her work program requirements at Tanglewood 4-H Camp, with their Educational Team. During the fall, she spent some time with Coastal Mountains Land Trust and is also interning with Trekker's mentoring program. She has a passion for environmental issues, political activism, and social justice as well as alternative energy, human ecology, and marine



biology. In her free time, she enjoys yoga, hiking, biking, swimming, photography, music, and holistic/therapeutic practices. Her goal is to become an outdoor educator or an environmental lawyer and help improve the planet.



Joe Carter comes to us from Lewiston, ME. He has been completing his work program requirements at the Lincoln Street Center in Rockland. Joe enjoys writing poetry, cooking (especially chili),

listening to music, and watching movies. After graduating, he hopes to find a comfortable place to live, explore the local theater scene, earn a living by helping others, perhaps as a counselor, and to raise a family.

Originally from Japan, **Eimi DeWitt**, most recently has been living in Brewer, ME. She has been completing her work program



Caleb Terry is from Bradford, ME and is currently completing his work program requirements at WRFR radio station and Lincoln Street Center in Rockland. He enjoys hip-hop music, basketball, cooking, computers, and film. After graduating, Caleb hopes to be able to support himself independently by doing something he loves do, such

as being around music or helping others to feel better about themselves.



Tasia Whittier is our most local student having grown up in Appleton. She is currently working at the YMCA Childcare Center. Tasia enjoys writing, working with children, travel, movies, holistic and therapeutic

practices, and marine biology. Her post graduation plans include

traveling, becoming more self-reliant, going to college, and ultimately living a happy life.



Matt Trott hails from Indian Township, ME. Matt spent the fall with the Facilities and Maintenance crew at Tanglewood 4-H Camp and is currently working at the Camden Fire Department. When not at school, Matt enjoys hunting, fishing, operating heavy machinery, working on trucks, playing baseball, spending time with friends and family, listening to rap music, and being outdoors. He has strong interests law enforcement, Native

American studies, and physical therapy. After graduation, Matt

hopes to become a game warden or a firefighter and

to be able to afford all of the things he dreams of buying, such as: a Toyota Tundra, a four-wheeler, and ultimately a home of his own.

Dawn Dudley comes from Presque Isle, ME. She is currently

working at the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine. She enjoys





ACADEMIC SEMESTER IN REVIEW - Carrie Braman

The students arrived on September 7th to begin their new year at The Community School. They spent four days camping at Tanglewood 4H Camp in Lincolnville, where they also moved canoes across a windy river, did a mentorship training session, and hiked, sang around a campfire, slept under the stars, and contemplated life's big questions. Immediately afterward, the students spent two days up at Acadia National Park, where, among other things, they rock-climbed on the edge of the ocean!

Once back at school, students began meeting their tutors for the core subject areas and participating positively in community. They began learning the American Sign Language Manual Alphabet, discussing and analyzing family stories in Diversity and Social Justice, learning about visual language and collecting images in art class, and group reading "The Things They Carried," a novel about the Vietnam War, in Reading Group. We



We also collected data to learn about and discuss "food miles" -- the distance food travels from farm to plate. We contrasted our research with our canning and pickling projects we completed during Real Life skills to discuss the role that local food plays in our community and in our lives.

By October, the routines and busy schedule was starting to feel like old hat for most. This month the students attended an open mike night in Rockland, went sailing in Penobscot Bay, made t-shirts to sell at the school's annual auction, and spoke in front of a large audience about their designs. In addition, the students honored Veteran's Day with discussion, journaling, and a quiet walk. This month's focus was on food and family as well as learning about food budgets around the world. In Diversity and Social Justice and Green Initiative classes, students read short vignettes from the book "Hungry Planet" about families from countries around the world, and learned about weekly food budgets in these places. Students created a graph that compared and contrasted these budgets and then chose recipes to prepare from these countries. At our "Global Thanksgiving," the students read a reflective writing piece and shared their meals.

