



# FARR VISION

DEDICATED TO ENRICHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

A PUBLICATION OF JAMES F. FARR ACADEMY, INC.

MAY 2009

## Our Mission

James F. Farr Academy, Inc., consists of three entities: Farr Academy, Agape Inn, and The Brookline Infant Toddler Center (BITC).

The shared purpose of each is to educate, enrich, and foster the growth of children and young adults.

### Board of Trustees

Bonnie K. Culhane  
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### Programs and Services

Farr Academy  
Farr School-to-Career  
Farr Works Art Studio  
Agape Inn  
Brookline Infant  
Toddler Center (BITC)

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## Reaching Outside the Classroom

The students at Farr Academy follow a challenging curriculum which is aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, and includes an array of middle and high school courses. Coursework, although typically rigorous, includes opportunities for individual instruction, remediation, modification and accommodation. Students with a learning disability are provided specialized instruction in the classroom and the opportunity for a tutorial.

Although most classes include individualized instruction, group learning is most common. Instruction is geared to address learning needs as well as academic skill level. Since students at Farr Academy have the potential to achieve academically and may choose to further their education after high school, they are encouraged to pursue challenging course work.

There is more to Farr Academy than meets the eye, however. In addition to the core requirements, students are encouraged to reach out and make discoveries on as many levels as possible. Every lesson, activity and project is part of a bigger picture to enable the students to experience the many avenues of life and realize untapped personal, cultural and social growth, in addition to academic advancements.

Good examples of this philosophy can be seen and heard in the various departments of the school. The English Department always tries to connect the literature being read and discussed to larger themes relating to social, political and economic aspects of the world. Nothing is ever read in isolation, and all topics create a certain perspective on life and its challenges, triumphs and failures.

The students have been focusing on a study of the 1940's in America. They had many lengthy discussions and several short readings about this time period to help them gain an understanding of what was happening in the country (the effects of the Great Depression; people migrating across the country to find work; the Dust Bowl era in the Midwest, etc., to name a few). After thorough preliminary work, the entire school read John Steinbeck's novel, *Of Mice and Men*, which was originally written as a play, and was very popular when first released.

To read and analyze classic novels is surely an important aspect in learning about Americana and the world around us. But the students at Farr Academy were fortunate enough to take that to another level and experience the drama unfold in front of their very eyes! The entire school traveled to the New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, MA to view a sold-out production of "*Of Mice and Men*" directed by Christopher Webb and featuring Neil McGarry as George, Scott Sweatt as Lenny and Paul D. Farwell as Candy.

The timing of this special performance was impeccable as the students were privileged to share such an enriching experience together, and relate the activities to what they've been studying in class. The overall objective was to help the students understand the time period and its impact on the country, but several other themes were explored, including the hierarchies that are created in society. One of the main characters, Lennie, would be considered developmentally delayed by today's standards, and the students spent considerable time discussing how his friend, George tried to help him negotiate life.

George was greatly impacted by Lennie's handicap, which made his life considerably more difficult.

In the end, the dreams of Lennie and George were dashed by an unfortunate incident, and George ends up shooting Lennie. The students were able to revisit their prior discussions on George's reasons for this action, now having experienced the powerful impact of viewing the play in person. Incorporating the live performance added another layer in that it was something that many of the students had not experienced in the past. They were able to connect with the performance on such a high level because it tied into much of what they had been studying in class. Teaching them how to attend, enjoy and evaluate the worth of a live performance was just one more part of the overall curriculum.

There are also a number of other events that have brought the students together at Farr Academy. Last spring, 1369 Coffee House in Central Square, Cambridge displayed a month-long art exhibit, featuring "The Collective Works of Farr Academy", a collection of diverse art media by the

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## James F. Farr Academy, Inc. Finalist for Nonprofit of the Year!

James F. Farr Academy, Inc. has been informed that it is one of nine members nominated for the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Awards! The Cambridge-based organization has been named as one of three finalists in the category of Nonprofit of the Year. The award recognizes a Cambridge-area nonprofit (501 (c)(3)) that demonstrates superior performance, quality and consistency in the pursuit of its mission; and evokes community spirit and participation.

The Annual Excellence in Business Awards will be presented at a gala event

on June 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge. In addition to Nonprofit of the Year, honors will be given for New Member of the Year, Small Business of the Year, The Leading Edge (High Tech/Life Sciences), Corporate Citizen of the Year and Business Person of the Year.

James F. Farr Academy, Inc. has been a member of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce for over twenty-five years, with its Director of Development, Joe O'Hara, serving the Chamber as an Ambassador for over six years.



