



David Harmon recently spoke to League School parents at a workshop sponsored by the school's Parent Advisory Council.

## Special Needs Estate Planner Speaks to League School Parents

The League School of Greater Boston's Parent Advisory Council recently held a workshop entitled "Special Needs Planning and Guardianship." The guest speaker was David Harmon, CLU, ChFC, MBA who has over 27 years of experience in the financial services and insurance industries.

Mr. Harmon is currently a registered representative for AXA Advisors LLC in Wellesley, MA, where he has built an insurance, investment, estate tax planning and financial planning practice. For the past ten years, his practice has focused on helping families plan for the financial future of their loved ones with special needs. Over the years, he has presented many workshops across Massachusetts on preserving important needs-based government programs such as SSI and MassHealth, through effective special needs estate-planning techniques.

Over twenty parents attended the event held at the school's auditorium. Among the important issues addressed by Mr. Harmon in his presentation were:

- Estate planning for families of children with special needs
- Government benefit eligibility
- Funding special needs trusts
- Recent changes to Massachusetts Guardianship Procedures
- Building a planning team and maximizing community-based resources

It was an engaging and informative evening - thanks again to the Parent Advisory Council for providing a forum to learn about this important information.

### In This Issue

*League School's PAC Sponsors a Special Needs Estate Planning Presentation.....1*

*"Fostering Independence" Open Workshop to be Held at League School.....1*

*Preparing for the Flu: A Parents' Guide.....2*

*Employees of the Month.....3*

*Development Campaign Update.....3*

*League School's Team is One of the Leading Fundraisers at Walk Now for Autism Speak..4*

*Did You Know - Fast Facts.....4*

*Upcoming Events.....4*

## The League School of Greater Boston's Speech-Language Pathology and Occupational Therapy Departments Planning an Open Workshop for Later This Month

"Fostering Independence in Home and Community Settings: Using High and Low Tech Strategies" is the subject of an open workshop, scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the school's auditorium. The program is open to all parents and the public. Admission is free.

Some of the school's faculty will discuss strategies and techniques helpful in encouraging independence in everyday activities including community outings, leisure time, and activities of daily living. Task analysis, use of visual supports, organizational tools and new technology will be discussed.

If you would like to attend what promises to be an enlightening presentation, please contact Patrick Fuller, Assistant Principal, at 508-850-3900, X514 or pfuller@leagueschool.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



Michelle Peirce, RN

## Preparing for The Flu: A Guide for Parents

As flu season approaches, our school nurse, Michelle Peirce, wanted to let school parents know what to expect and what can be done to minimize its impact on their children – she has provided some helpful information about the flu, courtesy of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

### What is the flu?

Influenza (the flu) is an infection of the nose, throat and lungs caused by influenza viruses that are constantly changing. Flu cases can vary from mild to severe, with the flu being especially dangerous for young children and children of any age who have certain long-term health conditions. The flu is primarily spread by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk that land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby.

Flu symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffed nose, body aches, chills, and fatigue. If your child has the flu, you should keep your child at home to avoid giving the flu to other children or caregivers.

### How can I protect my child against the flu?

The first and most important step you can take is to get flu vaccine for your child, yourself, and every other member of your household every year. Get the vaccine as soon as it is available.

- Vaccination is recommended for anyone 6 months or older.
- Everyone caring for infants under 6 months of age should be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Everyone who is around small children (parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers) needs to get vaccinated.

There are two kinds of flu vaccine – inactivated (killed) flu vaccine, the “flu shot,” is given by injection with a needle while live, attenuated (weakened) flu vaccine is sprayed into the nostrils. The kind of flu vaccine your child receives depends on their age and health. And while no vaccine is guaranteed to be 100% effective, influenza vaccine is the best protection against getting the flu.

### Are there any risks from flu vaccine?

Vaccine reactions, if they occur, are usually mild and can include soreness, redness and swelling where the shot is given, or a runny nose after getting the nasal spray. Some people have also experienced fever, body aches, headache and fatigue. These reactions usually begin soon after the vaccine is given and can last 1-2 days.

A vaccine, like any medicine, could possibly cause more serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. However, the risk of a vaccine causing serious harm is extremely small.

### What else can I do to protect my child?

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then immediately discard after use.
- Stay away from other people who are sick.
- Wash your hands (and those of your child) as often as possible.
- Contact your healthcare provider if your child does get sick. The younger they are, the more serious the impact could be.

**One last thing to remember: people who get flu vaccine are much less likely to get the flu than those who don't get vaccinated, and, if vaccinated people get sick with the flu, their illness is simply not as severe.**

---





*Josh Doktor, Behavior Specialist*

## Meet Our League School Employees of the Month: For September - Josh Doktor

Josh Doktor, Behavior Specialist is the League School's Employee of the month for September. According to Jean Leahy, "Josh is excellent with our students. He is extremely likeable, great team player and very protective. He is always willing to pitch in and help." Congratulations Josh!

