

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDENTS, STAFF, PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS OF LEAGUE SCHOOL



SynapDX CEO, Stanley Lapidus, flanked on the left by League School Executive Director, Dr. Frank Gagliardi, and on the right by Debbie Soprano.

Early Autism Detection Researcher Stanley Lapidus, CEO of SynapDX, pays the League School a Visit

Last month, the CEO of SynapDX, Stanley Lapidus, accompanied by Debbie Soprano, took a tour of League School. SynapDX is an early stage laboratory services company developing a blood-based test to enable earlier detection of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD’s). ASD’s are characterized by impairment in language and socialization as well as restricted and repetitive behaviors. “They are doing some very exciting research,” said Dr. Frank Gagliardi, Executive Director of the League School of Greater Boston who showed Mr. Lapidus the school’s current facility and reviewed the school’s upcoming plans for expansion. “We are happy to get together with them to partner on different business opportunities that may come up.”

According to the SynapDX website, the average age of diagnosis is 4.5 years, yet age of first concern is 19 months. Early diagnosis leads to early treatment—and early treatment is believed to yield better outcomes. Today ASD’s are diagnosed using a variety of assessments that combine direct patient observation and medical history. The addition of a clinically meaningful blood test could hasten the diagnostic process and help children at risk for ASD’s get access to the right evaluation earlier—and end up with better outcomes as they grow.

SynapDX’s top investors include North Bridge, General Catalyst Partners, Lab Corp, The Kraft Group and Bain Capital Ventures. SynapDX’s approach measures RNA gene expression differences, which current research suggests can distinguish between people with ASDs and those without. SynapDX is in the process of conducting additional studies to validate their approach.

As he was leaving, Mr. Lapidus requested selected pieces of student artwork – these pieces can now be found hanging in the lobby at SynapDX – we thank Mr. Lapidus for his kind gesture and thoughtful consideration.

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Mark Your Calendars
League School Will Hold Its Annual Summer Fun Day on Friday, August 2nd.

League School will be holding its annual Summer Fun Day on Friday, August 2. We will have a pony, dunk tank, ice cream, refreshments, a fire truck to tour, and a variety of other family-friendly activities for attendees to enjoy. Everyone is invited - students, staff, parents, friends, board members, volunteers and vendors. Please contact Patrick Fuller if you would be interested in helping out with either the planning or execution of this event.

League School Planning a 5K Road Race for Next Spring

Next spring (sometime in April or May, the exact date has yet to be determined), League School of Greater Boston will be holding its First Annual *Run (or Walk) for Fun*. This 5K event, for students, staff, parents and friends of the school, will be a “Fun-Raiser,” not a “fundraiser.” It will be a chance for people to meet, enjoy each other’s company, and cheer students and adults alike as they complete the 5K route. More details to follow.



Brian Cavella and his dad, Keith, are all smiles before they take their seats in the Dunkin Dugout, from which the photo below was taken.

Take Me Out to a Ballgame...

League students have been making the rounds the past few weeks, taking in sporting events all around Boston. These field trips provide an excellent opportunity for students to integrate into social settings in low-pressure situations. We first paid a visit to Gillette Stadium to watch a New England Revolution soccer game. Everyone had a wonderful time and we were thrilled when Mr. Kraft acknowledged our visit on the endzone scoreboard just above where we were seated. It was an exciting game and we want to thank him for his kind gesture.

Next, it was off to Fenway Park for a Sunday afternoon game. Perched in the Dunkin Dugout, a special section located high in the Center field bleacher seats, League School students, parents and chaperones enjoyed a memorable day at the park. The weather was beautiful and the views spectacular – and the results were even better as the Red Sox defeated the Los Angeles Angels in a slugfest, 10-5. While we were at the game, the Red Sox welcomed us on their large scoreboard above where we were sitting and NESN showed us in our seats on their telecast. We can hardly wait to go back...





Meet Our League School Employees of the Month: For May - Krista Swiader

Krista Swiader was voted League School's employee of the month for May. Congratulations to Krista. She is a teacher for the CT/LS, Content Teaching Life Skills Program working with Mee Mee Reynolds and Meghan Robertson, Room 221. She has only been here since September 2012 and has earned recognition for creating strong lesson plans in social studies, according to Jean Leahy, League School Principal. "She has formed strong working relationships with everyone here at our school and is very hard working."