Now, at the end of December, it is amazing to think that we are halfway through the school year! The students presented their English and Science projects to their peers, staff, and tutors and it was wonderful to share in their learning and see them trying on a teaching role. A focus this month has been getting individualized projects in order for final presentations in English and Science. We have also had two really interesting art classes, taught by Kate Russo, a guest artist, that got the students thinking about abstract concepts in color and pattern. For Green Initiative, we visited Lily Bistro, a "localvore" restaurant in Rockland, where

A COLLECTION OF STUDENT WORK

A Global Thanksgiving Reflection: Chad

Imagine surviving a week on minute proportion of dried food worth \$1.23. Imagine having to feed a family of 6, five of them being children - two teenagers. That means that every member of this family is living on 21 cents worth of food a day. Imagine having nothing to your name besides a tent, blanket, bucket, soap, and this tiny food ration. Now imagine being a single mother trying support her five children with such limited resources living in constant fear of the inhumane civil war surrounding you. Imagine all this while living in a Refugee camp in Chad. This is the Aboubakar family's reality. They are 6 of the 30,000 refugees living in this impossibly harsh landscape trying to survive with sparse food, water, clothing, medicine and firewood.

The children in the family seem to value everything they are given and don't seem to complain. The children in this family are incredible, they made me want to be a more responsible sibling. The older children in this family help raise the younger ones so the mother can work on a farm. These children are hungry, tired, doing chores **AND** going to school. I was surprised by how important education is to this family "Education will help the children find work and be secure," she says, though she's not exactly sure how. A man has come around to her tent today to collect 36 cents per child for school. She gives it to him, but its all the money she has until she finds another day to work- "an investment in the future." It's incredible that she doesn't exactly know how, but educating her children will benefit them in their futures. They are living in an impoverished, malnourished environment and still going to school and getting an education. They are deprived of almost everything besides love and education and they are seemingly happy in the pictures taken. Their priorities amaze me.

Reading this family's story evoked a sense of guilt in me. Personal guilt and also guilt for my country. People are dying from obesity, heart disease, and diabetes in American while in Africa people are dying of starvation; it's crazy! It makes me think of all the times that I open our fridge full of food and say "There's nothing good to eat mom, I'm starving". Reading this makes me thankful for things I normally take for granted. Thankful for the stability of my government, my freedom, education, safety and resources. I'm lucky and I should realize that more often and not take it for granted.

What stuck out to me most while reading this article was how their

In Memory of Joshua Steven

Watching a peaceful death of a human being reminds us of a falling star; one of a million lights in a vast sky that flares up for a brief moment only to disappear into the endless night forever.

There he was, there he always was. The most free-spirited, peaceful and loving boy I have ever known. The one I admired with everything in me, that one that never got to fully understand that. The one I watched live so incredibly happy, dying and suffocating on the inside. Smothering, watching the world fly by him, and move so slowly all at the same time. He would never walk down the aisle, would never know what it was like to hold his child for the first time, not know the delightful feeling of being in love. Knowing every night he may not wake up in the morning. If I could have put all that on my own shoulders and into my own life, I would have and I still would. If I told you that this was easy I would be lying. To tell you every struggle was well worth the fight, well they are the most honest words I have ever spoken.

He could barely see, but I saw the incredibly strong man he was. He could barely hear, but I could hear the sweetness and the serenity in his voice. Everything about him shined, as if he were covered in glitter while standing underneath the afternoon sun. As I sit here today, the feeling and the sight still lingers at my side, and when I look up I know he is looking down. He left fingerprints on my heart without even touching. He taught me how to take something tragic, and turn it into something wonderful. Taught me how to laugh and to smile even if my mind was drifting some place bad. Taught me how to love, when my heart was sinking in emotions of fear and loneliness. His spirit now, is still as magnificent as it once was and his memory is still as alive as me.

