

League School Mourns Loss of Co-Founder Arnold D. Vetstein, a Remarkable Leader in Autism Education



“Co-founding the League School has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.”

In the early 1960s, Arnold D. Vetstein, a dentist who lived in Newton and practiced in Framingham, and his wife, Leona, were concerned that their son (age 3) was exhibiting unusual behavior. They brought him to be evaluated at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was diagnosed with autism. When they searched for education for their son, Richard, they

discovered that public schools, including the highly regarded Newton Public Schools, did not have a legal commitment to educating students considered “seriously disturbed.”

This lack of education services became the impetus for co-founding the League School in 1966, and the Vetsteins’ work continues to this day.

Arnold Vetstein died on December 12, 2022, at the age of 96. His wife, Leona Fine Vetstein, predeceased him.

“It is the everyday efforts of the community – the staff, teachers, local partners, school districts, donors, parents, and especially the students – who will continue my dad’s and mom’s dream and vision to create a place where people with autism and their families can feel happy and fulfilled,” said Nancy Hershfield, the Vetsteins’ daughter, and League School Board member.

To read the League School's full tribute to Dr. Vetstein, [click here](#).



League School Receives Grants to Assist in Learning



The League School was fortunate to receive multiple grants recently that will help teachers and staff better assist students. Grants from sponsors and community partners are critical to helping the school carry out its mission every day.

First, late last year the school received a very generous \$25,000 donation from the **Christopher Catanese Children's Foundation** to help improve and enhance its Occupational Therapy gym space, which has long been a priority for school staff. For more information on this donation, [click here](#).

The school also received a generous grant from **Eversource** as part of its Community Impact Grant program. The \$1,500 grant will help support the Assistive Technology for Individuals with Autism program by allowing the League School to purchase new iPads for the school's classrooms. For more information on this grant, [click here](#).

League School Welcomes Back Two Former Staff Members

The League School welcomed several new staff members recently, including two familiar faces returning after some time away.

Head teacher Tara Faiella worked at League from 2019 through June of last year, and is returning to her old classroom. Speech/Language Pathologist Lana Falvey worked at League from 2011-2015 and is returning to her old position. To read more about Tara and Lana, [click here](#).



2022 Year in Review

Happy New Year from all of us at League School! We hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are ready to start what is sure to be a great 2023.

[Click here](#) to view our 2022 year-in-review, which includes many of the important events and fundraisers that made last year so successful.

Open House Information

League School will be holding Open Houses on the second Thursday of every month during 2023.

At an Open House, prospective parents will have the opportunity to tour the school and see the school's various programs in action. Learn more [here](#).



UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS

Our upcoming events for 2023 include the following:

- **March 31: #LEAGUESTRONG Bike-A-Thon**
- **May 13: 5K Walk/Run for Autism**
- **June 12: "FORE" Autism Golf Classic**
- **August 20: Falmouth Road Race**
- **October 5: Night of Champions**

Up first is our annual Bike-A-Thon. Several options are available for those who want to ride. [Click here](#) for the event's official site, where you can register to participate.



Online: leagueschool.org/news

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