Executive Director Tom Culhane

# 2009 CALENDAR of EVENTS

**Tues., June 16**  
**Farr Academy Golf**  
**Tournament – Indian**  
**Pond CC, Kingston, MA**

**Wed., June 24**  
**Farr Academy Closing**  
**Day/Graduation**

**Tues., June 30**  
**End of Fiscal Year**  
**2008-2009**

**August TBA**  
**BITC End-of-Year**  
**Cookout**

**August TBA**  
**Agape Inn Fun Festival**

**November TBA**  
**BITC Pancake Breakfast**



## PROGRAM DIRECTORY

**JAMES F. FARR, INC.:**  
**Thomas F. Culhane,**  
Executive Director  
71 Pearl St.,  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-492-4922

**FARR ACADEMY:**  
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Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-492-4922

**AGAPE INN:**  
**Richard Fisher,** Director  
217 Plymouth St.,  
Holbrook, MA 02343  
781-767-4358

**BROOKLINE INFANT  
TODDLER CENTER:**  
**Leslie Yerardi,** Director  
1900 Commonwealth Ave.,  
Newton, MA 02466  
617-969-2699

## Attention All Golfers!

Please join us on the links on Tuesday, June 16th to support the children in our programs! James F. Farr, Inc. operates an annual charity Golf Tournament to raise money for its three programs, Farr Academy, BITC and Agape Inn. For the past five years, the tournament has been held at the Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston, MA, an exclusive A-rated course on the South Shore. Approximately \$96,000 was raised through the kindness of friends and local businesses over the four years, bringing the total profits raised from the golf tournament to over \$235,000 in its seventeen years.

We have been blessed to benefit from the sponsorships and support of many local businesses and loyal friends who share our mission of helping children to work toward a better future. In addition to sponsorship opportunities, many business owners choose to gain exposure by advertising in our Program Book, with ads ranging from the inside covers to full pages to a sharp business card display.

We also have a raffle and a silent auction, featuring sports tickets, autographed memorabilia and many other exciting items!

Over the years, proceeds from the golf tournament have

been used to support a wide variety of projects at each of our programs. At Farr Academy in Cambridge, this includes the School-To-Career Transition (STC) program and the Farr Works Arts Program. The STC program assists students as they explore options for post high school opportunities, whether college, technical school, or employment.

Proceeds from the tournament have resulted in additional beds at Agape Inn to accommodate more children with developmental delays and autism as well as improvements and upgrades to the playground. This year, funds will be used for special activities for the children at Agape, horseback riding, cultural performances and more.

At the Brookline Infant Toddler Center in Newton, resources have been used for upgrades and safety improvements to the playground, and new educational materials and toys for the children. This year,

BITC hopes to secure funds from the golf event to create a new DVD highlighting the wonderful programs and services it provides.

For info on how to register for golf, sponsor the tournament, donate items for the raffle, silent auction or gift bags, or to volunteer or serve on the golf committee, please visit [www.farrgolf.golfreg.com](http://www.farrgolf.golfreg.com) or call 617-497-2620.



R&B Construction group



2008 Champions



### You are cordially invited to the 18TH ANNUAL JAMES F. FARR, INC. CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



**Farr Academy** – Help support the School to Career Job Training Program for at risk youth  
**Agape Inn** – Help support upgrades to the playground for disabled and autistic children  
**BITC** – Help with the purchase of educational materials and games for infants and toddlers

**Tuesday, June 16, 2009 - Indian Pond Country Club Kingston, MA**  
One of the South Shore's most exclusive private courses!  
[www.farrgolf.golfreg.com](http://www.farrgolf.golfreg.com)

- 8:00 am shotgun start • Modified Scramble • Hole-in-One Car !
- Continental Breakfast, Luncheon, Prizes, Raffle, Silent Auction

Mail to: GOLF Tourney, James Farr, Inc., 71 Pearl St., Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 497-2620 x35

#### SPONSORSHIPS \*\* Levels will receive banners/signs displayed at the tournament and full-page ads.

- Major/Tournament \$5,000 - \$20,000 (incl. 2-5 4-somes)\*\*
- Breakfast, Luncheon, or Golf Shirt Sponsor \$3,000 (incl. a 4-some)\*\*
- Platinum \$1,500 (4-some)  Gold \$1,000 (2 golfers)
- Hole \$500  Tee \$300  Cart \$100
- Program Book: ( ) Full Page \$225 ( ) Half Page \$125 ( ) 1/4 Page \$75 ( ) 1/8 Page \$50
- Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I can provide items for the Raffle or Auction

\$250 per golfer. \$1000 per foursome.

Name/Company Listed As: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I've included a check payable to Farr Academy and indicated golfers' info below:

Name Email Phone #

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## News From Agape Inn...



Things at Agape Inn are busy as usual. Both houses are full with a total of twenty-three residents, and we are all anxiously awaiting the warmer weather.

