

## League School of Greater Boston Celebrates April as Autism Empowerment Month



For many years the month of April has been a time for recognizing autism, first as Autism Awareness Month and later Autism Acceptance Month. This year, we're taking that idea one step further by celebrating April as [Autism Empowerment Month](#).

League School will be making materials available to staff to enhance their classroom lessons, as well as promoting information and resources to celebrate neurodiverse learners. The school will also be holding spirit days throughout the month.

"League School is a very special place for our neurodiverse students. We're more than just a school, and we're more than just a program," said League School of Greater Boston CEO Larry Sauer. "We are a community of people working together, opening the world to our students to create a place where neurodiverse individuals are accepted, included, and empowered to live their best lives."

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## Patriots QB Mac Jones Visits League School

League School welcomed two very special guests on April 5 when New England Patriots quarterback Mac Jones and girlfriend Sophie Scott made a visit to the school.

Jones and Scott toured several different areas of the school. Their visit included stopping by a culinary arts class to help make Japanese-inspired treats, purchasing snacks at the Hawk's Nest store, making stepping stones in the vocational center, and playing communication board games. The day ended with Jones and Scott playing skills drills with students and talking about the importance of physical fitness and exercise.



We thank Mac and Sophie, the Kraft Group and the entire New England Patriots organization for the visit. To see more photos and video, [click here](#). News coverage of the event can also be seen by visiting the [New England Patriots website](#), [ESPN](#), [MassLive](#) or [Westwood Minute](#). Even Sophie Scott posted on her personal [Instagram page](#)!

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# Events Update: #LeagueStrong Bike-A-Thon a Success, 10th Annual 5K Walk/Run For Autism Scheduled for May 13



Our annual Bike-A-Thon was a tremendous success, surpassing the school's fundraising goal and featuring riders across all three days.

In total, the Bike-A-Thon raised more than \$10,600 for the school with donations continuing to come in even after the event had ended.

Teacher Assistant Taylor Freeman and Music Teacher Allie Young were the top fundraisers among League School staff, each raising more than \$1,000. [Click here to read more.](#)

The school's next big event is coming up on Saturday, May 13. The 10th Annual 5K Walk/Run for Autism is now open for registration at the event's website [here](#).

We hope to see many familiar faces return again this year. One such team already signed up to take part is Team Happy Feet (pictured), which walks through Bird Park in Walpole during the event. To learn more about their team and why they participate, [click here](#).



Our seventh annual "Fore" Autism Golf Classic returns to Franklin Country Club on Monday, June 12. Last year's event featured a total of 124 golfers and sponsors that together raised \$80,000, making it our most successful tournament yet.

View the event website [here](#). For information on participating as a golfer, business sponsor or volunteer, please contact League School Director of Development Tim McCabe at [tmccabe@leagueschool.com](mailto:tmccabe@leagueschool.com).



Join us on Thursday, April 27 when Bertucci's will run a promotion for our school. Simply dine at (or order from) any Bertucci's location, and the restaurant will donate 15% of the proceeds back to League School. Present [this flyer](#) or provide the unique code **181-678-145** and enjoy some great food while supporting a great cause!



More Than 180 Educators from Across Massachusetts Attend League's Practical Data Collection Strategies Conference

League School of Greater Boston hosted a special conference on data collection and IEP best practices last month. The **Practical Data Collection Strategies** conference was held Friday, March 24 at the Dedham Holiday Inn Conference Center. More than 180 educators from 50 school districts throughout the state were in attendance.



## Legislative Breakfast Held March 31, in Conjunction with MAAPS



In partnership with the **Massachusetts Association of Approved Private Schools (MAAPS)**, we held a successful legislative breakfast on March 31 where we welcomed local legislators and members of the community into our school to discuss special education in the state and also learn more about the exciting things being done here at League School. Our thanks to MAAPS Executive Director Elizabeth Dello Russo Becker and Director of External Affairs James Daiute for supporting the event, as well as the offices of Senator Mike Rush, State Representative Paul McMurtry and State Representative Jay Barrows for attending. Read more about the breakfast [here](#).

### Jersey Mike's Supplies Lunch to League School Staff for 'Month of Giving' celebration

Jersey Mike's Subs supplied League School staff with lunch on Friday, March 31, as part of their Month of Giving celebration. Through a charitable partnership with the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, League staff was **treated to subs from the Walpole Jersey Mike's store**.

Two students in the League School vocational program helped pick up and deliver the box lunches, and also received a tour of the store and learned about the sub-making process.

League School thanks both Jersey Mike's Subs and the Flutie Foundation for their ongoing support of autism education throughout the year!

### Autism and Healthy Eating: League School Celebrates National Nutrition Month

March was National Nutrition Month, and League School of Greater Boston spent the month educating students about the **importance of healthy eating** in fun and creative ways.

Congrats to the winning students in our National Nutrition Month contests! Zander was the grand winner having had the most fruits and veggies during the challenge, and as a prize he won a strawberry plant. Winners of the other contests included Lilliana, Claire, Jake, Zander, Naomi, Shane, and Elliot.

Great work by all students learning and embracing healthy eating habits, and thanks to Culinary Arts teacher Marie Canesi for organizing the events!



## LEAGUE SCHOOL SHOUT-OUTS!

Other highlights at League School from the past few months include the following:

- On Feb. 27 we held our first **graduation ceremony** of the year, when we said goodbye to Dylan! So many of his classmates wished him well and spoke about how they'll miss him.
- Last month we held an **Employee Appreciation Day** breakfast for all staff members.
- The vocational department held a **plant sale** to mark the start of spring.
- Our thanks to **Greg Susco and Telamon Insurance** for hosting our March after-hours networking event (pictured), which was well attended by several members of our Board of Ambassadors. We hope to hold similar events in the future.
- Director of Neurodiversity and Inclusion Lindsay Wagner, and Coordinator of Vocational and Career Services Amy Faraone, presented at the Kennedy Krieger Institute's **Neurodiversity in the Workplace** national conference in Washington D.C. Lindsay and Amy discussed League's approach to supporting neurodiverse individuals in gaining the skills and confidence to transition from school-based to community-based employment.



Online: [leagueschool.org/news](https://leagueschool.org/news)

UPDATE Newsletter Editor: [Matthew Reid](#)