In her free time, Krista recently participated in the Tough Mudder Event in New Hampshire, a fundraising event for the Wounded Warrior Project. This event is a 10-12 mile obstacle course in which it is a feat just to finish the event. One of her goals is to continue to further her educational training in the fall in special education.



For June - Suzanne Goodman

Suzanne Goodman was voted employee of the month for June. What can we say about Suzanne? She does a great job running the front office for the school. She answers the phone, greets everyone with a very pleasant demeanor and is always very professional.

She is always willing to help and offers assistance to staff, students, parents, vendors and board members on a regular basis. We are very lucky to have Suzanne in our front office. Always ready to help in any way that she can, she even sang with our students at a recent school concert.



Pictured (L-R): Dr. Frank Gagliardi, Linda DeBenedictis (CCF), John DeBenedictis (CCF), MaryAnn Catanese (CCF), Craig Rodman, and Peter Catanese II (CCF).

Donors See Their Funding in Action

Earlier this month, on Thursday, June 6th, members of the Christopher Catanese Foundation (CCF) and Rodman Ride for Kids stopped by the League School of Greater Boston to observe their recent donations in action. They observed League students working on new iPads that their generous donations had funded.

Noting that their donations were utilized exclusively to purchase 60 new iPads for use by League students, Dr. Frank Gagliardi, League School's Executive Director, thanked those in attendance by stating "your generosity will enable our students to have the most up-to-date technology possible to assist them in learning and interacting with our teachers, parents and other students."



League School of Greater Boston Honored by East Walpole Award Program

League School of Greater Boston has been selected for the 2013 Best of East Walpole Award in the K-12 Schools category by the East Walpole Award Program.

Each year, the East Walpole Award Program identifies companies and organizations that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the East Walpole area a great place to live, work and play.

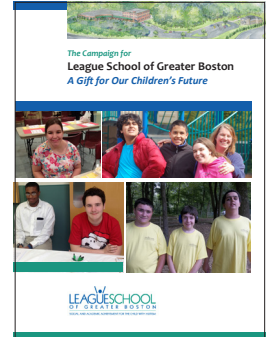
The 2013 East Walpole Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity.



A Gift for Our Children's Future, League School's Development Campaign, Is Underway

In future issues, we plan on devoting this space to providing you with updates on the progress of League School's development campaign, "A Gift for Our Children's Future."

The campaign began in earnest this month with the formation of committees and the start of solicitations from companies and individuals. We've received our campaign materials which include pledge cards, stationery, and an engaging campaign brochure.



League School Staffers Coming Through Led by Co-Chairs Patrick Fuller and Carla Dyer

We are happy to announce that over 80% of our employees have made donations to the League School of Greater Boston Development Fund, employee gifts division, according to Paul Orichio, Director of Development. "We are very pleased with the response so far by our dedicated staffers and true heroes of our fine school." Patrick and Carla are still leading the troops and will not stop until we have reached 100% participation. "It is very important that we reach 100% participation as the outside community will often judge our efforts by the commitment of those closest to us," said Dr. Frank Gagliardi, Executive Director of the school.

Philippa Keane and Ha Nguyen Have Agreed to Work as Co-Chairs for the Current Parents Gifts Division

The role of these parents is to encourage their fellow parents to make gifts to the Development Fund. As with the school's employees, the same standard of participation - 100% - is encouraged from our current parents. To this end, a letter and a copy of our campaign brochure will be mailed out to all League School parents asking for gifts.

"I am very excited to be participating in this effort and am happy to provide any assistance that I can," said Philippa Keane. "The completion of this project is very important to all of us and, to the community-at-large. Hopefully we will achieve our goal of 100% participation."



Ha Nguyen (L) and Philippa Keane (R) have graciously agreed to be Co-Chairs for our Current Parent Gift Division. We want to thank them in advance for their commitment to our cause.

Upcoming Events at League School:

- Friday, June 28th - Summer break begins
- Tuesday, July 16th - Summer break ends - students return to class
- Wednesday, July 17th - Half-day for students
- Wednesday, July 31st - Half-day for students
- Friday, August 2nd - Family Fun Day

Please check the school calendar on the school website, leagueschool.com, for the latest announcements about upcoming events at the school.

Scenes from Our Field (and Stream) Trip

Earlier this month, a number of students took a field trip to the North Walpole Fish & Game Club - below, some of our students proudly display their "catches of the day."

