



Spring 2026

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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Spring is a season of renewal and hope. After a long winter, it's a joy to see flowers blooming, students back outside enjoying the sunshine, and our community preparing for upcoming graduation celebrations. One of our classrooms even adopted a cow! You can read more about that later!

As we near the close of our 50th year, we are especially grateful for your continued support. At a time when public school budgets are stretched, your generosity helps sustain the rich, individualized programming that makes our schools so special.



One area where this impact is especially visible is in our vocational and enrichment programming—the focus of our 50th year fundraising efforts. Young adults with disabilities often benefit from additional support as they build skills for the workplace and greater independence, and we are proud to offer meaningful, hands-on opportunities across our schools.

At KOG, a grant from longtime supporter, New England Biolabs, has helped enhance our vocational training spaces with wheelchair-accessible, real-world environments—



from offices and cafés to food pantries and laundry settings. Students are actively involved in running The KOG Snack Shop and the Cuppa Chameleon Café, where they design and create products, prepare and serve food, manage inventory, and even operate a mobile delivery cart.

At SOAR and Embark, young adults are exploring entrepreneurship through micro-enterprises supported by a grant from the Tower Foundation Community Experts Fund. This unique initiative is guided by a team of young adults with disabilities and focuses on strengthening mentoring and coaching opportunities for students with intellectual or learning disabilities. The grant has helped sustain our peer mentor program and enabled our mentors to work with students in highly individualized ways as they create their own businesses - from candle-making (complete with

Continues on page 9

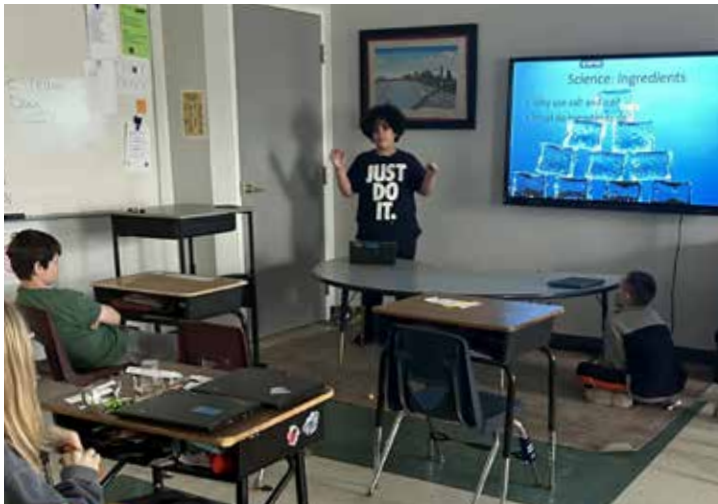
Program News

NORTHSHORE ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL (NSAL)

The Scoop on Learning

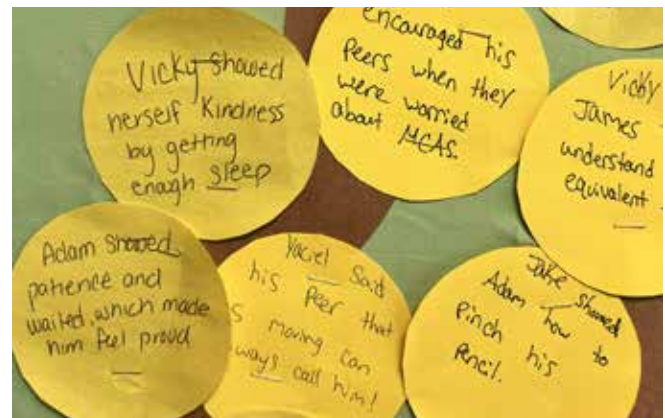


Students in Ms. MaireLee's classroom explored various subjects through the lens of ice cream. They created informative slideshows to present their findings, showcasing their research and presentation skills. The project culminated in a hands-on ice cream-making session, reinforcing their learning while fostering teamwork and creativity. Everyone enjoyed this deliciously educational experience!



