

## Summer Fun at the Consortium



*Embark students enjoyed hiking at Misery Island.*

### Message from Executive Director Fran Rosenberg

It's been a great summer here at the Northshore Education Consortium. Children with disabilities and those struggling with mental health challenges are often lonely and may miss out on the fun summer activities that their typically developing siblings and peers enjoy. Our summer programs fill those gaps by providing students with lots of opportunities for socializing, taking field trips, and playing outdoors. Through sports, crafts, and community outings, students are building their social and communication skills, as well as practicing and enhancing skills for academic success. Wishing you all a wonderful end of summer as we prepare to begin the new school year. -- Fran

### IN BRIEF

## Swimming, kayaking & more

### Successful golf tourney



Our good friends Lincoln Investment held a golf tournament to benefit the Consortium this summer and netted over \$17,000 for our programs. Above: Executive Director Fran Rosenberg and Director of Development Sarah Wadhams-Seiler are all smiles as they ride in a golf cart.

### Beach Day for Voc students







*Recovery High School students enjoyed kayaking.*

[Northshore Recovery High School](#) staff, students and parents/guardians collectively agreed that summer school should be spent finding ways to engage students in opportunities to enhance learning, while also offering students the experience of having fun without the use of mind-altering substances -- "sober fun," as the students often say. Students were able to enjoy kayaking, paddle boarding, canoeing, sailing, yoga and meditation, while also accessing recovery supports both in school and the local community. Students enjoyed the opportunity to learn new ways to add to their recovery "tool-kits." These positive activities helped to build a strong recovery community throughout the summer in preparation for the new school year.



*Northshore Academy Lower School students went swimming twice a week at the Beverly Athletic Club.*

Students at the [Northshore Academy Lower School](#) focused on literacy this summer. They listened to the stories *Popcorn Dragon*, *Duke the Dairy Delight Dog*, *Lady Pancake* and *Sir French Toast* and *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig!*

Students at the Topsfield Vocational Academy, our newest program, enjoyed a day at Crane Beach in Ipswich.



The Voc Academy's culinary students made lasagna, always a big favorite.

## RHS Whale Watch



Recovery High students took to the water for a Whale Watch. They also spent time making art, including pottery as seen below.



## Water Sports





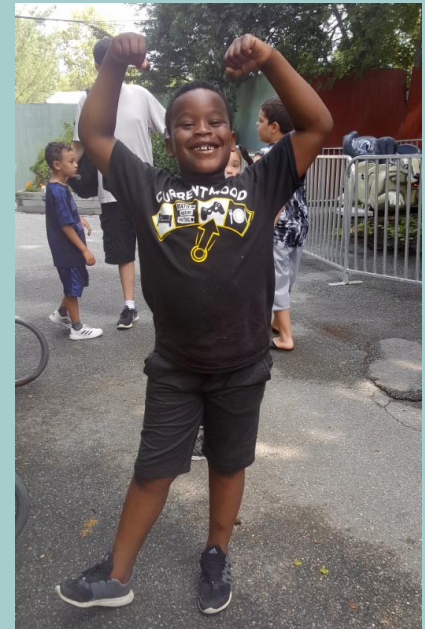
They created fun projects based on each story. They also enjoyed many off-campus trips, including to the Stone Zoo, local beaches, bowling, a movie trip and swimming. During these trips, students were engaged in social/emotional learning and practiced skills such as communication, social engagement, respect for others, impulse control and recognizing strengths in themselves and one another.



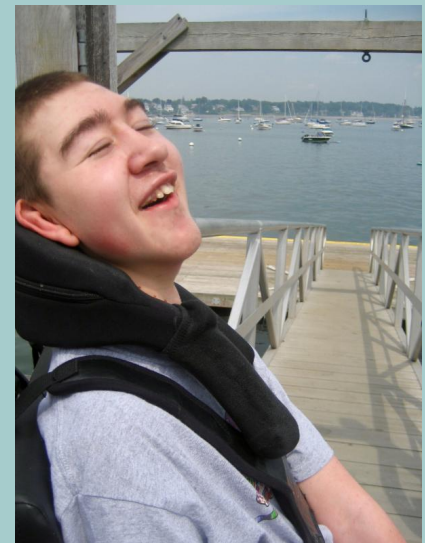
*KOG student Brendin (right) visited Jovan at his home after getting to know him on Skype.*

