

# NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

## NEWSLETTER



Our entire NLG community was devastated by the loss of Ella Biggio, a beautiful and passionate 6 year old student who passed away at home on February 4<sup>th</sup>. We join her loving parents, Allison and Will, and her sister Lucy, in mourning her passing. We are working to create ongoing events that will bring our community together in celebration of Ella's life. This tragedy reminds us how precious each person we serve is and harnesses the power of our community of staff, students, families and friends as we lift each other up and dedicate ourselves anew, in Ella's honor, to the mission of enabling individuals with autism to reach their potential.

As we remember Ella, our work continues. Every day our talented, loving, and hard-working staff helps each individual we serve to learn and grow, step by step. 2014's events so far have included a return consultation with Dr. Brian Iwata, the world's leading expert in the assessment and treatment of behavior. Our work with Dr. Iwata is part of our commitment to continuing to enhance our programs. We celebrated graduations from our school and have welcomed additional members to our Adult Program, now with 16 participants. And, our fundraising events included a very suc-

cessful Full Court Charity Challenge basketball tournament, organized by Bob Forlenza, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leprechaun Shuffle 5K, organized by Julie Copenrath. We are very happy to report that we achieved our Adult Program Campaign Target of raising \$4 million in donations and pledges by the end of 2013. We so appreciate the widespread support of our community in this campaign, and the extensive individual efforts of many of our parents in meeting this target. We are now beginning the next phase of fundraising for our School and for our Adult Program as we project our needs for the next several years.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events, including our Open House and Student Talent Show on April 12<sup>th</sup> and our 12<sup>th</sup> annual bike and walk-a-thon on July 19<sup>th</sup>. And please support our 8 NLG runners in the Boston Marathon as they join our larger community and demonstrate that we are **Boston Strong**.

Liz Martineau  
President,  
Clinical Director

### Coming Events

Open House/Talent Show—April 12, 2014

Red Sox/Cal Ripken Event—May 21, 2014

Student Spring Dance—May 31, 2014  
Doubletree Bedford

Bikeathon/Walkathon—July 19, 2014

Open House/Adult Services—September 13, 2014

Give them Wings Auction—October 18, 2014

For more information on events and ways to help, contact Kathy Romeo, [kathy.romeo@nashobalearninggroup.org](mailto:kathy.romeo@nashobalearninggroup.org)

March  
2014 Issue

### In memory of Ella Donations

Atlantic Toyota Employees  
Mercedes Aza & Cameron Snyder  
Jerry Barilla  
Fran Basche  
Susan & Richard Berkman  
Andrea Berman  
Martha & Robert Berman  
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Howard & Frances Karas  
Justin Kaufman  
John & Joan Kean  
Robert & Susan Kelly  
Richard & Claire Koch  
Leon & Bettina Kornhauser  
Sreng Kouch  
Julie Kwei—California Community Foundation  
Pauline Lampropoulos



## 15th Annual Full Court Charity Challenge

Thank you to Bob Forlenza for running a very successful basketball tournament. Players, spectators and volunteers had a great time at Basketball City in Boston. All funds raised go to Nashoba learning Group and the Lurie Center. It is hard to believe that Bob has been doing this for fifteen years but it just keeps getting bigger and better!



The winners were:  
**Spring Lake Equity Partners** for the Open Division and  
**Landmark Partners** for the Corporate Division



MVP→



Landmark Partners



Spring Lake Equity



## 2nd Annual Leprechaun Shuffle

The 5K Leprechaun shuffle held on March 16th was a big success thanks to the hard work of Julie Copenrath. It was a cold day but a record number of runners/walkers showed up to support Nashoba Learning Group and in honor of Ella Biggio. Thank you to Julie and all of the volunteers!



