

## Summer Learning Project Update

**\*SPECIAL ISSUE: Superintendent Johnson visits the Boston Nature Center**

**“Welcome to the Boston Nature Center—we WILL gross you out!”**

**Young Achievers/Haley/Aggasiz**

This unofficial slogan came from Ms. Erica Quigley, a teacher at BNC's Summer Explorers program, when a student found a leech while sifting through buckets of pond water on Monday, August 1. The group of students, who attend the Haley, Young Achievers, and Aggasiz schools in the BPS district, huddled around the buckets, finding tadpoles, fish, water bugs, snail shells, and other creatures in the murky water. They separated the creatures into different containers by species for observation because, as one camper put

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT ATTENDANCE TRACKERS**

-Please ensure all students who have participated in this summer's program are included on the attendance tracker throughout the entire duration of the summer (i.e. even if students end program participation early, they should still be included on the tracker each week and their cumulative totals should still be updated to reflect their overall program attendance %).

- Pleasure ensure to continually update the cumulative totals for each student each week, along with updating the cumulative number of program hours you've offered to date.

We appreciate your cooperation in completing this important task. Tracking attendance data will be an important

it, "some of them eat each other." While the students seemed enthralled by lessons of the food chain and animal hierarchy, this pond-water activity also prepared them for the next day's field trip to a nearby lake, a preview of what they would observe at the lake itself.



*Superintendent Johnson and Ms. Erica looking up the names of creatures that the Summer Explorers are finding in the pond samples.*

element in analyzing our shared success this summer and examining possible improvements.

## REMINDERS:

### (NEW ROW ADDED)

Item	When?	Why?
<b>Signed MOU, consent forms</b>	ASAP	To secure funding with full assurance that students are included in all measurement activities.
<b>Student attendance</b> (use Boston After School & Beyond template)	Every Monday	Individual student attendance, rather than average daily attendance (ADA), is recognized as a more meaningful way to track attendance.  Program dosage is more accurately captured in hours, rather than days or weeks.
<b>Detailed budget</b> (use Boston After School	End of program, with last	A detailed budget will reveal the true cost of this integrated

Inside, another group of students was observing bugs through microscopes. Ms. Nora Hassan instructed them to draw “scientific sketches” of what they saw, using as much detail as possible. Students read the guidelines for their drawings aloud, and as one stumbled over the word “etc.” (“What’s ‘et-cuh?’”), his classmate quickly chimed in to help (“It means ‘more!’”).

Monday’s visit to Boston Nature Center included Superintendent Dr. Carol Johnson. Perhaps the highlight of the visit was when the students included the guests in their Morning Circle, as Dr. Johnson led a discussion about how they were enjoying their experience at the BNC. When Dr. Johnson said, “I came out here with all my friends to see exactly what you were learning in summer school,” she was immediately met with shocked exclamations of: “Summer school?!” Students clarified that they were at “camp,” and urged her not to use “the S-word.”



7. Beyond (template)	installment of funding	approach and inform policy development and fundraising efforts.
<b>SAYO observations</b>	2nd and final weeks of program	This tool allows us to measure skill gain and compare results to a statewide sample.
<b>SAYO Y youth survey completed by youth</b>	<b>Last week of program. (Some administered by NIOST staff; some administered by site staff. Check with your NIOST contact.)</b>	<b>Details students' views on the program, their sense of competence and their future goals</b>
<b>ANet post-assessment</b>	By September 16	To measure gains in ELA and math, compared to entire grade levels in participating schools.

## SUMMER LEARNING PROJECT RESOURCE LIBRARY

Check out the [Summer Learning Project Resource Library](#) for academic and socio-emotional tools from ANet and PEAR! Materials include presentations from the June trainings. Also be sure to check out PEAR’s contact information sheet in case you would like consultation by



*The Summer Explorers of the Boston Nature Center start every day with their Morning Circle. On this day, they included all the visitors, including Superintendent Johnson in their morning ritual.*

## CIRCLE CHAT WITH SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON

Dr. Johnson asked the Summer Explorers a few questions in their circle time. Here is what they answered with:

### Question:

"What is your favorite thing about camp?"

### Answers:

- "I get to touch bugs and fish."
- "There's no homework!"
- "It's really, really entertaining."
- "The staff are funny"
- "We get to fly kites!"

phone. Don't miss out on these great resources!

## FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITIES (FINAL VERSION):

[Follow the link](#) for details on engaging and educational field trip opportunities for your students with a focus on integrating academics and enrichment!

NEW Opportunities include:

- **Harvard Museum of Natural History:** Students are given the opportunity to learn, hands-on, about the billions of years of our Earth's history
- **Fenway Park Tours:** Take your students on a 50-minute tour of this landmark in the world of Boston sports
- **Franklin Park Zoo:** Either take advantage of pre-planned educational programming, or plan your own day among the variety of animals at the zoo
- **Drumlin Farm of Mass Audubon:** 232 acres of wildlife sanctuary to explore! Self-guided tours available

The Summer Explorers at the Boston Nature Center recently went on a Field Trip to the nearby Forest Hills Cemetary.

## Question:

"What would you be doing this summer if you weren't in camp?"

## Answers:

- "Watch TV and play video games all day."
- "Watch YouTube videos."
- "Play on the computer."

## A LOOK INSIDE A SUMMER EXPLORER'S DICTIONARY

Learning about Pill bugs, birds, and sharks all bulks up the vocabulary of a Summer Explorer. Here are some examples of new words they've learned!

- "adaptation"
- "mandible"
- "cartilage"
- "camouflage"

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SUMMER EXPLORERS?

The 25 students at the Boston Nature Center have a lot to look forward to as they move into their final week of programming. Plans have been made to act out scenes from the chapter book they have been reading in their jungle-like, nature-playground. Their final week will also focus a lot on reflection. They will use their field trip to the

Here is a conversation between two students, about their CAMP, not school, that was overheard on the way back from the Field Trip:

"This is more fun than school."

- "Yeah, it's not school, it's camp."

"But we do stuff like math."

- "But that stuff is fun!"

"Yeah, and we do other neat stuff, like catching bugs."

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Arnold Arboretum as a great opportunity to journal about their experiences in the program. It will all lead up to the end of the program party, where they will present their journals to their families.

**Thank you to Julie Brandlen, Bo Hoppin, and all of the teachers and staff at the Boston Nature Center's Summer Learning Program for the great site visit!**

## CALLING ALL PHOTOS!!

Boston After School & Beyond is interested in collecting as many photographs as possible from each site, depicting the creative ways partnerships integrate academics with enrichment. Please ensure all student parents/guardians have signed your organization's media release form (and ensure the form covers third party usage of the photographs). Then send them over to us through Facebook, Twitter, or e-mail. Looking forward to all the great photographs!





*Students at Hyde Square Task Force integrate music with learning at their summer program. Thank you for sending in this photo Hyde Square Task Force!  
Photo Credit: Mark Saperstein*

If you have questions, comments, or ideas for future updates,  
please contact **David McAuley** at [dmcauley@bostonbeyond.org](mailto:dmcauley@bostonbeyond.org).