

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



League School students both package and deliver meals as part of HESSCO’s Meals on Wheels program.

### League School Students Provide for Others By Participating in the Meals on Wheels Program

For the past three and a half years, League School students have been an integral part of the local Meals on Wheels program run by HESSCO Elder Services of Walpole. The League School of Greater Boston serves 60 meals a day to senior citizens in Norwood, Walpole and Sharon, according to Ms. Jayne Davis, HESSCO’s Nutrition Program Director.

Since the program was initiated in January of 2010, 39 League School students have participated, with two more scheduled to start helping out this month. Benefiting from the attentive guidance of Maureen Pratt, the students’ efforts cover 7 different delivery routes each week.



Each week, students handle a variety of duties associated with the program. They help heat seal meals, divide food between different courses, and ultimately, deliver the food to the recipients, whether to various apartments in a single housing complex or to different houses on a street.

According to League School Job Coach, Christine Desaulniers, both the students working in the program and the adults they serve benefit immeasurably from it. Students have a written script (developed by the teachers at League School) which they follow to ensure that the interactions are both cordial and engaging.

The students get an opportunity to practice their social skills while the adults are always greeted by a smiling face and a kind word. For some of homebound recipients, the smiling face of the student delivering their lunch or dinner might be the only face they see that day.

Those participating in the program love what they are doing. Johnathan, who’s been working in the program for over a year, proudly stated “it brings a smile to my face and to theirs whenever I deliver a meal. I love meeting new people, but I especially like seeing old friends to whom I have brought food before.” James shared a similar reflection – “I have been helping out for almost a year and a half and I love helping people each day. These elderly people really appreciate the good food we bring to them as well as being asked how their days are going.”

“Volunteers are an essential part of the Nutrition Program,” added Ms. Davis. “The League students are phenomenal. Our senior citizens love to see them and interact with them - they always have a smile on their faces. We are grateful for our relationship with the League School of Greater Boston.”

A warm meal, a few kind words and a smiling face – these are the simple and much-appreciated gifts that elderly members of Walpole and the surrounding communities receive each week from the caring students of League School – we salute your dedication and fine work.

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## Highlights from Summer Fun Day at League School

Earlier this month, League School held its annual Summer Fun day. It was a wonderful day for students and their families, staff, and friends of League School. The weather cooperated and everyone was able to enjoy a day filled with good food, good friends, and fun.

The theme of the day was Camp League School. There was an opening ceremony for the students and family members and the staff tried to simulate a camp feel. Everyone sat around a mock camp fire while several students got up in front of everyone and did comedy routines and then everyone watched a slideshow featuring pictures of the students.

There was a tent and a canoe for staff, students and families. Students had their pictures taken - the pictures will fit into a frame the students made with a teacher on Summer Fun Day at the craft station. The students also made bead necklaces. There was face painting, 2 ponies, a dunk tank, camp games with the gym teacher, and an inside obstacle course in the gym. The day's menu included hot dogs, popcorn, slushies and Ice cream. A police car, fire truck and ambulance were also on the grounds for the kids to explore. There was even a guitar hero/xbox video game tournament.

Thanks to all who planned and participated in this very special event. And a special thanks to teacher Catherine Petringa who put together the wonderful slideshow highlighting our students, staff and school. Nice going Catherine!





## Meet Our League School Employee of the Month For August - Jim Connolly

Jim Connolly, an RN at League School, was named the School's Employee of the Month for August. Jean Leahy, League School's Principal, praised Jim, stating "Jim is a very hard worker and very dedicated to our program."

Jim's job is a diverse one - one minute he can be doing first aid and then the next, he could be teaching First Aid and CPR to the staff. Pairing with Michelle Peirce, RN, Jim is very happy to be working at the League School. "I am very proud to be working at the school because it engages in a number of activities and employs technology that benefit the students," said Jim. "I have been to other schools like the League School and nothing can compare."

Jim also proudly points out that the League School of Greater Boston is a Heart Safe Facility. "Over the years I have done a lot of work with the American Heart Association and take special pride in the fact that our school meets their standards to be a Heart Safe Facility. Thanks Jim you are doing a great job for us!



## Reflections from a Grateful Parent

Dear League School Faculty, Administration, Staff, Parents & Students:


As my son graduates, I have been overcome with many feelings and emotions. Pride that he has accomplished so much and has become such a delightful young man; Hope that he will lead a productive, successful and most importantly, a happy life; Excitement about exploring new paths, and finally, Sadness for there are so many people who will no longer be a daily part of our lives. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the League School and all of the wonderful people who are part of it.

Eight years ago, my son entered the school as a frightened adolescent who had struggled terribly through Junior High – academically, socially, and emotionally. As his mother, I had experienced similar struggles – the thought of my son entering High School and continuing on a similar path was unbearable for us both. I visited every program our school district offered and even spent a day at the high school myself making a list of everything from bells to buses that might cause a problem for my son. I was feeling more and more despondent, more and more hopeless...until I found the League School.

I visited the school and class in which my son would be placed, and to my amazement, found out that there were other students just like my son – but these students seemed at ease and comfortable – and suddenly, I was, too. I had found a place where my son could fit in and no longer have to be afraid, perhaps even learn. I threw all I had been told about the benefits of inclusion, followed my gut, and enrolled my son in the League School – it was the best decision I have ever made in my life.

My son's years at League School have represented an incredible journey, filled with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. And now, as my son graduates from League School with a diploma and the knowledge to back it up, he also possesses self-confidence and countless friends – he is a genuinely happy young man. He has all of the attributes that can make a person successful, and the League School has made it all possible.

Sincerely,  
A Grateful Mom



**LEAGUESCHOOL**  
OF GREATER BOSTON  
SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE CHILD WITH AUTISM

**A Gift for Our Children's Future**

**DEVELOPMENT FUND  
PLEDGE CARD**

**League School of Greater Boston**  
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## A Gift for Our Children's Future, League School's Development Campaign, Continues Rolling Along

We are happy to report that we have received 100% participation from all of our employees in the League School of Greater Boston Development Fund. "We are very pleased that our staff members have demonstrated how important our upcoming 25,000 square foot building and program enhancements are to them and all of us," praised Dr. Frank Gagliardi, League School's Executive Director.

Our current parents are now being asked to do their part for our exciting project. All parents have received a letter from our co-chairpersons of the Parent Gifts Division, Ms. Ha Nguyen and Ms. Philippa Keane asking for a pledge to our effort. All of the parents have received a copy of our campaign brochure as well. Our brochure offers all of the particulars about our building program and our fund raising effort. Answers to any questions you may have can be found in the brochure. Anyone who has any other questions may contact the school's development office at 508-850-3900, extension 535. Thank you for your attention and support.

Finally, we are also in the early stages of our campaign to solicit local companies with whom the school does business for their financial support. To date, the response has been gratifying - in the months ahead, we will keep you updated on which organizations have also pledged their financial support to this wonderful effort.

### Upcoming Events at League School:

- Thursday, September 5th - 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.

## A Salute to League School's Landscape Artist

One of the most attractive aspects of the League School's physical plant is the magnificent job that Duke does in preparing the grounds around the school. With colorful blossoms accenting every area, it's always a pleasure to visit the school. Thank you, Duke, for your attention to detail and devotion to making our school always look good. And thanks to Mike Sullivan, our Facilities Manager, for his fine work as well.

