

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

PROVIDING HELP FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM, AND HOPE FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

NEWSLETTER



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Coming Events

Our **Grand Opening** Celebration at our new site, 10 Oak Park in Bedford, will be **March 1st from 1-4pm.** **Plan to join us** for tours of our new building and to meet our Grand Opening Sponsors. For more information on becoming a sponsor or helping with the event contact: Jenny Kane at Jenny.Kane@NashobaLearningGroup.org

Stay tuned for information about an upcoming event being planned for May 8th.

The next "Give them Wings" dinner and auction is being planned for September 2008.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great response to our first newsletter! We intend to generate one each quarter to update all those who support us in our mission of providing help to those with autism and hope to their families. We have had an exciting year of progress at NLG and we are expecting an eventful 2008 as we move to our new building. As we approach the end of 2007 we wanted to say a sincere thank you to all of you for supporting our work. We could not help the children with autism who need us without you! On behalf of all of us at NLG we wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Liz Martineau, President



EXPANSION UPDATE!

Renovations to NLG's new building at 10 Oak Park Drive in Bedford are moving ahead rapidly. The interior will be completed soon and planning for a move at the end of February is underway!

On October 9th, the Bedford School Committee voted unanimously to approve NLG's operation of a school in Bedford. We appreciate the expression of support from the School Committee and their warm welcome to Bedford.

BEDFORD CARWASH SPONSORED BY TD BANKNORTH



On Saturday September 27 NLG staff and students had good clean fun washing cars at an event sponsored by TD Banknorth in Bedford. Seven NLG students showed off their skills washing and rinsing cars. We washed 94 cars and for every car washed TD Banknorth made a \$10 donation to NLG. We met many wonderful new Bedford neighbors who welcomed us to town.

ADDITIONAL NEW STUDENTS BEGIN AT NLG

NLG continues to welcome new students at our existing sites. Four additional students have started our program since mid-September. These students, aged 3 to 6, add to our population of younger children and complement our thriving groups of pre-teen and teen aged students. In our new building we plan to establish at least three “neighborhoods” within our school. One will serve our younger children. The second will serve up through middle school aged children and the third will serve our high school aged and young adult students. The creation of these neighborhoods will help us preserve our small school feel and will allow us to create concentrations of expertise amongst our staff. This model will allow us to continue

to provide the personalized education that each student deserves and to give each child the opportunity to develop long term relationships with a small group of staff members with whom they have frequent contact. These loving, caring relationships have been essential to our students’ development of social skills. Those diagnosed with autism have great difficulty with social interaction and are often thought of as “aloof”. It is a joy to see our students learn to value their time with their teachers and seek them out for interaction. Our “neighborhood” model will allow us to continue this model for the social development of our students even as we expand.

FLUTIE FOUNDATION ROADRACE

More than 25 NLG staff members and friends came out to support the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism at their annual 5K road race on October 14th. The NLG team was organized by Mandy Birt. Doug and Laurie Flutie were very appreciative of our presence and Doug signed our NLG banner. All of us at NLG are grateful for all the support we have received from the Flutie Foundation, including a grant that was critical to funding our start-up.



NLG CRAFT FAIRS



NLG Students made 100’s of delightful gift items as part of their vocational training and art activities. These items were sold at a Country Fair held at Nashoba Brooks School in Concord and at a Craft Fair held at NLG in Westford. In addition to raising funds to support NLG, both of these fairs served as excellent opportunities to educate new communities about our school and about the capabilities of students with autism. Thank you to Stephanie Daniels and Karen Potts for organizing these efforts and to all the parents, staff and students who provided assistance and support. Our students do great work!

NLG'S MISSION

Rates of Autism are now reported as 1 in 150 children by the Center for Disease Control. Children with Autism require intensive educational intervention in order to develop to their potential. Nashoba Learning group was formed as a non-profit corporation in 2002 in order to provide more impaired children and adults with Autism with the services they need to succeed.

We opened our school in 2003.

We provide outstanding, individualized education, training, and intervention to children and young adults with autism, allowing those we serve to achieve their

full potential and participate as fully as possible in family and community activities throughout their lives. We can't do this without your support! Thanks for all you do to help us achieve our mission!



GRAND OPENING EVENT ON MARCH 1

We are so excited about our upcoming Grand Opening event! Mark your calendars! The open house event on **March 1st from 1-4 pm** will be a fun afternoon for all to enjoy. Activities will include a ribbon cutting, tours of the building, opportunities to meet our sponsors, a silent auction, a giving tree, and light refreshments. What a wonderful way to

show all our families and friends the value of their continued support to NLG! The afternoon will also be a wonderful way to get to know our new neighbors in the Bedford area, many of whom will join us as business sponsors. Much is still to be done to ensure a successful event. Contact
Jenny.Kane@NashobaLearningGroup.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Holiday Gifts: Not sure what to give your loved ones this holiday? Choose a sponsor program from our list and make a donation in the name of your loved one. List available: Contact

Jenny.Kane@NashobaLearningGroup.org.

“Wish List” New to our website: We have created a “wish list” of items needed on a regular basis, from markers to tables and everything in between. Visit our site – click on the link provided and these needed items can be purchased and will be sent directly to the school. In addition – there is a link allowing monetary donations through the website.

Matching Gifts: An easy way to increase the value of your donation is through a matching gift. Speak with your employer about a matching gift program. You can literally double the amount of your donation to NLG!

Be an Employer Partner: Help us prepare our students for adult employment and gain access to valuable services for your business.

igive.com: Log on to this site and shop at over 650 stores. A percentage of your total purchases go directly to the school. Log on to igive.com/NLG for more information.



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