The bikes have begun to emerge from storage, and the Nerf footballs are beginning to see some use along with the basketball court. Community activities continue as well, with local concerts, plays, and outings to the park and the library.

The spring school vacation week provides an opportunity for more special events in the Holbrook community and beyond. Agape Inn is excited to be involved in the introduction of a community work project in which some of our residents are doing yard work and cleanup tasks in the neighborhood. The vacation also allows for extended home passes for some families. It won't be long before we are all done with school and begin our summer "camp" program here.

We have recently completed some renovations in both houses – new walls, paint, and carpet on the first floor at 211 Plymouth St., and new kitchen floors in both houses! The residents are excited about the new



*Summertime brings the Fun Festiva*

look, and it arrived just in time for a major rearranging of resident rooms. We will be following up with a room redecorating contest over the next month.

Two residents are looking forward to graduating at the end of the school year – one returning home to his family and one moving on to the specialized foster care. As familiar faces depart and new ones arrive, the staff is doing its usual great job of helping our kids settle in, getting acquainted, and keeping busy participating in activities and learning new skills.

## Brookline Infant Toddler Center



BITC children, parents, and staff welcome the warmer weather and extend best wishes for a happy and healthy spring and summer season. Currently the program cares for a total of 75 children from infancy to pre-k. The teaching and support staff remain consistent and dedicated.

After the long winter where the children enjoyed countless outdoor snow activities, the children and teachers from the 3's, Preschool I and Preschool II groups are busy preparing the flower and vegetable gardens that have become a yearly tradition. The children enjoy the process from beginning to end, growing tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, and a variety of flowers. With the initiative taken by Abbie Wannmaker-Ordica (3's teacher), BITC develops its own compost used in its gardens. The gardens are a group project with teachers and children working together to contribute and enjoy the results.

The younger children at BITC continue to flourish developmentally with constant growth in their motor, language, and social skills. The toddlers blossoming language and social abilities are a privilege to witness. As the teaching team introduces curriculum themes that involve families, colors, weather, and nursery rhymes, to name a few, the emphasis is always on the social and emotional well being of the children. Taking part in their developing peer relations continues to be a source of accomplishment, privilege and pride.

The youngest BITC children continue to grow. Infants are now

young toddlers, beginning to walk, run, and talk. They are a constant reminder of the progression of time and a chance to reflect on all that is important.

BITC is looking forward to coming full circle this summer. Jeremy Lowe and Leigh Alon, both of whom attended BITC as children, will be assisting the BITC teachers during the summer months. Jeremy and Leigh are now nearly sixteen years of age and are looking forward to returning to the program. This will be the fourth time that BITC has had the pleasure of coming full circle. Elise Corwin and Shana Joy (BITC alumni) have helped out in previous years.

BITC extends sincere gratitude to the continuous support from current and past families with fundraising efforts. The alumni contributions, cookie and gift-wrap sales, and participation in the golf tournament in June allow us to continue our mission of serving children in their initial stages of life and learning.

We hope to be able to share the wonderful accomplishments at BITC with a new video DVD highlighting its programs and services. In a concentrated effort, we would like to offer our extended families, alumni and friends the opportunity to participate in the golf tournament on Tuesday, June 16th at the Indian Pond Country Club in any way you can. All proceeds from BITC participants will be directly earmarked for the creation of the new DVD. We can use golfers, sponsors, silent auction items and advertisers in the Program Book, with all efforts helping BITC to reach its goal and continue its mission.



## Still Time to Support the Annual Appeal for Farr Academy, Agape Inn and BITC!

The fiscal year ends June 30, 2009, so there is still time to make a gift to Farr Academy, Agape Inn or BITC. Since we are a 501 (c)(3) organization, your donation is fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law. If it is more convenient, you may make a gift by using your credit card. Please send donations to James F. Farr Academy Inc., 71 Pearl St., Cambridge, MA 02139 and signify which program you'd like to support. If you prefer to use a credit card, please call 617-497-2620, x22. Thank you for your continued support of Farr Academy, Agape Inn and BITC, the Brookline Infant Toddler Center.

### Reaching Outside the Classroom *continued from page 1*

students. The showcase blended Farr Academy students with the local culture and art scene, and allowed them to share their personal expressions with the community. Another art show is scheduled for the near future.

In the true essence of the words "team effort", the Farr Academy basketball team enjoyed great success this past winter. The coed team plays against a variety of other alternative schools throughout the season, and the successful regular season was followed up with a tremendous tournament. The Farr Academy team captured the East Division

championship of the Greater Boston basketball tournament, which was held at the University of Massachusetts campus at Lowell. Many Farr Academy players achieved individual honors as well, with Mike G. earning tournament Most Valuable Player, and Devon G. and Niesha W. gaining All-tournament accolades. Jess L. won the Sportsmanship Award and the Free Throw Contest, while Mike G. finished in second place in the Three-Point Contest. Congratulations for a job well done!

