

NASHOBA LEARNING GROUP

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

NEWSLETTER



Letter from the President:

Happy Fall! Since our School and Adult Programs are in session all summer, we hit the ground running in September with no interruption in the work of learning lifelong skills!

It is our mission to provide the highest quality services to those with autism and we are very pleased with the results of our annual surveys of Parents/Guardians, School Districts and DDS. All constituents gave us very high ratings and affirmed that we change the outcome for those we serve. We look forward to continuing to earn these high rating each day!

We are grateful to our community for record participation rates in our Annual Fund which closed June 30! 90% of School parents and 100% of Adult Program parents contributed. We also received 142 donations to the Fund from friends of NLG. We are grateful for strong parent participation not only because the funds contributed are so essential to providing the services our children need, but because Foundations look to this rate when making funding decisions. Our Annual Report, available on NLG's website, honors those who have provided leadership support to NLG in fiscal 2019. We are so grateful!

As we look towards fall, we are busy planning our annual Give them Wings Dinner and Auction to be held on October 26th. This is our most important annual fundraising event and it is a crucial source of funds for closing the gap between the funding we receive and the costs to provide the services needed. The night is a wonderful celebration of NLG's community and will feature parent and student speakers! Our Committee is planning many fun extras related to our Octoberfest theme. We hope you will join us! We look forward to seeing parents and friends, old and new, at the event!


Finally, we are excited to announce an expansion of the services we offer. We will begin to offer an Extended Day Enrichment program 3 days per week, beginning November 4. This will give us the opportunity to offer activities such as music, yoga and physical education to our students and adults. These activities are difficult for those we serve to access in the community. We are excited to make these beneficial activities available.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you for all you do to support NLG!

Liz Martineau
President



Celebrate Student and Adult Achievements!

- B. works at an external volunteer placement making kits for kids to assemble. 
- A. is demonstrating reading comprehension by matching text to pictures.
- J. is making great strides with his new AAC communication device!
- W. has begun walking on the treadmill
- D. is able to prepare and bake her snacks and lunch independently!



Coming Events

CEU Workshop for BCBA's -
October 16th at 10 Oak Park

Give them Wings Auction -
October 26, 2018 6 PM at the
Hilton in Woburn, MA

Gift Cards - November

Transition to Adulthood for
Parents of students 15 to 21-
November 14 at 10 Oak Park

Annual Fund—2020 Kickoff-
November

Fall
2019 Issue

17th Annual Give them Wings Dinner and Auction

Nashoba Learning Group's Annual Dinner and Auction is quickly approaching and we are all looking forward to a wonderful evening! The Auction is NLG's most important annual fundraising event and we need your help to make it a success. The event will be held at the newly renovated Hilton in Woburn and Sherry Truhlar will be returning as our auctioneer. This year will have an Oktoberfest theme, including a beer tasting, special fall cocktail, wine pull, exciting live and silent auctions, and so much more! We urge you to attend, and to invite family and friends to this great event that is so crucial to NLG! Don't forget to buy your tickets and join us as we gather to honor our wonderful teachers, gain inspiration from our speakers, and participate in the lively auction. The event begins at 6 pm on October 26th. Go to the Events tab at www.nashobalearninggroup.org to order tickets and space in our Program Book.



17th Annual Bike-A-Thon



NLG's Bikeathon was a success! 35 riders enjoyed the 25 or 50 mile ride. It may have been one of the hottest days of the summer, but it didn't stop our bikers! Two NLG staff members rode the 50 mile challenge to beat Liz and receive an extra day off. They were able to beat Liz to the finish line. However they did not beat her by more than their age difference, letting Liz also claim victory! We are grateful to Cesar Brea and Jay Leonard's fundraising efforts. Their team won for most funds raised!