Kindness is Contagious

During Kindness Week, students focused on showing compassion to themselves and others. Kindness is contagious and when practiced, it helps us feel good, and it spreads those positive feelings to the people around us. These acts of kindness didn't go unnoticed. We intentionally recognized these actions by documenting and displaying them, helping to inspire and encourage a culture of kindness throughout our school community.



NORTHSHORE RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL (NRHS)

The Power of Connection

"Well, you're not alone anymore, buddy. Neither of us are." This powerful quote from *Project Hail Mary* stayed with our Recovery In Action after school program students after a recent movie outing.

The story's message—that connection and friendship give meaning and strength—sparked reflection and conversation long after the credits rolled.

Before the film, students also enjoyed a hibachi dinner at Endless in Peabody, making it an evening full of connection, community, and shared experience!

Program News

KEVIN O'GRADY SCHOOL (KOG)

Herd the News?

We adopted a cow! Teacher Pam learned of Discover Dairy, a free, cross-curricular program that helps students learn where milk comes from while reinforcing math, science, and reading skills. As part of the process, her class adopted a calf, Sunflower, from Laggis Farm in Vermont. They received monthly updates, activities, and resources that were easily integrated into instruction and supported student learning goals. The class created a school-wide bulletin board to follow Sunflower's journey, complete with monthly growth tracking and student contributions from across the building. After entering Sunflower in a "Cutest Cow in America" voting campaign, she placed 10th!



Red Carpet Roll Out

What a night! KOG's Fancy Dance was a huge success. Students and families arrived in style, walked the red carpet, and enjoyed an evening filled with dancing, smiles, and plenty of fun.



TOPSFIELD VOCATIONAL ACADEMY (TVA)

The Countdown is On!

This was the start of our "Senior Countdown Chain." The chain is much shorter now as we get closer to graduation day! While we will miss them, we are so excited to celebrate our amazing group of seniors!



Champions on the Court

New England weather can't hold this team back! No matter the weather, we practice outside (for the most part) and it shows! Our basketball team has heart and after putting in a lot of time on the court, they went on to win the GBL championship this year!

Sweet Success

Students have discovered a love for baking in the kitchen, creating delicious treats from scratch. Their hard work pays off as staff and classmates enjoy tasting the results—making each creation a shared (and tasty!) experience.



Program News

NORTHSHORE ACADEMY UPPER SCHOOL (NSAU)

Hooked on Coding

Reese proudly showcased his computer programming skills at Open House with a fishing game he designed himself. Players must purchase bait, navigate to the dock, cast a line, and patiently wait for a fish to bite. Timing is everything—reel in too soon or too late, and dinner might get away!



Learning Beyond the Classroom

Will smiles alongside Ms. Roberto and Ms. Schneid as they celebrate Social Emotional Learning—an essential part of Northshore Academy’s curriculum that helps students build confidence, connection, and lifelong skills.

Growing Together

Drew, Vincent, and Jaren get their hands dirty as they prepare for spring planting with the Garden Group, led by Mr. Morgan and Mr. Urbanowski. Through hands-on learning in the garden, students build teamwork, responsibility, and a deeper connection to the growing process. Some of the vegetables grown and harvested by students even make their way into the culinary program, where they are incorporated into recipes enjoyed by the school community.



TRANSITION PROGRAMS (EMBARK AND SOAR)

Learning the Art of Entrepreneurship

With support from the Tower Foundation, our Creative Micro-Enterprise Incubator Program for neurodivergent young adults is expanding how students experience employment—making it more creative, personalized, and empowering. Through a combination of individualized mentorship and structured internships twice per week, students are gaining hands-on experience while building real-world skills. They are actively exploring a range of micro-enterprise pathways—including art, writing, sewing, candle-making, spirit gear production, and horticulture—while learning to take ideas from concept to creation.

Students are engaging in every stage of the entrepreneurial process, from market research and branding to production and sales. Early outcomes show increased confidence, independence, and ownership, as students begin to see employment as something they can shape themselves.



PARTNERS, SPONSORS & CELEBRATIONS: HONORING 50 YEARS OF NEC



Wrapping up our 50th Year of Celebration

Because of the generosity of our 50th Year donors and sponsors, our students are experiencing a richer, more inclusive, and more joyful school community every single day. Your support brings movement, connection, and confidence to life through programs like InClyOUision Sports, where students build skills and friendships in a supportive, adaptive environment. It opens doors to the world beyond our classrooms through community and vocational trips, museum visits, YMCA memberships, and meaningful outings that foster independence and real-world learning.

