

SUMMER + KIDS + EDUCATION + FUN?

JANY Intern, Ayanna Kerrison visited a JANY Summer Program partnership site to see if JA programs are welcomed and appreciated by kids in the summer as they are during the school year.

Well, this isn't your regular summer school experience. Deep in the heart of Sheepshead Bay Brooklyn, the Asian American Service Center partnered with Junior Achievement of New York to deliver economic education to a hundred plus K-8 grade students as part of the 2009 JANY summer program initiative.

The center was positively buzzing with excited and engaged K-8 students eager to learn the basics of financial responsibility, money management and the fundamentals of entrepreneurship.

It was fascinating to watch elementary school students begin to gasp the concepts of "Needs" verses "Wants". And, let's just say there was a lesson in there for me as well. Hands on, interactive group activities and inquiry based dialogue made their basic economic lessons fun and memorable.

In another part of the center, Middle School students learned basic enterprise concepts and explored the role of entrepreneurship in the community through a fun game show exercise – part of the *JA It's My Business curriculum*.

At the end of the day, the students walked away with a better understanding of the essence of the importance of managing money, an appreciation for the value of good teamwork; and, last but not least, a better understanding of how a great idea supported by business knowledge can be the foundation of a successful business venture.

Ayanna Kerrison is currently a senior student at Bernard M. Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business, NY. She is on schedule to graduate next year with a Bachelor of Business Administration, with a Major in Finance and Investments and a Minor in Spanish.