



## Gersh Academy Vocational Newsletter

*Finally. The Answer.*

### Summer program comes to a close

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Believe it or not, the Gersh Academy Summer Program has come to an end. For the vocational team, this summer has been an extremely successful experience. At the same time, we have learned a great deal about what will make this program most beneficial to the students. We have had many successful experiences, such as visits to Computer Associates, MacArthur Airport, and our continued work with Long Island Cares. We have also learned a couple of lessons. For example, we now know not to leave vegetable plants outside in 100° weather when there are hungry raccoons around. We hope our students had as much fun working with us as we did with them, and we look forward to next year. We will continue to strive to do our best, ensuring our students are exposed to some of the most interesting professions on Long Island, while gaining real life experience and having fun at the same time.



Nicole all geared up and ready to fight fires

#### Special Thanks To These Students For:

- Jack Edelson for continuing to help out in Hauppauge & Melville and for proof-reading our vocational curriculum.
- Mike Feinstein and Jack Edelson for their work with Long Island Cares.
- Paul Fries and Sunil Attri for helping the middle school with the car wash.

### Hauppauge Middle School Raises Money By Washing Cars

Our middle school students in Hauppauge learned lessons in budgeting, planning, organization, and even cleanliness by organizing and running a car wash on their campus. The students worked together to raise money for their student fund, which they will use on an entertaining activity once they decide where to go. All the students worked together washing cars,

collecting money, and informing the staff who was next in line. Before the car wash, the students also made advertisements, sign up sheets, and notices to send home. The students had fun, worked as a team, and were exposed to many different management and organization techniques that will help them at both school and work in the future.



Jack gets to business washing down the middle school's first customer

## Queens Students Visit The New York Hall of Science

Our Queens elementary, middle, and high school students all took a trip to the New York Hall of Science, where they explored future job options and had fun at the same time.

At the Sports Challenge exhibit, our future race car drivers had the opportunity to test their reaction time at a race car simulator, and our future MLB All Stars had their pitching speed clocked as they threw the ball to home plate. Our future NBA All Stars had the chance to see how different floor surfaces affect the bounce of a basketball as well as how

their body motion affects how high they jump.

Our students that are more interested in solving crimes than dunking a basketball had the chance to visit the CSI (Crime Scene Insects) exhibit and learn about forensic entomology, the science of how insects can help solve crimes. Other students visited the Connections: The Nature of Networks exhibit and discovered how all living beings are connected in different ways.

For our students practicing to be microbiologists, the Hidden Kingdoms: The World of Microbes ex-

hibit was just the place for them. This exhibit, the world's largest microbiology exhibit, exposed our students to a microscopic world that is around without us even noticing.

At the Search for Life Beyond Earth, Realm of The Atom, and Marvelous Molecules exhibits, the students also learned and practiced many different skills that will be necessary for their future careers, no matter what they go into.

Overall, the students learned a great deal, while thinking they were playing the whole time.

## Hauppauge High School Students Visit CA

On Thursday, August 10, our high school students in Hauppauge were given an all access tour of one of the largest IT management companies in the world. Thanks to Bonnie Burke, a Special Community Relations Liaison at Computer Associates, the students got to see a behind the scenes look at how a billion dollar company runs.

After being greeted at the door and given name tags for their tour, the students were given a brief presentation introducing them to the kind of work that is done at Computer Associates. Students discussed CA products, clients, and operating procedures with the Community Relations team. They had the opportunity to ask questions about the day-to-

day operations of the company, as well as the specific job duties of a community relations position.

Following the introductory presentation, the students were escorted to the Global Command Center, where CA monitors their locations all over the world. Any problem with a computer at any location around the world is immediately reported to the Global Command Center, which then sends out an electronic message to the appropriate technician who then diagnoses and fixes the problem. The students had the opportunity to observe the command center, ask questions about the procedures, and even use the control computer in the conference room.

After the meeting of the minds in the Global Command Center, the students were then taken to CA's audio/visual department. The students were given a presentation about the job positions available in the AV department and the job duties for each position. The students had the opportunity to use a soundboard and other AV equipment, as well as tour CA's on-site television studio.

After the tour, the students left CA with smiles on their face, and a new understanding of how a multi-billion company works. We would like to thank Bonnie Burke for the opportunity to see such a great facility.



CA's world headquarters in Islandia, NY

"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."  
-Walt Disney

## Queens Elementary Students Visited By NYC Fire Prevention Unit

Our Queens elementary students were recently visited by the New York City Fire Prevention Unit to discuss fire jobs and fire safety. The hour long presentation highlighted fire prevention and safety measures that are necessary to keep the students and their families safe.

Along with the importance of fire detectors and a family escape plan, the presentation also talked about who to call if there is a fire and what they could do to

help out before the firemen arrived. The presentation also highlighted general safety procedures and included internet and computer safety. The presenter also discussed his job as a fireman and what training was necessary for that position. The students even had the opportunity to try on a fireman's uniform and see how heavy it is.

Our high school students also sat in on the presentation and took notes

on what made the presenter a good public speaker. The students then followed up with a class discussion on good presentation techniques. Our students of all ages learned a great deal about fire safety and prevention, public speaking, and most importantly, how to keep themselves safe.



David posing for the photographers

## Hauppauge Middle School Students Visit Local Fire Station

The middle school students from our Hauppauge location recently were given an all access tour of Hauppauge Fire Station, thanks to Fire Marshal Edward J. Minder. Fire Marshal Minder, who recently returned from a call when the students arrived, started his tour by showing the students all the equipment that the firemen use and where it is kept on the truck. The students were shown all the life saving tools that are used during a fire or accident, in-

cluding a hydraulic cutter (jaws of life) and a thermal sensor that can help the firemen find people during fires and in smoky conditions.

Following the equipment presentation, the stu-



Our middle school students posing by one of Hauppauge's fire trucks

dents had the opportunity to sit in numerous fire trucks and learn what it really takes to keep us safe. The students had the opportunity to ask questions about procedures and qualifications for working in a fire house. The students also had the opportunity to tour the station and try on uniforms, learning what it truly takes to be a fireman. We would like to thank Fire Marshal Minder for exposing the kids to the inner workings of a fire house.

" Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."  
-Confucius

## Hauppauge High School Students Visit Toys "R" Us

The students at our Hauppauge campus had the opportunity to visit the Toys "R" Us in Holbrook and have a guided tour of the location. Our tour guide, a Toys "R" Us employee who was experienced in many different

positions, explained different sections of the store and positions offered in great detail. The layout of the store and the placement of products were also explained to the students, exposing them to merchandising techniques

procedures. The students walked away from Toys "R" Us realizing that it is possible for work to be fun and exciting, as well as having a new perspective next time they pick up their favorite video game.



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**"Genius is 1%  
inspiration and 99%  
perspiration."  
-Thomas Alva Edison**

## Summer Memories



Brian listening intently on how to prevent fires



Willie giving his first public address



Nicole and the middle school staff rock out during their carwash



Scott getting ready to plant a bushel of parsley



David, Andrew, & Ian listening to the fire prevention presentation



Jack dressed up to save lives

**Special thanks to those who have helped us with our vocational classes over the summer:**

- Jackie Gervasio at our Queens location
- Dan O'Shea at our Commack location

We're on the web!  
[www.gershacademy.org](http://www.gershacademy.org)