## 2014 Boston Marathon

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since the tragic events of the 2013 Boston Marathon. NLG is proud to have 8 people running Boston Strong to raise money for NLG. Our charity numbers will be worn by Debra Campbell, Lauren Savioli, Tom Feller and Vivek Varadarajan. In addition, all 4 of our runners from last year are returning. Judith Ursitti, Julie Copenrath, and Brendan Cheever are being given the opportunity because they could not finish last year due to the bombing. Beth Battin did finish the race and qualified to run again this year. We thank all of our runners and wish them good speed on April 21st in the 118 running of the Boston Marathon! Please support our runners by visiting our website [www.nashobalearninggroup.org](http://www.nashobalearninggroup.org) to donate.

## Open House/Talent Show—April 12th



We are looking forward to warm weather and the 5th Annual Open House and Talent show. Our students are working very hard practicing and can't wait to perform! We hope you can all attend. There will also be a silent auction, tours and refreshments. We hope to see you there!



## Congratulations Graduates!

We are very proud to announce that two more of our hard working NLG students have graduated from our School and are now enrolled in our Adult Program. Congratulations to Brian and Nicky for all you have achieved. We are proud of you and excited for the future.



## Student Spot Light—Dominic's Art Show



**APRIL is Autism Awareness Month**  
 Watertown Free Public Library  
 123 Main Street  
 presents 16 year old  
 Dominic Killyan's  
 masterful artwork  
 throughout April in the  
 T. Ross Kelly Family Gallery.  
 Meet Dominic at reception  
 Sunday, April 6th from 1-5  
 For further information  
 susancicconi@yahoo.com  
 617 974-1125  
 www.DominiCreations.com

Starting on April 6th at the Watertown Public Library our very talented student Dominic's art work will be featured in the T. Ross Kelly Family Gallery for the Month of April.

Some of his wonderful pieces will be on sale at our Open House as well!

## Red Sox/Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Event

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, NLG students have the opportunity to participate in a Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation baseball clinic and will end the outing with a baseball game with Boston Red Sox players! The event will take place at Tufts University in Medford, MA from 10am-1pm. NLG is grateful to Michael Weiner and Diane Margolin and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation for giving our students this wonderful opportunity! Parents and friends are welcome to come cheer for our students.

### In memory of Ella Donations (Cont.)

- Ginnette Larsen
- Robert & Nancy Le
- Robin Litwalk—Wakefield Public Schools
- Lurie Center
- Geraldine Maccuish
- Mary Jo Mangan
- Leslie Marinucci
- Arlene & James McGovern
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- Susan Meyers
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- Charles & Cheryl Tufankjian
- Tufts Dental Clinic
- Andrew & Judith Ursitti
- Mary & Harold Vigdor
- Anna & Donald Webster
- Ben Weiner
- Jonathan Weiner
- Michael Weiner
- Bernadette Wilson
- Renee Zierten

## PAC Corner

It has been a snowy winter and a busy couple of months for the PAC. THANK YOU Julie Copenrath for organizing the amazing 5k again. The run was well attended by many staff and families! THANK YOU to all of those that contributed to the special necklace for Ella's mom. Allison loved it! We LOVED seeing her family and her team at the 5K. THANK YOU too for all the amazing donations for the staff luncheon! We had a record number of 73 parents donating to the lunch so we were able to order a huge spread of yummy stuff! Our amazing staff deserve it :): Stay tuned for an email with pictures. April is Autism Awareness Month! Remember to order Pizza from Otto's Pizza on 4/7. Proceeds go to NLG! Email parent Sue Parziale at [sjparziale@verizon.net](mailto:sjparziale@verizon.net) for details and Kay Jones at [hellojonesie@gmail.com](mailto:hellojonesie@gmail.com) if you want a dairy free pizza. Hope to see you all at the open house too on 4/12 (look out for the new Grandparent and extended family corner). Finally, please visit our **Friends of NLG Facebook page** which lists all upcoming events and info! If you would like to post anything on that page, please contact Brendan Cheever, parent and administrator of the page at [brendan@cheeverind.com](mailto:brendan@cheeverind.com). Spring is just around the corner!

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**Team Ella**

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