Inside our schools, your impact is just as powerful. Students are discovering new passions and creative outlets through electives like woodshop, gardening, stained glass, music, and media, while expressive arts classes give them space to communicate, create,

and be seen. From intramural basketball to snack shops and culinary programming, these experiences build teamwork, responsibility, and pride. And in the summer months, your generosity ensures the fun and growth continue—through beach days, movies, bowling, laser tag, and more.

Simply put, you are helping us create a school experience filled with opportunity, belonging, and joy. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in making this possible—for believing in our students and investing in all that they can achieve.

**VIDEO & MORE ON
OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
WEB PAGE!**



With gratitude to our 50th Year Partners and Sponsors for their leadership and generous support in making this such a successful year!

Thank you to our 50th Year Partners and Sponsors



The Spinney Family



Giving in Action

KATHY'S KIDS FOUNDATION - CONTINUING A LEGACY OF CARE

The Kathy's Kids Foundation was established in honor of Kathy Hardwick-Wogan, a lifelong advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Created by her family to carry forward her extraordinary legacy, the foundation provides financial support for programs and services that enrich the work of Northshore Education Consortium—where Kathy was a cherished teacher—and the Bass River Residential Group Home, where she served as both a supervisor and Board member. Through Kathy's Kids, her lifelong commitment to making a difference continues to positively impact the lives of others.

Most recently, the foundation's successful plant sale brought the community together in support of this mission and resulted in a generous gift to Northshore Education Consortium, directly benefiting our students. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership and for the meaningful difference they make in the lives of those we serve.



WHERE INNOVATION MEETS COLLABORATION

Wally Coombs was first introduced to switch-adapted toys when his granddaughter, Mary, began attending KOG in 2018. After seeing how much Mary engaged with these toys, Wally—a retired engineer—put his skills to work, learning how to adapt toys to better meet her needs. With support from his daughter Shannon and wife Kathy, he began modifying toys for Mary to use at home—and soon for her classmates as well. As word spread, Wally became a go-to resource for repairing and adapting toys across the school community.

Years later, that spirit of innovation came full circle. KOG speech-language pathologists Molly Riffle and Michelle Martinez—both passionate about assistive technology—began exploring toy adaptation themselves. After Molly completed coursework at Tufts focused on Assistive Technology, she shared her knowledge with Michelle and the two connected with Wally to learn from his hands-on expertise. Together, they've been adapting toys, sharing techniques, and expanding access for students. They have even been teaching other staff and parents how to do this adaptive work!

What began as one grandfather's effort to support his granddaughter has grown into a collaborative, school-wide impact—grounded in a shared belief that everyone has something to give. Wally said it best, "We have always lived the motto that everyone has something to give, be it time, talent or treasure."

Thanks for sharing all three with us, Wally!

Giving in Action

AMELIA PEABODY FOUNDATION - IMPACT ON THEIR FUTURE

With generous grant support from the Amelia Peabody Foundation, our Northshore Academy Upper School (NSAU) and Topsfield Vocational Academy (TVA) have continued to expand vocational programming that builds real-world skills while serving both the school and greater Beverly community. Recent enhancements at NSAU include upgrades to the Music and Media Lab, where students are gaining hands-on experience in media production and editing, as well as expanded cosmetology training spaces and equipment. The Culinary Program continues to grow through weekly community meals and ongoing meal preparation for a local homeless shelter.

Most recently, our TVA students have worked tirelessly to prepare for the launch of a highly anticipated new car detailing service. Built entirely from the ground up, this initiative is providing students with valuable experience in entrepreneurship, customer service, and teamwork while delivering a high-quality service.

This exciting addition to the vocational program is a direct result of the Foundation's investment and support, and it is impossible to fully measure the impact it has already had—and will continue to have—on our students in the months and years ahead.



