



League School founder, Dr. Arnold Vetstein, addresses the attendees at last month's fundraiser hosted by Lorraine and Chris Bacos.



League School Board members, Roger Lockwood and Dennis Kunian, enjoy a moment together at the fundraiser.

Our Thanks to Lorraine and Chris Bacos for Hosting a Very Successful Fundraiser for League School in Lowell in Early December

On Sunday night, December 7th, League School of Greater Boston held a fundraiser at La Boniche Restaurant on Merrimack Street in Lowell.. Hosted by Lorraine and Chris Bacos, *A Gathering of Friends* provided supporters of the school an opportunity to get together, enjoy excellent food, and hear about the school's history, its current offerings, and its ongoing development campaign, *A Gift for Our Children's Future*.

Speakers at the function included the school's founder, Dr. Arnold Vetstein, the school's Chairman of its Board of Directors, Roger Lockwood, its Executive Director, Dr. Frank Gagliardi, and Cha-Cha Francois, a League School student who was featured earlier this year on a segment on Channel 5's *Chronicle*.

Dr. Vetstein shared a poignant tale about his reasons for founding the school and the ultimate fruits of his efforts, a son on the autism spectrum who is currently leading an independent life, while Cha-Cha talked about how much the school had prepared him to succeed in life by providing him with exceptional vocational training.

Along with stimulating conversation, those in attendance enjoyed a delectable array of the restaurant's finest hors d'oeuvres and main dishes accompanied by a variety of fine wines. Thanks to all who attended and especially to the Bacos' for arranging this wonderful evening and raising over \$16,000.00, making this the most successful fundraiser in League School history.



League School's ChaCha Francois, is flanked by his mother and Donna Griffin at the recent League School fundraiser held in Lowell.

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“Loose Change to Change Lives” Is Another Fundraising Initiative to Be Held by League School

This March, League School of Greater Boston will be holding a different kind of month-long fundraiser - called “Loose Change to Change Lives,” the school will be encouraging its staff, students, family members and friends to set aside the loose change they accumulate during each day during March, and at month's end, bring it in to the school and see what we have been able to raise. It is as much a “funraiser” as it is a “fundraiser.” Invite anyone you know to participate - let's see how much we can raise on the school's behalf.





League School Families Attend a Boston Celtics Basketball Game Courtesy of the Highland Street Foundation's Highland Hoops Program

League School students and staff members attended a Boston Celtics basketball game against the Orlando Magic on Wednesday, December 17th thanks to the Highland Hoops program. Designed to allow participants of any means to enjoy the full experience of one of Boston's greatest treasures, Highland Street's generous program donated tickets to the game along with food vouchers and other items - it was a wonderful evening for all those families who were lucky enough to win tickets that were raffled off at the school the week of the game. Thanks to Highland Street Foundation for this generous donation.



Circle This Date on Your Calendar - Saturday, April 11th - That is When the 2nd Annual League School of Greater Boston 5K Road/1 Mile Walk Race Will Be Held

Once again, a group of League School staffers and parents committee is busy at work planning for the school's second annual 5K joint Road Race and Walk to benefit the school. It will be held in Walpole on April 11th at the Old Post Elementary School in Walpole. Like last year, 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.

This year's race committee members include: Krista Swiader, Lisa Lanzoni, Lindsay Wagner, Anne-Marie Guarracino and Stephanie Martineau.

This year, to simplify registering for the race, anyone interested in participating just has to go to this website to register: <https://g2racereg.webconnex.com/league5k2015>.

Anyone who wants to work on this special event to benefit our children's special activity fund can contact us at the school. 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

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Lindsay Wagner at League School via e-mail at lwagner@leagueschool.com.



Nicole Geromini - Teacher - Classroom 131

Meet Our League School Employees of the Month: For December - Nicole Geromini

Nicole Geromini is a teacher in classroom 131 of the F/CTLS program. Nicole is a dedicated and hardworking professional who always goes the extra mile to assist students and staff throughout the school. Nicole is a repeat Employee of the Month. She was faced with an unexpected event and acted calmly and professionally. She averted a frightening situation for one of the students and was very humble when thanked by the student's parents and her colleagues. We are very fortunate to have Nicole at the League School.



