

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



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For most kids the school year is ending and summer vacation brings a significant change of pace, but that is not the way it works at Nashoba Learning Group. Our students continue to come to our program throughout the summer with only one week's vacation in July and one week in August. All summer long our students engage in the challenging but reinforcing work of adding the skills they need to function effectively at home, in the community and eventually in the workplace. NLG's dedicated and talented staff also work all summer, continuing to teach and motivate our students to reach new heights.

NLG is still enrolling new students as we complete the current phase of our program expansion. The student body will grow from 68 students to 75 students by October.

In addition, we have started planning to renovate the 5,000 square feet of unfinished space in our building. This project is made more challenging by the still difficult economic climate. But, the investment of building out this space would have two benefits. More classroom space would allow us to serve a small number of additional students and also enhance NLG's ability to operate with greater financial efficiency, reducing our ongoing fundraising needs for all of our students. Look for an update on these plans in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to a wonderful summer of learning at NLG where every day our staff and students demonstrate that high expectations, individualized goals, customized teaching, and constant celebration of each success result in spectacular achievements.

Thank you for all you do to help NLG bring out the best in all our students with autism! **-Liz Martineau, President**

Coming Events

The 7th annual Give Them Wings Dinner & Auction at Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, Mass will take place on **Saturday, Sept 26, 2009.**

Please mark your calendars and contact Ann.Rosas@nashobalarninggroup.org to volunteer for a committee. This is always a wonderful event and important fundraiser for NLG

June Issue
2009

ZOO FIELD TRIP by Ethan Freimont, NLG student

I went to the Zoo on June 16, 2009. Some of the teachers and students from the older neighborhood went too. The Zoo is in Stoneham, MA. I learned I was going to the Zoo because Mom told me and I got a permission slip. I was excited to go to the zoo because I like all the animals. The day I went to the zoo it was sunny. I saw a lot of animals. There were flamingos, apes and monkeys, birds, and wolves. My favorite animal was the sheep. It was fun when Paige went into a cave. She took a picture inside the cave. It made me excited when the monkey howled. It was very loud. I had a great time at the zoo!



8TH ANNUAL NLG BIKE & WALKATHON—JUNE 13, 2009

The 8th Annual NLG bike and walkathon in memory of Ken Oliver was a big success! With perfect cooperation from the weather, 24 riders, a record number, left on the 50 mile bike ride at 8:40 am. This year's group of riders, with various levels of preparation, did a fantastic job on the very hilly and challenging course.

Special congratulations to **Kevin O'Connor**, the first NLG student ever to complete the ride! 15-year old Kevin, on a tandem bike captained by his incredible dad, John O'Connor, had a wonderful time and put in an amazing effort. **Peter Frye** earned bragging rights, as he was the first rider to finish the course. Kudos are also due to **Jane McClellan**, a summer intern at NLG. Jane was the only staff member to win the –Beat Liz” challenge, earning herself a day off. Congratulations also to Josh Dahlin, Alysse Staake and Kerrin Aucoin, the 3 other staff members who took on the challenge, it was great to have you on the ride! We are hoping for an even bigger group of staff to ride next year –*this means you Maureen!*

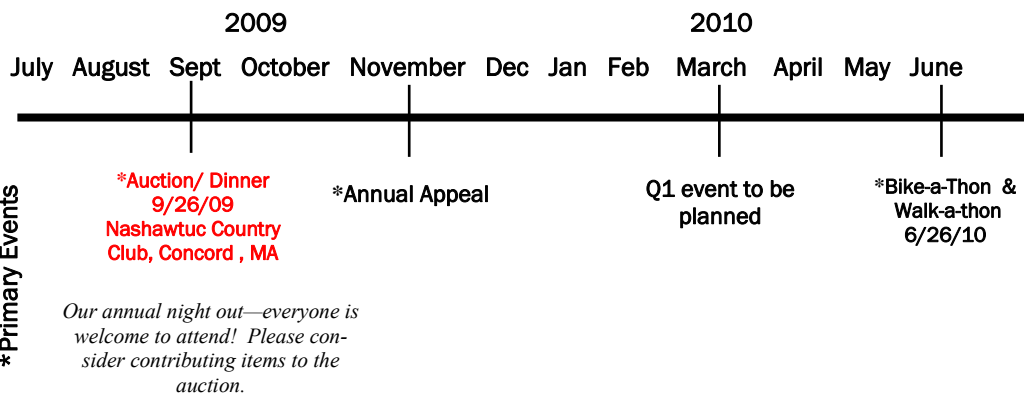
Dunkin Donuts in Harvard, Mass donated coffee and bagels to start the morning off for the riders. Special thanks to **Eastern Mountain Sports** of Nashua, New Hampshire for providing road support. EMS' help allowed one rider to finish, changing a flat tire at mile 35.

In addition to staff, this year's contingent of riders included 8 fathers of our students, 1 mom and 2 sisters and many friends of NLG. We'd love to add to this group next year, *mark your calendars for June 26, 2010 and start training.*

Congratulations and thank you to all who rode and many thanks to all who sponsored our riders and helped make the ride a success! Thanks to everyone's efforts we raised over \$30,000 for NLG!



HOW YOU CAN HELP



For more information on events and ways to help, contact Ann Rosas; ann.rosas@nashobalearninggroup.org

RIDING ACROSS AMERICA FOR NLG

For the second time, Patrick Autissier, bike rider extraordinaire and friend of NLG, began the grueling Race Across America (RAAM) as a solo rider on June 17th. Patrick is using the ride to raise money for Nashoba Learning Group and Partners in Health. In 2007, Patrick completed the 3,000 mile ride in 12 days, 5 hours, and 34 minutes. Although Patrick had to withdraw several days in, he succeeded in raising awareness of NLG. To find out more, visit his web site; www.patrickautissier.org

WALKATHON NEWS

At noon the first group headed down the marked 2 mile trail towards Walden Pond, beginning the 2009 Walkathon. Many families and friends, young and old, (and one dog) walked in support of NLG over the course of the day. When the walkers returned, everyone was treated to lunch and a swim in the pool. Thank you to **The Colonial Inn in Concord** for donating the box lunches – everyone enjoyed them. Thank you to **Jeanine Freimont** for safeguarding our swimmers, to **Nan Leonard** for marking the trail, and **Wendy Greenhalgh** for helping out all day.

Thanks to all who walked this year, we look forward to seeing you and your friends next year on **Saturday, June 26, 2010!**

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



Thank You TO NLG'S Riders:

Kerrin Aucoin
Mark Ayanian
Jennifer Ball
Beverly Berman
John Boyle
Cesar Brea
Jeff Dagostino
Josh Dahlin
David Dunham
Peter Frye
Timothy Gomeringer
Leonard Lilly
Liz Martineau
Casey McClellan
Jane McClellan
John McClellan
Michael McManus
Kevin O'Connor
John O'Connor
Dan O'Donnell
Armando Quiros
Alysse Staake
Frank St. Peter
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