Research and Development

NLG staff participated in a symposium this October at the annual Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy (BABAT) conference. Morgan Davis, one of NLG's research assistants, presented her master's thesis describing different ways to address picky eating in kids with autism. Dr. Slaton shared data from several NLG students who are working on functional communication training. This fall, NLG also partnered with Biostream Technologies to conduct research on a video game they developed that teaches kids with autism to identify emotions and read facial expression. NLG Clinical Director Amy Casale took the lead on this partnership, with the help of NLG research assistant Sal Daniele.

Staff Training Week

NLG is known for our training, development and retention of high-performing, caring and compassionate staff. In addition to ongoing training, NLG provides staff with important topic specific educational trainings during our annual training week. This year, staff took part in various workshops including;

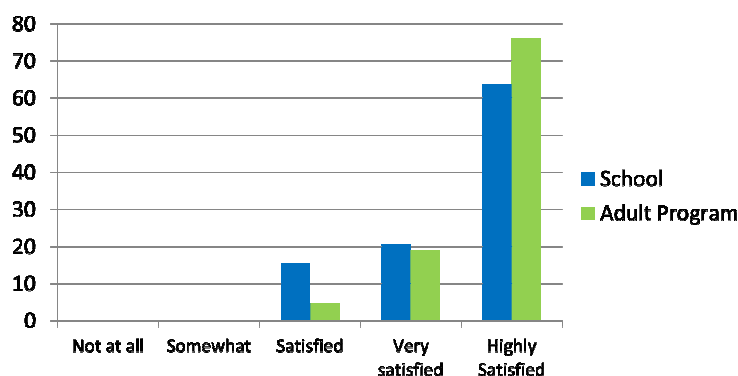
- Student Family Support
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
- Providing Corrective Feedback
- Cultural Competency
- Reading with TLC" and more.



NLG Constituent Satisfaction Survey

To assess NLG's performance each year we ask constituents to rate our performance across multiple categories. The survey was conducted in May. We are very pleased with the high overall

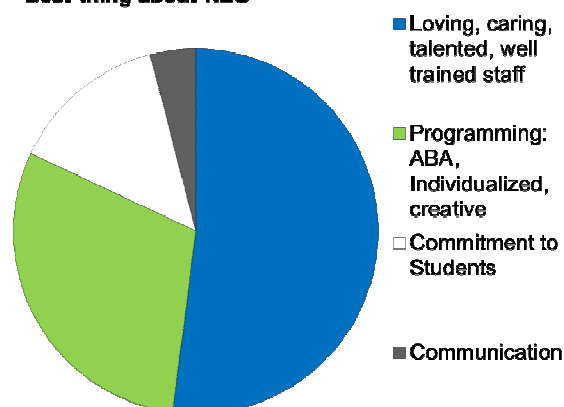
NLG Parent/Guardian Survey Overall Satisfaction Rating:
Percent June 2019



Based on 62 responses for School and 22 for Adult Program

NLG School Parents 2019 Survey

Best thing about NLG



PAC Corner



Fall is upon us at NLG! We are the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and we plan activities for families and guardians that are social, supportive and informative. In September, we hit the ground running by hosting our first Mix & Mingle night and PAC meeting of the year. We are excited to be back in action! Here are some important upcoming PAC sponsored events:

- Friday, November 8th: Parent/Guardian Fall Coffee at 9:30am at Una Basak's home in Lexington
- Sunday, November 3rd: Monsters Inc. Movie Screening from 3-5:30 @Arlington Capital Theatre
- Sunday, December 8th: Lego Movie. Movie Screening from 3-5:30 @Arlington Capital Theatre
- Wednesday, December 18th: Staff Cookie Party

Please feel free to reach out to us if you would like to volunteer at one of these events or have ideas for events. Our email is: nlgpac@googlegroups.com

-PAC CO-Chairs

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Thanks to Community
Endowment of Lexington and
NLG's Vocational team, three
Adult Program members have
been volunteering at the
Lexington Community Center!

Robert and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
Meredith Conaghan and Ben Kline
David Lipman
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Cesar Brea and Nan Leonard
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