## For October - Lisa Lanzoni

For October, the League School's employee of the month is Lisa Lanzoni, Head Teacher. "The students love Lisa," praised Jean Leahy. "One student said, she jokes with me, another said she draws with me, another said she is always nice to me and smiling, another said she is the best teacher and another said she has taught me so much." She is fantastic with the students, amazing with schedules, is a tireless worker, dedicated, stays late at work and has a lot of positive energy, added Jean Leahy. Nice Going Lisa.



*Lisa Lanzoni, Head Teacher, Room 311*

## League School's Development Fund Campaign, "A Gift for Our Children's Future," Celebrates a Number of Noteworthy Milestones

The League School of Greater Boston's Development Fund is officially up and running. Approximately \$200,000 has been received to date in cash and pledge contributions. In addition to these monetary contributions, several key events have also occurred.

Specifically, the school received 100% participation from its staff. In addition, parents of a current student made a lead gift in the current parent gifts division of \$15,000. "I am very pleased with the success of the campaign to date," said Dr. Frank Gagliardi, League School's Executive Director. "As we continue to seek gifts from those closest to us, it is very important that we receive as much early support so we can leverage future gifts from corporations and foundations in the greater Boston area and beyond." So far, current parents, board and staff members have been asked to contribute. Also, some of the school's vendors have made nice gifts as well.

The initial phase of our project entails constructing our new residence/living center building on the back side of our parking lot area. Construction on this portion of the project is expected to begin sometime this month.



*Here is an artist's rendering of the new residence/living center that will be built on the League School campus.*

In other building program news, the school will be holding a Ribbon Cutting Groundbreaking Ceremony in the next few weeks.

The ceremony will be held around midday, will include a combination of school personnel and local dignitaries, and will be followed by a brief reception in the school auditorium. Check the school's website in the weeks ahead for more definitive information about the time and date of this celebration. Any parent or friend of the school is welcome to attend - we simply ask that you let us know of your plans in advance by calling us at 1-508-850-3900, X535 so that we can plan accordingly.



Anyone wishing to make a gift or seeking more information about our major development fund or the school may contact the school's development office at 1-508-850-3900, X535. "Thank you" to all of those who have already made a gift to the campaign and "Thanks in Advance" to all of you planning to make a gift in the future.



Members of League School's Walk Now for Autism Speaks Team included: (L-R) Stephanie Martineau, Jen Poitras, Catherine Petringa, and Sarah Conley.

## League School Is One of the Leading Fundraising Groups to Participate in *Walk Now for Autism Speaks*

On Sunday, October 6th, the team of walkers from League School joined thousands of other supporters in Boston's Annual Walk Now for Autism Speaks. Held at soggy Suffolk Downs in East Boston as it has been in years past, the inclement weather did not dampen the spirits of the school's many participants.

Walk Now for Autism Speaks is the nation's largest grassroots autism walk program - it is also the organization's signature fundraising and awareness event. Taking place in cities and communities across the United States and Canada, it is powered by volunteers and families with loved ones on the autism spectrum and local businesses and companies that employ those on the spectrum.

The walk not only generates vital funds for autism research but also raises awareness about the increasing prevalence of autism and the need for increased research funding to combat this complex disorder.

League School of Greater Boston had 28 participants in the walk including staff members, students, families, and friends. The financial commitments that the team procured enabled them to be invited to Team Village, a special onsite area reserved for those teams raising the most monies.

This year, the team raised almost \$ 8,200.00, placing it among the top fifteen fundraising teams. We are proud to announce that the school surpassed both its member recruitment and fundraising goals - congratulations to team captain, Patrick Fuller, for spearheading such a triumphant campaign.

Finally, if you'd be interested in adding to the team's total money raised or joining the team, go to [www.walkforautismspeaks.org](http://www.walkforautismspeaks.org) and enter "League School" in the team name search and you will be taken to our team page. Any additional support that you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

---

## Did You Know...Fast Facts You Might Find Interesting

- Parents whose autistic children are turning 22 and aging out of the public school system – face an uncertain future as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts struggles to care for a population that is booming at a record pace.
- There are 13,228 autistic children in Bay State public schools – more than triple a decade ago, according to the latest Department of Education statistics.
- Wait lists are 10-15 years long for a spot in a Massachusetts–run group home.
- Nationally, one in 88 children is diagnosed as born with autism – up from one in 150 a decade ago, according to Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

### Upcoming Events at League School:

- Workshop - Saturday, October 26th, 9-11 - *Fostering Independence in Home and Community Settings: Using High and Low Tech Strategies*
- Thursday, November 7th - Open House at the school at 1:30

Please check the school calendar on the school website, [leagueschool.com](http://leagueschool.com), for the latest announcements about upcoming events at the school.