Having a brother with Cockayne Syndrome felt like sky diving without a parachute. The experience was like no other, it was an ongoing mystery. I felt so cursed and so blessed, happy and helpless, accepting and unable to accept all at the same time. I knew in my heart he was different, but my eyes looked at him as if he were the same as me, the same as you. At times to remind myself of the truth was unbearable. He wouldn't be here breathing for long, I used to get so numb that I would pretend that he wasn't there at all. Until now, I never expected facing the guilt I do;

Livin' on the Rez

Dropped in this world less smarta,
had a dad but not a momma,
she was always gone but it was her choice
as a kid had it tough with no choice,
long hair with dark skin,
kids scared cause i look threatnin'
guess that's what comes with bein a skeejin
didn't know what to do to please
everyone wanted a lot from me
i can't do it all the time so freeze
is how i wanted my life
no matter how hard it was to survive
but my dad kept me alive
with all the moose meat
that was what i loved to eat
that was the best thing to me

*Livin' on the rez is tough, but not wanting
to leave just cant get enough, so in my mind
there is no other home, thinking i ain't
going to make so I'll show em, cant be
played like a scratched cd, no telling where
this world is gonna take me, so here i am
ready to sail on a deep blue sea.*

So this flow is sick it needs a flu shot
life on the rez is not as hot
but livin' on the rez is almost gone
no one you can trust when you're gone
but my real boys know how to get it done
make sure i can be safe
cause their love is as sharp as a blade
shout out to all that had my back
even when i was set up and promised to see a
grave yard box
so left in the ground with no thoughts
never scared like the rest of the best
mean muggin' boys on the rise
ridin' with no eyes...Livin' on the rez is
tough (refrain)..
My life only seems to get better,
even when i was alone in the cold, no
sweater
but i got something to live for
if it wasn't for my girl Tor
who is my love and dream
there is nothing in this world that will get
between
our love is like a fence that i hopped

BLESSED

I'm here to change my life.
Was not pleased with the way I
was living it.
Experiencing a new perspective,
and now my conscious is
improving bit by bit.
I'm here to do me,
and your opinion is something I
no longer need.
Before I looked for temporary
happiness.
Now I'm sober, and doing my
best.
Missing home, Missing family.
Consistently thinking about it
everyday.

OUR AMAZING RESIDENTIAL STAFF

Carrie Braman is returning for her second term as our Lead Teacher. Previously, she worked at the Centerpoint School in Winooski, VT and at the New Mexico School for the Deaf. She also taught freshman writing composition at the University of Montana. When not at school, Carrie likes to read, write, eat pie, and travel.



This year, Carrie is looking forward to continuing to develop the academic program and collaborating with Tom to bring the arts into interdisciplinary curriculum. She enjoys seeing students find their strengths and learn more about their power to change the world for



Emily Sapienza grew up outside of Boston and has worked lots of different places, including: The Department of Defense, the Obama Campaign, National Public Radio, WRFR-LP Community Radio, Rockland, VillageSoup, Penobscot School, and a variety of language and elementary schools in Italy, Boston, and New York. People Emily looks up to and admire are those who have pursued their passions with singular dedication: Julia Child, JRR Tolkein, Dr. Suess, Shel Silverstein, Steven Pinker, Jean Piaget.

Emily came to The Community School because she loves working closely with students, cares about alternative education, and wants to return to the field of education after a too-long hiatus. She hopes to share her enthusiasm for learning with students

In 2009, **Maureen El-Hajj** joined The Community School as a Residential Overnight Counselor after having worked for seven years with Home Counselors, Inc. Born in Washington D.C as the second of eight children, Maureen studied liberal arts and early childhood education at Bangor Community College. She has three children and in her downtime enjoys hiking, kayaking, dancing, and camping. Maureen loves working with teenagers and wants to see them



Born in Summertown, TN, **Diantha Bobey** began her work with The C-School as part of her social work studies through the University of Maine. After completing her internship, Diantha became a Residential Overnight Counselor. She is an amateur film-maker and a punk rock star who loves to read and write. Diantha is hoping that students come away with rich



Tom Butler grew up in England and recently moved to Rockland with his wife Kate. He joins the C School this year to assist Carrie with academics and to teach Art. Tom holds an MFA in Fine Art Sculpture and has exhibited his work internationally. He is a huge fan of ghost stories and makes an awesome pasta sauce.

Believing that art is essentially a social activity, Tom strives to bring both modern and traditional dialogues and disciplines to the classroom. Alternative methods are discussed and

Cathy Ames grew up locally and lives in the house in which she was born. She has worked at daycare centers, nursing homes, and a variety of other jobs, and joined The Community School in 2000 while attending the University of Maine. One of the best pieces of advice Cathy ever got was from her grandmother who said "Love doesn't come in a box that says what size and shape its supposed to be, It just is."

