



## Arts, athletics, tech, cooking, nature & more provide student enrichment



Recovery High students and staff will take the stage at the Boch Center - Wang Theatre in Boston this Thursday, May 25th in the 2017 Express Yourself performance SOUL. They will perform a samba number with Afro-Brazilian musician Marcus Santos (above) and Cammie Griffin of the STOMP! International Tour. Showtime is 7 pm and tickets are free; email [info@exyo.org](mailto:info@exyo.org). To ride the RHS bus, which will leave 112 Sohier Road, Beverly at 5 pm, RSVP to Christine Cattoggio at [ccattoggio@nsedu.org](mailto:ccattoggio@nsedu.org).

### Message from Executive Director Fran Rosenberg

The Consortium's mission is to prepare all of our students for the best possible outcomes in their adult lives, whether that be college, career and/or maximum independence. In order to live happy, healthy and satisfying lives, our students need a rich, vibrant and up-to-date academic curriculum, as well as an array of activities to enable them to experience music, art, dance, drama, athletics, outdoor exploration and community involvement.

Thanks to the support of our member districts, healthy enrollment in all of our schools and programs, and some extra support through grants and fundraising, our financial position is stronger than it has been in years. This enables us to put energy into moving from "good to great" by expanding our use of

## Graduations



*Congratulations to the many students who will be graduating from the Consortium's schools next month. Here's a list of the graduation ceremonies.*

### Northshore Academy Upper

**School:** Tuesday, June 6th, 6:00 pm at NSAU, 126 Sohier Road, Beverly. 20 students will be graduating.

### Northshore Recovery High

**School:** Wednesday, June 7th, 6:00 pm at Second Congregational Church, 35 Conant Street, Beverly. 14 students will be graduating.

**Embark and SOAR:** Friday, June 16th, 10:00 am at the Enterprise Center, Salem State University, 121 Loring Avenue, Salem. Nine students will be graduating.

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## Making gifts for Mom

technology, upgrading our curriculum and enrichment programs, and providing professional development so that all of our staff are up to date on best practices to help students meet their full potential.

Students have been very excited and motivated by the increased use of Chromebooks in our Northshore Academy and Recovery High School classrooms. Many teachers are taking advantage of outstanding on-line resources for education in a wide range of curriculum areas. At the Kevin O'Grady School (KOG) the focus has been on updating technology for communication.



Students in Erin Himmel's class at the [Kevin O'Grady School](#) crafted beautiful hand decorated pillows for their moms for Mother's Day.

"We went shopping and they picked the fabric color for the back of the pillow," Erin said. "Students picked the statement they wanted me to write and we ironed it with their photo onto white fabric for the front of the pillow. Students helped sew the fabric together and then we had a second shopping trip to buy the pillow forms to put in the pillows. It was a wonderful experience with them!"

Students used a sewing machine with a Powerlink connected to a foot pedal, which was loaned to the class by the speech department. Students used the foot pedal to turn the sewing machine on and off as they assisted the teacher. The teacher's foot pedal controlled the speed of the sewing machine.



*Our friends from the People's United Bank Community Foundation of Eastern Mass came by to present a big check, big as in \$10,000! This generous grant will allow us to purchase 50 Chromebooks for high school students at North Shore Academy and Recovery High School. L-R: NSAU teacher Eric Aldrich, Peoples Massachusetts President Patrick Sullivan, Consortium Executive Director Fran Rosenberg and People's Bank Vice President Jack Good, III.*

*(Message continued from above.)* In many special education settings, music and art are the first things to be eliminated when budgets get tight. At the Consortium, we have made every effort to find creative ways to keep music and art in the curriculum.

We were selected by Young Audiences of Massachusetts to receive a grant through their Healing Arts Program. This has enabled us to bring some wonderful music and art experiences to KOG students, including the Bamidele Drummers and Dancers, Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band and a five week Dance Residency called Dancing Bodies, Dancing Minds, run by a dance therapist.



*The Bamidele Drummers and Dancers performed for Kevin O'Grady School students through a grant from Young Audiences of Massachusetts.*

*(Message continued from above.)* At Northshore Academy, students have the opportunity to participate in a range of art, music and drama experiences. Upper Academy students can participate in outdoor exploration, culinary arts and intramural sports as part of a fabulous enrichment program. The Wolverines Basketball Team brought home a first place trophy after participating in a tournament at UMASS Lowell. We are so proud of their teamwork and sportsmanship!

Recovery High School students submitted their poems to several contests. They won five of the 13 awards given to high schoolers in the Beverly Public Library's Teen Poetry Contest. Ashley Freda won third place.

