

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



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Coming Events

Come help NLG celebrate our first anniversary and Spartan Playground Kickoff at 10 Oak Park Drive in Bedford on **Saturday, March 7, 2009**.

The 8th Annual Ken Oliver Memorial Bike Ride and Walk a thon will be on **June 20, 2009**. Start your training now!

The next "Give them Wings" dinner and auction is being planned for **September 2009**. The Committee is forming now. Contact jenny.kane@nashobalearninngroup.org to be part of the fun!

December Issue
2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are so thankful to all who have contributed to our ability to provide essential education and training to students with autism so that they can contribute to the community as adults. 2008 has been a year of great progress for NLG with our move to our new building, the successful addition of 18 students and the many important achievements of each of our 60 students.

The second half of 2008 has been a tumultuous time for the world economy. Many of you have wondered how NLG has been affected by economic conditions. We are very fortunate that we obtained financing for our building purchase and renovation prior to the difficulties in the credit market. However, we are indeed affected by market events. First, and most obviously, fundraising

becomes more difficult as those who have so generously donated become less able to do so. Second, it becomes more difficult for School Districts to meet all their financial obligations as State aid is cut. At NLG we are taking steps to manage our expenses and ensure that we can provide the essential services our students need even in the face of difficult economic times. We will complete the expansion of our student body in the upcoming year. This will allow us to make efficient use of our building and serve more of the students who so urgently need our services. Students with autism and their families need us now more than ever. We appreciate more than ever your generosity to our school. **Thank you for all you do!**

Liz Martineau, President

WELCOME TO MINI MIKE'S

The NLG School Store opened for business in September. The School Store is an essential part of our mission of preparing students to be independent and participate in the community. NLG Vocational Students staff the cash register, take inventory, price items, stock shelves, and greet customers. All of our students gain valuable opportunities to practice money skills, social interaction and independence. We are grateful for the generous donations that enabled our store to become a reality.

Mini Mike's is named in honor of Mike Marcotte, owner of Town Convenience in Westford, our advisor in setting up the

store and an unstinting friend and supporter of our students.



SAVE THE DATE –3/7/09

Please save Saturday, March 7, 2009 on your calendar to help NLG celebrate our first anniversary at 10 Oak Park Drive and Spartan Playground Kickoff. Come to the school and see how much we've grown in the past year! Student art, created under the guidance of our new art teacher, Celine Soucy will be a highlight, and lunch will be served. More information will follow!



NLG OUTREACH

- Nashoba Learning Group presented a Symposium at The Annual conference of the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy. We presented procedures we have developed to teach practical math skills, following directions using prepositions and responding to Who/What/Where/When questions. NLG was pleased for the opportunity to share our innovative teaching methods with other professionals for the benefit of those with autism.
- NLG was invited to speak at Mass General's LADDERS clinic's Grand Rounds on December 4th. Liz Martineau and Robyn Stewart spoke to the clinicians, including neurologists, psychologists and speech pathologists about the design of our program and how we enable children with autism to succeed.

NLG SPORTS NEWS



NLG Hoops, a Special Olympics basketball program started up this fall in the NLG gym. On Sunday mornings, Lexington High School seniors Chris Forlena, Nate Meyers, and 12 volunteers brought basketball to NLG's students. Volunteers and students worked one-on-one to develop dribbling and shooting skills. Younger students practiced first, then the older students took their turn. At the end of each session, students had a chance to demonstrate their shooting skills to the entire group, so every week ended with lots of cheers and high fives!

Ice skating season has begun at NLG! Students go skating at the Bedford Sports Center on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 2:20 pm.



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, opening in 2003 in order to provide more impaired children and adults with autism with the services they need to succeed.

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 activi-

ties throughout their lives. We can't do this without your support! Thanks for all you do to help us achieve our mission!



GIVE THEM WINGS 2008 THANK YOUS

Saturday, September 20, 2008 was an evening spent celebrating the achievements of NLG's students at the 6th *Give Them Wings Dinner and Auction*. The auctioneer kept the paddles up as guests bid on items and experiences, all in support of NLG. Almost all NLG families contributed to the success of the event in some way. Thank you to Jenny Kane who chaired the event and to all who worked so hard to create a wonder-

ful and successful evening for the students of Nashoba Learning Group.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

“Wish List” Some of NLG's most basic needs are included on a Wish List that is on our website. Click on the link provided at nashobalearninggroup.org to provide support.

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. **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 igive.com/NLG and shop at over 650 stores. A percentage of your total purchases go directly to the school.

Volunteer to help with the Sat, March 7, 2009 First Anniversary Event. Email ann.rosas@nashobalearninggroup.org

NEW!!! Buy gift cards : We order monthly from a supplier of gift cards for hundreds of retailers and get to keep a percentage of each order. E-mail jenny.kane@nashobalearninggroup.org for more information.

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Thanks to all who shopped for
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