As the Culinary Instructor, Cathy hopes to impart skills - budgeting, cooking, running a household - which help students to succeed. She hopes to bring love, strength, and patience to the community. Cathy hopes that students learn self-



Karen Johnson was born in Lewiston and graduated from The Community School in 2010. She chose to return because as she says, "I like it here. I like to interact with students and staff. I can't seem to get enough of this place." One of her favorite memories of being a student at The Community School was being a member of the National Championship Toboggan Team. When not working at the school or at Merry Gardens, she enjoys ice-skating, skateboarding, dancing, hiking, and watching movies. Her favorite book is Captive by Carrie Jones.

As a student at The Community School, Karen really appreciated the opportunities she had to

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING EXPEDITIONS



The day after the students arrived, we immediately re-packed our bags and ventured out into our surrounding wilderness to spend four nights at Tanglewood 4-H Camp in Lincolnville. While there, we participated in a series of orientation and team-building activities; personal goal-setting and brain-storming sessions; a local ecology training/seminar with the Tanglewood educational team; a service project that involved transporting a fleet of canoes down a section of the Duck Trap River; various hikes along the trails of Tanglewood and Fernald's Neck; a dip into Megunticook Lake; a climb up to Bald Rock Peak for an amazing aerial view of Penobscott Bay; star gazing; and a collection of memorable late night fireside chats.

Additional ELE experiences have also included: spending two nights at Mount Desert Campground where we explored Bar Harbor and went rock climbing in Acadia National Park with Eli and Pete of the Atlantic Climbing School; exploring the Camden Hills; trekking up to the top of Maiden Cliff; surviving a haunted Halloween experience at Fort Knox; embarking on an autumnal sailing voyage with Thor Finn returning for another night in the woods at Tanglewood; running a 5K road race on Halloween morning; and going on a two-day college tour to Unity College and College of the Atlantic where the students sat in on classes, ate in the dining hall, and spent the night at the performing arts theater in Unity.

C-SCHOOL COLLAGE



Clockwise from top left to right: Ebbie at Right Click Computers, Eimi at the Rockport Animal Shelter, reading group, students work with clay in art class, a bit of competition at the bowling lanes, Ayla, Dawn, and Tasia catch a sunset at the beach, fresh bread made



COMMUNITY CORNER



Community means many things at The Community School.

Over the summer, it meant a steady stream of volunteers helping to clean up, mow lawns, paint, move furniture, rearrange offices, tear up rugs, and perform a variety of other essential tasks and projects that helped get the school ready for a new group of students to arrive in September.

Since the new school year began *community* has meant:

- A team of volunteer tutors and guest teachers
- A seemingly endless stream of generous donations, which most notably have included:
 - A brand new 10-passenger van from the Cascade Foundation
 - A baby grand piano from a local community member, Jan Taft, long time supporter of The Community School, who said, "I could not imagine my beloved piano going to a better place"
 - A collaborative grant with the Island Institute which led to being awarded a Promethean Interactive Whiteboard



- A multitude of community-based collaborations with organizations, such as: Penbay YMCA, Tanglewood 4-H, Big Brother Big Sisters of Rockland, Appleton Schools, Lily Bistro, Camden Regional High School, and local social service agencies
- An array of Career Exploration Opportunity placement sites throughout the mid-coast which supervise our students throughout the week.



Seasonal Calendar of Upcoming Events

January

21st -22nd ELE: College Tour of Southern Maine/Snow Bowl
 City (NYC & DC)

28th-30th Weekend Off

February

4th-5th ELE: Dog Sledding/Winter Camping

5th Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
 Local Stars

7th ELE: Hall of Flags in Augusta

11th-13th ELE: National Toboggan Championships

17th Annual Dinner

19th Family Day

March

7th - 13th ELE: Big

24th C-School Coffee House

25th-27th Weekend Off

April

15th Dancing with the

16th Family Day

16th-25th Spring Vacation

May

6th-8th Weekend Off

The Community School

PO Box 555 * 79 Washington Street * Camden, ME 04843

Phone: 207-236-3000 * Fax: 236-2505 * www.thecommunityschool.org