Peter Ciancarelli, Teacher - Classroom 155

For January - Peter Ciancarelli

Peter is a teacher in classroom 155 of the Transition program. His colleagues describe Peter as the "nicest, kindest and most helpful staff member." Peter goes above and beyond his job requirements to insure that students have what they need to be successful. Students respond positively to Peter's warm, caring way. He comes to work every day and makes League a great place to be for all he encounters. Way to go, Peter!

What Teaching at League School Means to Me

Here is the third in a series of articles in which a League School staff member shares with us some reflections on what it means to teach at League School of Greater Boston. As we have stated before, our goal is to enable our readers to better understand the special opportunities that both students and teachers alike enjoy by being a part of the League School family. Here is one such reflection from Sheryl Coate, Head Teacher in Room 221:

Teaching at League School has meant being part of a team that wants to see students succeed. The collaboration of efforts and ideas focused on meeting the needs of individual students makes teaching here very fulfilling. After teaching at a variety of schools the unique atmosphere at League School is the most supportive, creative, and effective setting I have had the privilege to work in.

Teaching at League School has also taught me to celebrate the small steps that my students take each day. The joy students (and families) experience in the day-to-day "baby steps" toward larger goals is a source of encouragement for the classroom staff. Some of the things we have celebrated recently are:

- *The tears of joy when a parent learned that her child was getting his first outside internship -- she had been told when he was young not to expect accomplishments at this level.*
- *The "all star" day for students who struggle with regulating their behavior during the day*
- *The accomplishment of a skill that has been worked on for months*
- *The student who sits in their seat and participates in a lesson for the first time*
- *The student who surprises us with a very appropriate social response*
- *The humor of a student expressed in a joke*
- *The student who takes an escalator for the first time without physical support*
- *The student proudly showing off their data sheet to show their own progress in an area*



Sheryl Coate,
Head Teacher, Room 221

The list could go on and on. When I take the time to celebrate the small stepping stones that make up the path of a student's journey here at League School, I can't help but leave work with a smile on my face each day.

Upcoming Events at League School:

- Saturday, April 11th - 2nd Annual League School 5K Road Race and 1 Mile Walk

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

League School Launching a Redesigned Website

In February, League School will be launching a redesigned website that will feature a number of new elements. They will include:

- A special section on the homepage that will alert parents to upcoming events that will be taking place at the school.
- Another area on the homepage that will provide information about the latest development efforts at the school.
- A school blog that will feature articles and comments from staff members about special school programs and educational advancements.
- Archives of past newsletters and blog posts so that you can easily search for information you might have missed.
- An updated photo gallery featuring new images of students at the school and our new facilities.

Please be sure to check it out in the weeks ahead and let us know what you think. The program in which it will be created will allow us to easily make changes and additions to the site, so if you think that it's missing something, let us know. Thanks in advance for your time and consideration and input.



Museum of Fine Arts Sponsors a Special Art Appreciation Program at League School

On January 20th, The Museum of Fine Arts presented an Outreach Program to more than 60 League School students in the auditorium. The program is designed to help students find a deeper connection with art using a high-quality slide presentation and discussion format, followed by a hands-on art activity.

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) were used in the discussion portion to elicit students' responses. VTS is a research-based method linked to deeper cross-curriculum learning experiences, and is particularly compatible with state Common Core standards.

The one hour program focused on "The Art of Europe" with works from the permanent collection by Millet, Degas, Monet, Renoir, Signac and Van Gogh, outlining how art changed over the years. Students were attentive and responded with insightful comments. For the activity, they chose one of three works of art and followed directions to complete their interpretation of the painting.

A visit to the Museum will be planned as follow-up so that students may see the real paintings.

