

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



Letter from the President:

Greetings from Nashoba Learning Group! We have been busy integrating new students and adults into our Programs and helping each one achieve! We now serve 132 individuals between our two School sites and our Adult Program! We are continuing the expansion launched last summer and we are so excited to serve more of the individuals with autism who need us!

This quarter also included special events. On March 11th NLG hosted a gathering of State Senators and Representatives. The purpose was to educate legislators about the challenges and successes of children with autism and how important funding is for non-profit, private special needs schools. We were very grateful to the many legislators who came and we appreciated their interest in our students. The take home message is that children with autism, their families, and their School Districts need the concentration of expertise available at NLG. This expertise allows us to efficiently and effectively enable individuals with autism to achieve their potential. The tuition we receive from School Districts is essential, and in combination with our fundraising efforts allows us to serve those who need us. This same message is true for the adults that we serve, with an even bigger gap between available government funding and the cost to provide the support that is needed. We appreciated the efforts of NLG parents to encourage their legislators to attend. We urge all of you to get to know your representatives and senators and make sure the voices of individuals more impaired by autism are heard.

Upcoming Events

Annual Fund Drive— March-April

**Carnival—April 30, 2016
NLG— 10 Oak Park Drive**

**Student Spring Dance—
May 21, 2016
Doubletree Bedford**

**Red Sox/Cal Ripken Event—
TBD**

**Bikeathon/Walkathon—
July 30, 2016**

**Fishin' With A Mission—
July 31, 2016**

**Give them Wings Auction—
October 15, 2016
Westin in Waltham**

For more information on events and ways to help, contact Emily Wheat, emily.wheat@nashobalearninggroup.org

Another important event highlighted in this newsletter is the FCCC Basketball Tournament with proceeds benefitting NLG and the Lurie Center. We are grateful to Bob Forlenza for organizing this event. We thank Julie Copenrath for organizing the 4th Annual Leprechaun Shuffle for the benefit of NLG! This event attracts many NLG student, families and friends.

We are looking forward to an exciting Spring of growth! On behalf of those we serve, thank you for all you do!

Liz Martineau
President



Left to Right: Lori Steers, Maureen Vibert, Senator Barrett, Rep Gordon, Liz Martineau, Barb Baker, & Ethan

Celebrate student and adult achievements!

E: has done a fantastic job on the treadmill, increasing from 3 minutes to 30 minutes.

T. was able to get XRAYS at the dentist for the first time ever!



M. has done well staying with his teacher when out in the community.

J. has been reading the book "Have you Filled A Bucket Today?" By Carol McCloud. He has been trying very hard to be a "bucket filler," which is someone who says nice things to others to makes them feel happy and refrains from saying rude comments which is a "bucket dipper."

P. has mastered taking out his wallet when being told the price by a cashier.



M. started working at an external work site & gained a lot of independence in his internal vocation work crews.



March
2016 Issue

17th 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 Boston University Fitness and Recreation Center on March 12th. Competition was fierce this year with many returning and new players. All funds raised go to Nashoba Learning Group and the Lurie Center. Congratulations to the Instinet team. After playing in this tournament for 10 years, they finally won the Corporate Division! HighFields took their first victory in the Open Division!



HighFields Open Division Champs!



Liz and her son Sean, who made his speaking debut!



Instinet Corporate Division Champs!



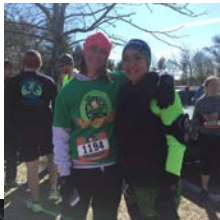
Thank you to all of our FCCC sponsors!

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- Jason Osier
- Chuck and Laura O'Connor
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- Robert and Kristen Tishman



4th Annual Leprechaun Shuffle

A huge thank you goes to Julie Copenrath, Tina Cerulo, and Paul Buckley for all their hard work and dedication to make the 4th Annual Leprechaun Shuffle a success! Amy Ursitti, sister of an NLG student, sang a heart felt rendition of the national anthem. Over 250 runners enjoyed the new location at Davis Elementary school and had a blast at Burton's Grill for food and laughs after the race. See results at Racemenu.com