Hands-on learning never looked so polished



Delicious food being created in the Culinary Program



Excited about the additions to the Music and Media Lab



Preparations underway for the car detailing service



Organizing car washing and detailing supplies



Students eager to test out the new equipment



Giving in Action

Development Office Highlights

Better Together - Walk & Roll Meets Art on the Hill

Despite a few raindrops, KOG’s annual Walk & Roll and the return of the beloved Art on the Hill were a smashing success—thanks to the incredible support of parents, staff, and local business partners. While some brave participants walked and rolled in the rain, others filled the hallways admiring spectacular classroom art displays, many featuring adaptive switches that brought the artwork to life. Raffle tables buzzed with excitement throughout the event, especially around the bicycle generously donated by Beverly Bikes. Together, this memorable community celebration raised more than \$10,000 in support of KOG students and programs!



Sunset Cruise for a Cause

Join us as we set sail for a great cause! The Yankee Clipper is giving us the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful evening in Newburyport while raising funds to support NEC students and programs. Every ticket purchased makes a difference—100% of proceeds directly benefit our students!



“Every student. Every day. Whatever it takes.”

Thank you! Your giving matters...

Friends of Northshore Education Consortium, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (#61-1479553).

If you would like to learn more about our giving opportunities, please contact:

Sarah Seiler
Director of Development
Friends of Northshore Education Consortium, Inc.
978.232.9755 ext. 1251
sseiler@nsedu.org



We now have monthly giving options!



Executive Director Message, Continued...

Continued from page 1

market research, branding, and online sales) to spirit gear, writing, horticulture, and sewing. As one teacher shared, “We are building not only vocational skills, but confidence, identity, and a broader sense of possibility.”

Beyond vocational work, grant-funded enrichment continues to expand opportunities across disciplines, including animal science, cosmetology, music, art, athletics, and culinary arts. These experiences allow students to explore their interests, spark curiosity, and begin to envision potential career paths. Winter into early spring also brought memorable highlights, from our Annual Souper Bowl fundraiser to a spirited Iron Chef competition featuring teams of students and staff to our Fancy Dance complete with a red carpet entrance!

Along the way, we are also discovering parents and community members eager to share their time, talent, and treasure in support of our students—reminding us that everyone has something to give. One inspiring example is a grandfather who has been adapting toys not only for his granddaughter, but for her peers at KOG as well. Read more on page six.

We were also proud to be well represented at the regional Youth at Risk Conference, with staff serving on the planning committee and presenting workshops. Students contributed in meaningful ways as well—TVA students created the “swag bags” for attendees, and KOG students designed the centerpieces, showcasing both their skill and creativity.

Ongoing professional development is key to our success. I am proud to share that 25 educators have completed Lesley University’s Trauma and Learning Certificate—four graduate-level courses fully funded through grants. Participants report that this shared experience has deepened their understanding of student needs and strengthened their ability to respond with empathy and effective, therapeutic approaches.



Finally, I’d like to end with some exciting news. After several years of planning and reassessing community needs, Northshore Recovery High School will reopen this fall with a new name, a new

location, and updated programming. Introducing *Northshore Phoenix High School*, located at the Cummings Center. A full press release with more details is coming soon—stay tuned.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer!

With gratitude,

Francine H. Rosenberg

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Executive Director

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50th Anniversary Match Campaign
Before June 30, 2026 every new or increased gift to NEC will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of every contribution, thanks to our 50th Year Partners!

Upcoming Events



SUNSET CRUISE FOR CAUSE

Join us for our **Sunset Cruise for Cause** on June 15th, made possible by our friends at Yankee Clipper Tours out of Newburyport!



GRADUATIONS/MOVING UP CEREMONIES

Northshore Academy Upper School – June 4
Transitions (Embark & SOAR) – June 5
Northshore Recovery High School – June 10
Topsfield Vocational Academy – June 11
Northshore Academy Lower School – June 18



FESTIVUS 5K FOR AUTISM

Save the Date - December 13, 2026 in Salem, MA, hosted by Finz Seafood and Grill
SHOUT OUT TO Brooks Running as “the early bird” sponsor! (*Only Seinfeld fans will get this: “We gotta catch the early bird. It’s only between 4:30-6:00.”*)