

Highlights on Harborlight Alumni

An Interview with Caitanya Manoogian



Caitanya, better known as Cai, was a member of Harborlight's first graduating eighth grade class in 2004, with Ana Kasarda and Jon Nappi. Her fondest memory at Harborlight - her best friend, Crystal Wegner. After Harborlight, Cai studied at Lynn Classical High School, and graduated in 2008. When asked if Harborlight prepared her for high school, Cai responded "it definitely did. For some reason it seemed as though when I was presented with academic challenges - I wasn't afraid and I knew what to do." During her junior and senior years, Cai was involved with RAW Arts, a nonprofit youth arts organization that provides innovative ways for young people to engage in the arts as a way to express feelings in a non-verbal way. She continues to visit the Lynn studio that she describes as "the perfect place to relax, meet great people, and express yourself."

Cai is now a freshman at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont. Cai learned about Green Mountain by attending a college fair. The small, tight-knit community setting intrigued her. The college has 820 undergraduates and has a history of strong student/teacher relationships (14-1). The college combines the skills and content of a strong liberal arts course of study with a focus on the environment. Students are encouraged to gain hands-on experience through internships, service-learning opportunities and study abroad programs. After one visit, Cai knew it was the school for her. This semester, she is taking Introduction to Psychology, Native American Perspectives, a writing seminar, American Literature 1860 to Present, and a sociology class.

What is Cai's favorite part about college life? "Everything. I know that's a pretty vague answer, but there really isn't anything that I don't like about it. The people are great, the environment, and the atmosphere. It may not seem like there may be anything to do in such a small area, but there's loads of stuff that the college provides for the students. It also leaves room for the mind to grow, for you to get involved and to socialize with people from various different and interesting backgrounds." Cai currently majors in writing, but understands that might change. She may also start working with the farm crew. Green Mountain's farm and food project, with a working farm as a centerpiece of campus life, teaches sustainability in its truest form. Students have the opportunity to work the farm and learn first hand about agriculture and food production.

What does the future hold for Cai - life after college and beyond? "Honestly, I have no idea. I just want to do the best I can in college and see where that takes me. I mean, when I was thirteen years old and a freshman in high school, no way did I ever think I would be here in this beautiful place in Vermont."

Cai's advice to current Harborlight students - "Always speak your mind and ask questions. It's the absolute best time to do so."

We all wish Cai success in her journey, and hopes she makes Harborlight a frequent stop along the way.



Jed, Crystal and Cai on the slopes in 2003

More Alumni News - February 2009



Harborlight Alumni **Stevie Deeb** received the JV Sportsmanship Award at the Ipswich High School Football banquet on Jan. 17, 2009. Stevie is currently in his junior year at Ipswich High School – this is his first year on the football team (pictured with coach Matt Carpenter).

The following students have been named to the honor roll for the 1st quarter at Briscoe Middle School:
Sophie Claus, Steven Kalivas, Adi Davidyan, Idan Davidyan, Nicole Kirsch, Zachary Duguid, Connor Gill, Zachary Kirsch, Susannah Nicolaysen, Kathleen Whitehair, Sean Curtin, Alexander D'Alfonso, Ryan Hayes, and Ian McHugh.

Wes Dunn, Harborlight Class of 2008, achieved honors for the 1st quarter at Gloucester High School.

Ami Ingemi was named to the dean's list for the fall 2008 semester at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT,

Diana Carpenter was named to the dean's list for the fall 2008 semester at Salem State College.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!

*(Send all alumni news to
jsargent@harborlightmontessori.org)*