2016 Boston Marathon

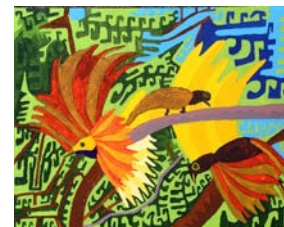
Nashoba Learning Group is excited to announce our runners for the 120th Boston Marathon. We have three new runners supporting NLG. **Angela DeCormier** is a Clinical Manager at NLG and is so happy to get the chance to run in the Boston Marathon. **Patrick Sheehan**, a father of an NLG student, has run in a few marathons and looks forward to raising funds for NLG. **Peter Hanson**, is the father of an NLG Adult member and will be running in his 7th Boston Marathon. The fundraising minimum has increased to \$10,000 for each runner. We are excited to cheer them on as they cross the finish line and support them in their fundraising efforts. We thank our runners and wish them good luck on April 18th! To support our runners and their fundraising goals, visit our website www.nashobalearninggroup.org to donate.

Carnival—April 30th

Get your tickets for NLG's Carnival on Sunday, April 30th. Held at 10 Oak Park, Bedford at Noon. Includes music by Boagrius, demos by Boston Kickers & NLG students doing Tae Kwon Do. Puppet show, pie eating contest, food, and various carnival games will make for a perfect day for the whole family!

DominiCreations Artwork at Watertown Library

Dominic Killiany's wonderful artwork will be on display throughout April in the T. Ross Kelly Family Gallery at the Watertown Public Library. Reception is on Sunday, April 17th from 1-5pm. For further information contact susancicconi@yahoo.com.



Invite Your Legislators to Nashoba Learning Group

NLG was pleased to welcome State Senators and Representatives to our school. Senator Michael Barrett and Representative Kenneth Gordon, who represent Bedford, both welcomed other legislators and NLG parents. Liz Martineau spoke on behalf of the value of NLG to our students and their parents. Ethan, an NLG student, and Mandy Smart, NLG Clinical Director, spoke about all the things Ethan has learned and gained during his 12 years at NLG. NLG Parent, Barbara Baker, spoke about her daughter, Mary Gwen, and the obstacles she has overcome with the help of NLG. Kate Raftery, an NLG Clinical Director, described the ways in which NLG serves as a model for educating the children it serves and why investing in an intensive, high-quality education pays off for students, their families, and their communities. Legislators received a tour of the school and engaged in a question and answer session. NLG thanks MAAPS (Massachusetts Association of Private Chapter 766 Schools), for coordinating the event and for constantly advocating for the role of private special needs schools in providing high quality and cost effective educational programs and services to students with special needs.



NLG student and State Representative Speliotis

NLG's Vocational Program has recently partnered with new companies!

New Employment and Volunteer Positions

- * VERC Enterprises- Westford, MA
- *Household Goods- Acton, MA
- *Melrose Family Dentistry- Melrose, MA
- *Power of Flowers- Billerica, MA

Treats for Autism donates dog treats to local organizations

- *Minuteman Senior Services, NLG will now include dog treats on the Meals on Wheels routes!
- *Operation Delta Dog- Chelmsford, MA

NLG is currently seeking 3 positions for young adults to work in office and service related positions, up to 6 hours a week. Please contact Stephanie Daniels at stephanie.daniels@NashobaLearningGroup.org if you know of a potential opportunity.

PAC Corner

Hello Everyone! Please note the following upcoming dates from your NLG PAC:

Saturday, April 2: Annual NLG Parent/Guardian Gathering – at the Baker Home in Dover, MA – please join us to enjoy an adult night out and spend time with other NLG parents-casual, appetizers and drinks -rsvp via evite in email

Saturday, April 30: NLG Carnival (this event is instead of the talent show this year) – please join the fun!

Tuesday, May 3: National Teacher Appreciation Day – say thank you to your child's team!!!

Friday, May 13: NLG PAC meeting at 10 Oak Park location, 9:30

Friday, May 13: Parent Lunch following PAC meeting – location TBD

We wish you all a very happy spring and hope to see you soon! Questions? contact us at Bakerdover@aol.com or ujbasak@gmail.com) ~ Barb and Una

Nashoba Learning Group, Inc.
10 Oak Park Drive
Bedford MA 01730

Phone: 781-275-2500
info@nashobalearninggroup.org
www.nashobalearninggroup.org

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