



League School's Executive Director, Dr. Frank Gagliardi, and its Chairman of the Board, Roger Lockwood, listen as Congressman Lynch delivers his engaging speech.

## Congressman Stephen Lynch Speaks at League School's Groundbreaking Ceremony for its \$10M Building Program

Congressman Stephen Lynch was the guest speaker at League School of Boston's Groundbreaking Ceremony that kicked off its \$10M Building Program, *A Gift for Our Children's Future*, early last month on the school grounds in Walpole. Senator Lynch, Walpole town officials, both current and past members of League School of Greater Boston's Board of Directors, and honored guests (including the school's founders, Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Vetstein) gathered in the school's gym to mark the occasion.

The ceremony, which was emceed by League School's current Board Chairman, Roger Lockwood, featured comments from Executive Director, Dr. Frank Gagliardi as well as the Congressman's speech. The Groundbreaking marked the ceremonial beginning of a \$10 million enhancement project for the school since the construction of a new, 4,500 square foot residence hall just up the hill had already begun. It will also include a 20,000 square-foot addition to its main building. The addition will provide the school with much-needed additional classroom and office space including tutorial rooms, a computer center, a library along with expanded space for music and art while the new residence hall will enable League School to consolidate all of its individual living/learning center activities into one location.



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(L-R): Nancy Herschfield (Former League School Board Member and daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Vetstein); Dr. Arnold Vetstein (League School founder); Mrs. Leona Vetstein (League School founder); Congressman Stephen Lynch; Dr. Frank Gagliardi (League School Executive Director); Roger Lockwood (Chairman, League School Board of Directors)



An example of the "Soldier Cards" created by League School students and sent to veterans.

## League School Students Connect With Veterans

Recently, Class 215 at the League School of Greater Boston sent soldier cards they made personally in class to the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Providence and West Roxbury. "Our students were very happy to create their soldier cards as a way to say thank you to some of our veterans," praised League School head teacher Carla Dyer. "Stephanie Martineau, one of our teachers, came up with the great idea," added Carla.

In a thank you letter from the VA Medical Center dated Dec. 21, 2013, one of our students, received the following :

*Please accept my sincere thanks for the "Soldier" you made and sent to the medical center recently. Your creation was given to a Veteran patient, who liked it very much. Our patients are very happy to receive gifts and notes from young people and are very appreciative when someone remembers and goes out of their way for them .*

*Your friendly gesture means a lot to our Veterans; it acknowledges their service and commitment to keep our Nation free. We are most grateful.*

*Sincerely,*

*Donna Russillo, Chief, Voluntary Service*

Congratulations to both students and staff for a job well done.

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## League School Students Celebrate Thanksgiving With a Delicious Feast

The League School Thanksgiving Feast was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 in the school auditorium. As always, it was an awesome event! All the students in the Foundations and Content Learning-Life Skills program participated, and this year, Room 203 from Pathfinders joined the group.

Students from classroom 217 set the tables with utensils and colorful placemats made in art class. Each classroom brought a food to the buffet table. The students were offered foods from a traditional Thanksgiving dinner; turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, rolls, cornbread and dessert. Some students used their iPads or visual icons to select their foods. The students ate at tables with their classmates and teachers. Once students finished eating, they had an opportunity to play "Pin the Feather on the Turkey."





Anne Marie Guarracino, Teacher

## Meet Our League School Employees of the Month: For November - Anne Marie Guarracino

Anne Marie has worked at League School for over four years. "She is always smiling, always willing to assist the kids and staff and go the extra mile," praised school principal, Jean Leahy. "She is an exceptional worker and is always on time." She is very well regarded by her co-workers. She likes to participate in road races and is serving on the committee for the League School of Greater Boston 5K Road Race and 1 Mile Walk to be held in April.

## For December - Lubna Tirmizey

For December, the League School's employee of the month is Lubna Tirmizey. Lubna is a teacher in the Hawks Nest – the school store. According to Jean Leahy, "Lubna is respected and loved by all the students. She does a great job and is always pleasant and professional."



Lubna Tirmizey, Teacher, Hawk's Nest

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

- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism

## One Quick Request

Please feel free to pass along this newsletter to family and friends. If you would like to add someone, like parents or a relative or business associate to our email list, please pass it along and we will be glad to include them.

Also, our campaign brochure is available on our website to pass along to people as well. Just click on the "Contribute" link in the upper right hand corner on our homepage to access the campaign brochure. Thank you for your attention and support.



## League School Students Will Be Appearing on NESN's Kids Talk Program This Spring

NESN producers paid League School a visit late last year and had our students pose questions for Red Sox and Bruins players for their *Kids Talk* program that appears before games that the station broadcasts. Our students loved the opportunity and asked some tough questions. Please check our website and future editions of UPDATE for the specific time and date that they will be appearing on the show.





### 1st Annual 5K Road/1 Mile Walk Race

## Circle This Date on Your Calendar - Saturday, April 19th - That is the Date of the First Annual League School of Greater Boston 5K Road/1 Mile Walk Race

A group of League School staffers and parents committee is busy at work planning for the school's first 5K joint Road Race and Walk to benefit the school. It will be held in Walpole on the Boston Marathon weekend (on the Saturday before the big race) on April 19th at the Old Post Elementary School in Walpole. It is more of a friendraiser than a fundraiser but all staffers, students, parents, past parents, families, friends and community members in our area are invited to participate.

Members of the race committee include the following staffers and parents: Anne-Marie Guarracino, Lisa Lanzoni, Lindsay Wagner, Meghan O'Regan, Paul Oricchio, Krista Swiader and parents Ha Nguyen and Deb Wolforth.

Anyone wishing to participate in the race can contact anyone on the committee. Please feel free to fill out the form below to register either as a sponsor or as a race participant. Anyone who wants to work on this special event to benefit our children's special activity fund can contact us at the school. And keep checking our website and this newsletter in the months ahead for additional information about this very special event.

#### Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsor the Run/Walk and help us raise money and foster good will during this community event. This event will enable us to enhance our non-profit organization's work providing for the needs of children with Autism. The League School has been providing for children and youth up to the age of 22, for almost 50 years.

We hope you will partner with us in making a gift or taking a sponsorship. We have the following levels of sponsorship:

**Gold Sponsor - \$5000**

**Silver Sponsor - \$2500**

**Bronze Sponsor - \$1000**

As a sponsor, you will receive:

- Special recognition on all race promotional materials
- Signage on the day of the race
- Acknowledgement on the day of the race

We are pleased to announce that we already have one bronze sponsor committed to our effort - J.M. Electrical of Lynnfield, MA - thanks for their support.

Your gift, in any amount, is warmly appreciated.

Please complete the form below and return it to League School.

-----REGISTRATION FORM-----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Please register me as a Racer.

( ) Please register me as a Sponsor. Level: \_\_\_\_\_

### Upcoming Events at League School:

- Thursday, February 6th - Open House
- Saturday, April 19th - 1st Annual League School Walk/Run for Autism at the Old Post Elementary School in Walpole

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