Our transition students in the SOAR and Embark programs access the arts through Raw Arts of Lynn.

As you can see, our students have been busy with a wide range of enrichment activities! We hope that you enjoy the spring flowers and, as always, thank you for your support. - Fran



The [Northshore Academy Upper School](#) hosted its 8th annual Soup-er-Bowl, which featured more than 20 kinds of soup, chowdah and chili whipped up by students, staff, the culinary class, families and local restaurants.

Chef Paul made a fantastic Thai pumpkin soup and Robbie (below) made a spicy "Death Chili" - his own name for it! Members of the Student Leadership Team served.

The Soup-er-Bowl usually coincides with the NFL Super Bowl, but snow storms delayed the event to the first week of spring!



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## Embark collaboration

The [Embark](#) program has been collaborating on cooking projects with clients of Bass River on Bridge Street in Salem. Bass River serves adults who are



*Northshore Academy Upper School students went on several overnight hikes this year, and more are planned for June, thanks to a grant from Cell Signaling Technologies to support the Outdoor Adventures program. Here's the group that went to the White Mountains, posing with Mount Washington behind them after snowshoeing to Lost Pond near Pinkham Notch.*



*Rainbow Dance is another fun movement and music activity at the Kevin O'Grady School, run by KOG Social Worker Alison Dudley (pictured back middle). Here is Raul, enjoying a ride on the parachute while everyone sings to him.*

developmentally disabled.

The cooking collaboration has increased social and skill building opportunities for students and Bass River clients report that it's "the Best Day of the Week" when Embark students visit. The students have enjoyed learning new recipes and making social connections.



Bass River's mission is to support and advocate for adults who are developmentally challenged; assist them in achieving their fullest potential; enable them to improve and enrich the quality of their lives; provide exceptional services that are responsive to individual needs and are based upon respect for each person; and enhance their skills so that they may become productive members of society.

## **RHS students win poetry awards**





*Music therapy students at the Berklee College of Music have been interning at KOG. They visit Michelle Legere and Jenny Baylor's classrooms each week to provide Music and Movement classes for medically fragile students.*

## **New sensory equipment offers choices**



*KOG occupational therapist Joanne Lavalley watches as a student jumps and somersaults in the new acrobat swing in the OT sensory room.*

Some students need extra sensory input to help them get ready to learn. Various kinds of visual, auditory and tactile stimulation can help to calm their minds and bodies, and organize their thoughts, according to Occupational Therapy (OT) Program Director Kathy MacWhinney at the Kevin O'Grady School.

KOG has a special OT sensory room and, thanks to a generous gift from the Cummings Foundation, students have a lot of new equipment to enjoy when they work with therapists.

## [Recovery High School](#)

student Ashley Freda won third place in the Beverly Public Library's Teen Poetry Contest for her poem "Ashley October 25." Four other RHS students won Honorable Mentions for their poems.

## **Flutie Foundation awards grant to KOG**

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Kevin O'Grady School through the Allison Keller Education Technology grant cycle.

Thanks to the grant, the Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) Department has purchased iPads, assistive communication apps and various accessories. SLP therapists are using the assistive communication technology with students with autism.

## **Golf Tourney to benefit Consortium**

Longtime corporate supporter Lincoln Investment is hosting its first invitational golf tournament and proceeds will benefit the Northshore Education Consortium.



Those who crave movement can self-propel by pushing and pulling on the gliders, swings and flexion disc. Students who seek calm can use the equipment passively, with pushing coming from the therapist, or they can rest on the mats.

"We wanted to have the kids do more flexion, more holding on," Kathy said in reference to the linear and bolster gliders. "The nice forward and backward movement of the gliders is grounding and centering. They also have handles to hold onto and do pushing and pulling, which provides resistance and gives deep input to the muscles and joints."

By using a variety of equipment, students can strengthen their core, gain awareness of their bodies in space to increase balance and coordination, use both sides of their bodies, improve visual attention by reaching and increase their attention span, explained Kathy.

"With all of this new equipment, we are able to give students choices, variety and help them learn through new challenges."



*Rocking the new tube swing (above) and linear glider (below).*



*Graham Bachellor, David DeCesare, Brad Smith and Evelyn Marquis of Lincoln Investment in Beverly.*

The tournament will take place on Monday, July 31st at the prestigious Atkinson Country Club in Atkinson, NH. There will be cash prizes for first, second and third place, a silent auction, social hour and awards dinner.

For more info about registration, sponsorships or to make a donation, click [GOLF TOURNEY](#).

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Please consider making a gift to support our work with students with special needs from throughout the North Shore.

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Thank you.

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Newsletter Edited by Deborah Gardner Walker