Jovan is a [Kevin O'Grady School](#) student who is serviced in his home and he does not get many opportunities for socializing with friends. Brendin, a student in Jo Anne Kelly's class, got to know Jovan via Skype. Brendin went to visit Jovan and they learned how much they have in common. Both boys had their 17th birthday within weeks of one another. They share a love of the Patriots and green frogs. They enjoyed watching music videos, especially the fire truck song and Michael Jackson.

Lower Academy students had a blast swimming and going on field trips each week, including to an amusement park as seen below.



### Channeling Moby Dick



Jenny Baylor's class at the Kevin O'Grady School read the whaling adventure story *Moby Dick* this summer and then took a field trip to Salem Willows to experience being by the sea.



*NSAU students created a classic arcade video game player.*

Students at the [Northshore Academy Upper School](#) designed, built and programmed a trio of retro arcade game cabinets this summer. The project involved three phases, each integrating areas of high student interest and incorporating job skills. The first step was to design and build an arcade cabinet. While the art department decorated the exteriors, the arcade team worked on the brains of their systems. They loaded a trio of Raspberry Pi computers with the RetroPie Operating system and loaded them up with classic arcade games, including Super Mario, Donkey Kong and Street Fighter. Once the control panels were decorated, the arcade team began wiring the controls. They created two two-player systems and one four-player system, each individually wired with backlit LED buttons. The final week, students mounted the televisions and applied the final touch ups to the cabinets.

## Teachers go to summer school!

The Consortium offered a number of trainings for teachers, therapists and clinicians this summer.

They also made an outline of a huge whale out of masking tape in the Consortium's parking lot. It was 67 feet long, the size of a typical sperm whale like Moby Dick. Then they all gathered inside the outline and saw how small they were in comparison to the great beast!

## KOG adds new food service vocational opportunity



The Kevin O'Grady vocational program offers students in-school jobs in recycling, supply and delivery, clerical, prime products, the school store, snack shop and janitorial work. Now, the program has added a food service, thanks to a grant from the New England Biolabs Corporate Contributions Committee. Students record lunch orders from staff, take payments, make and deliver the lunches. Six students participated in the launch this summer.

## Embark/SOAR summer fun







*North Shore educators attended a training on youth mental health.*

Northshore Academy Upper School Counselor Windi Bowditch and Bill Hirschaut, formerly a counselor at the Recovery High School, presented a two-day training called Youth Mental Health First Aid. The training covered the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, the importance of early intervention, and how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge, including suicide risk.



*KOG Behavior Coordinator Kim Ceccarelli was part of the interdisciplinary team that attended the TEACCH training.*

Unemployment is a serious problem for individuals with



Students from SOAR and Embark had a great time on the Sea Shuttle boat trip. They toured Salem Harbor and headed out to Misery Island. The students explored Misery Island's hiking trails and had a picnic lunch. Students were able to interact with sea creatures in the saltwater tank on the Sea Shuttle.

This summer, they also went to the Bit Bar, Salem Willows, Metro Bowl and Richardson's ice cream. Students participated in internship opportunities, cooking, woodworking activities, art, music, wellness activities, first aid instruction and travel training.

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intellectual disabilities and autism, but research shows that, with the right support and instruction, adolescents with these disabilities can learn to work in a variety of jobs in their community.

The Target Program at the Kevin O'Grady School provides intensive services for students ages 14 - 22, who are on the autism spectrum and/or have intellectual impairments. This summer, the acclaimed TEACCH Autism Program from the University of North Carolina came onsite and provided a five day training for Target Program staff on how to transition adolescents to meaningful vocational and community settings. The Consortium was able to offer this advanced training thanks to a generous grant from the Tower Foundation.

Three students participated in hands on demonstration projects. Teams worked with trainers to guide the students through various work activities. Below is Matthew who took on a number of jobs, including window washing, stocking and inventory.



## [WEBSITE](#)

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