# The 27th Annual Sevens Auction Raises Over \$23,500

On Sunday, April 5, 2009, Farr Board Member Jack Kiley held the twenty-seventh annual auction at his Sevens Ale House on 77 Charles St. in Boston. This was the nineteenth straight year in which the proceeds directly benefit the programs of James F. Farr Academy, Inc. Over \$23,500 was raised in support of Farr!



Jack Kiley displays an item

The auction includes a wide range of items, such as autographed sports memorabilia, athletic equipment/sporting goods, paintings and prints, handmade items, trips, services, gift certificates to restaurants and stores, tickets to sporting events and shows, clothing items, vacations, electronic items, theme baskets (bakery, wine, etc.), cases of wine, furniture, coolers, and just about anything you can imagine.

We are very grateful to all those individuals and businesses that supported the Auction, either by providing items, showing up that day to bid on their items of choice, or both! Special thanks go to Jay Gardner, who so admirably serves as Auctioneer every year, and does a great job of enticing the bidders! And of course, the day would not be possible without Jack Kiley's superb job as host, allowing us to use the Sevens Ale House for the day, for his running around trying to secure auction items, for his wife,

Joan's painstaking duties of creating the bidding booklets each year, and their daughter Julianne's very helpful preparation work the day of the auction. We also appreciate the great work of the volunteers, Bobbi and Jackie who handled the bid numbers and processed all the info and transactions all day long.

We are already accepting donations for the April, 2010 Auction. Please help out if you can. No item is too small. Please contact Mike Culhahe with any questions at 617-497-2620, x31 or email [auktion@farrinc.org](mailto:auktion@farrinc.org).

## THANK YOU TO OUR ITEM DONORS:

August Busch & Co., Budweiser, Martignetti Grocer & Liquors, Elliott Plumbing, Inc., Tom Culhane, Doug DiCerbo, Integra Companies, Farr Works Art Studio at Farr Academy, Corona, Mr. & Mrs. Elliott Hillback, Jr., Eugene Galleries, Inc., Flat of the Hill, Flash's Cocktails, Burke Distribution Corporation, The Rattlesnake Bar & Grill, Harpoon Brewery, The Hill Restaurant, O'Connell Design Build Ltd., Beacon Hill Hotel & Bistro, Boston Sail Loft, Joe O'Hara, Andy McDonnell, Middle East Restaurant, Zuzu Restaurant, Cambridge Family YMCA, Charles River Recreation, Charles Riverboat Co., Details, Ltd., Purity Springs Resort, Caswell Gallery, O'Neill Associates, Celtic Monument Co., Bob Hyldburg, Charles River Canoe & Kayak, The Paramount Restaurant, Parish Café and Bar, McKearney Associates, The Sevens, John Brewer's Tavern, Hyatt Regency Cambridge, Pat Downing, MA Bay Lines, Don Ogden, Scollay Square, The Frame Gallery, Joan Kiley, Jack Kiley, Yankee Bus Lines, Beacon Hill Wine & Spirits, Scampo, Jim Bandera, System 7/Gerry Lynch, Charles St. Hardware, Boston Art & Framing, John Flanagan, Cornerstone Properties, Inc., Panificio Restaurant & Bakery, Artu Restaurant, DeLuca's Market, One Acorn, Blu Restaurant, No. 9 Park Street, Rae Buck, The Red Wagon, Philip Kramer, AIA, Day\*Star, 7-Eleven, Helen Leathers, Blackstones of Beacon Hill, The Beauty Mark, The Cuttery, Toscano Restaurant, The Harvard Gardens, Rouvalis Flowers, Period Furniture Hardware Company, and anyone else whose name we may have erroneously omitted.

Websites: [www.farracademy.org](http://www.farracademy.org) • [www.agapeinn.org](http://www.agapeinn.org)  
[www.bitcenter.org](http://www.bitcenter.org) • [www.farrinc.org](http://www.farrinc.org)

The **Farr Vision** provides information on our three programs in support of youth: Farr Academy in Cambridge, a therapeutic day school serving students in grades 7 through 12 with a range of emotional and learning problems; Agape Inn in Holbrook, a residential facility for children and young adults with developmental delays and autism; and BITC, the Brookline Infant Toddler Center, a year-round childcare learning center in Newton for children 3 months to kindergarten entry.

We hope that by learning about our programs, you will come to discover the determined young men and women at Farr who overcome many obstacles to earn their high school diplomas; the warm and loving children at Agape who persevere to live the fullest life possible, and the adorable little ones at BITC, whose imagination, curiosity and innocence give hope for a brighter future and a better world.



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