



## A Message from the Board

by James Rhodes

As Vice-Chairperson of the Larc Board of Directors I want to thank you all—our sponsors, families, friends, staff, and volunteers—for your continued support of Larc School and our amazing students. Your support allows us to make miracles happen every day.

Summer always brings excitement, anticipation, and some level of change here at Larc as we prepare for the upcoming school year, but this year is the first in 38 years that we do that planning without our former Executive Director, Susan Weiner. As I am sure you probably know, Susan retired on June 30th of this year. We will miss her and we cannot thank her enough for the passionate and student-driven leadership she provided over these many years.

We are grateful for all Susan accomplished for Larc, our students, and for the strong foundation on which Larc School now stands. We are confident Larc will uphold its tradition of excellence as well as our cherished Larc Family under the leadership of our new Executive Director, Stefanie Riehl. Much of the credit in ensuring this belongs to my fellow Personnel Committee members Geri Spencer, Reggie Beckett, and Jim Madden. Selecting a successor to Susan was not an easy task, but we

are confident we have found the perfect candidate in Stefanie.

While new as our executive director, Stefanie has been with Larc since January, studying under Susan as assistant executive director as she prepared to assume the leadership role. Stefanie brings a passion to serve individuals with special needs, their families, and Larc. She is an accomplished leader whose academic background includes a Master of Public Administration and a Senior Professional in Human Resources Certification. Most importantly, she was drawn to Larc and was moved by the warm, family feeling she felt the minute she walked through our doors. Her goal is for Larc to continue to provide all of our students and adults with individualized programming in an atmosphere that feels like home.

We are excited by Stefanie's enthusiasm and look forward to a bright future as she leads Larc's outstanding Administrative Team of Michele McCloskey (principal), Melissa Carey (educational supervisor), and Pam Tozour (adult program director).

Please join us in welcoming Stefanie to the Larc family and thank you for your continued support. Without you our success would not be possible. ■



This April at the annual Appreciation Breakfast, Larc School's Board of Directors presented Camden County Administrator Ross Angilella with the Lauren Higgins Hope Award. This very special award is named in memory of one of our students. It is given to those whose support and generous acts give us hope that, for Larc's kids, each and every day can be better than the day before. The Board also honored Susan Weiner for her 38 years of dedication and commitment to Larc School by presenting her with the Paul Porado Award. Paul Porado was a cherished friend of Larc School who passed away in 2004. By creating this award we honor his life and his dedication to those in need. This award is given to an individual who consistently champions the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Please join us in welcoming Stefanie to the Larc family and thank you for your continued support. Without you our success would not be possible.



## Welcome to Larc Park

Last year we celebrated our 50th Anniversary and as a present to ourselves, donations collected went towards our new playground fund. A committee was formed from teachers, therapists, classroom assistants, and our administrative team to help create an amazing space that would be accessible to all of our students and adults. While the playground was completed over the winter, we had to patiently wait for the seasons to change. This May we were so excited to hold the grand opening of our new playground! ■

*Thank you to everyone who made donations in celebration of our 50th Anniversary!*



Students and staff surround Executive Director Susan Weiner (center) as she cuts the ribbon officially opening our new playground "Larc Park."



## From Preschool to Graduate in the Blink of an Eye

**June brings** such smiles and pride in all that was accomplished during the year. On June 14th, four preschool graduates marched and wheeled up onto the stage in front of their family and friends to collect their diplomas and celebrate their transition into the Elementary Program. Parents and staff members alike beamed at the students dressed in white caps and gowns. Congratulations graduates! We cannot wait to see what adventures await you!

Later that afternoon, our six Secondary Program graduates marched and wheeled up on that same stage. These students have spent almost their whole academic career at Larc School making graduation day bitter sweet. Stories were shared, tears were shed, and parents and staff members alike beamed at the graduates dressed in their blue caps and gowns. Congratulations graduates! Keep in touch! We will miss you! ■



Above: Preschool graduate Jamal admires his diploma as Principal Michele McCloskey (left) celebrates this special milestone.

Below: Executive Director Susan Weiner (left) and Teacher Stacie Halscheid (center) look on with teary smiles as William (right) proudly raises his diploma for all to see.



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*Listed above are contributions from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Please let us know if a name was omitted, and we'll be sure to print it in our next issue.*

When remembering  
those you love,  
remember Larc



Make a donation to Larc School—the perfect remembrance for all occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, congratulations, and condolences.

Contributions may be sent to: Larc School,  
1089 Creek Road, Bellmawr, NJ 08031

*(Envelope enclosed) or donate  
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# Celebrating the End of the School Year and Staff Milestones

On June 14th Larc staff gathered together at Ponzio's to sit down for a meal, as families do, and to celebrate another amazing year at Larc School. Executive Director Susan Weiner and Principal Michele McCloskey thanked staff for their limitless dedication and passion for Larc's kids. Staff were honored for their special anniversaries and years of service to Larc School. Stories, laughs, and tears were shared. It was a memorable night and one that won't soon be forgotten. Everyone is grateful for our Larc Family! ■



Top (L to R): Larc's Information Technology guru Maureen Kelleher, Executive Director Susan Weiner, Adult Program Director Pamela Tozour, and Principal Michele McCloskey pose for a picture after recognizing Maureen and Pam for their 10th anniversary with Larc.

Above left (L to R): Executive Director Susan Weiner and Pre Vocational Teacher Dianne Bentliff embrace after Dianne receives a retirement gift and is honored for her 38 years with Larc School.

Above right: Executive Director Susan Weiner (right) congratulates Glenda Westener on her retirement and for providing nutritious lunches to our students for 40 years.

Left: Executive Director Susan Weiner and Principal Michele McCloskey honor Classroom Assistant Cathy Monti (center) for 30 years with Larc School.

Bottom left (L to R): Executive Director Susan Weiner congratulates Speech Therapist Roxane Adams on her 40th anniversary with Larc School.



## Celebrating Staff

**This May we celebrated** our talented staff during Special Education Week! Staff enjoyed special treats throughout the week, but the most meaningful treat was the personal notes from families thanking them for the compassionate and skilled care they give the students. Families sent in notes in the shape of butterflies letting our staff know how much they are appreciated.

All the butterflies were posted in our hallway for everyone to see with a sign that read "Like a butterfly we are growing and changing every day! Thank you Larc Staff for helping us find our wings to fly!" ■

“ Children learn more from who you are than what you teach. Thank you for being a person who brings light to Rae in her darkest moments & hardest days. I’ve watched her grow so much but without the help of you she would not be where she is. The credit is yours!

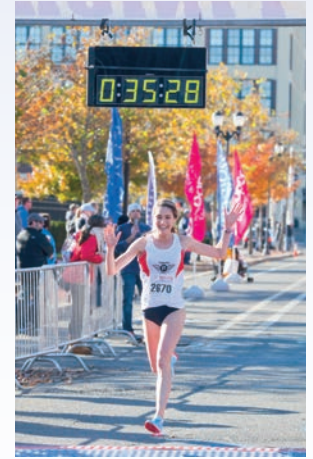
- “ “Larc Staff is the best!! Thank you for believing in our children.”
- “ “You help Race soar by believing in him, by showing him learning is fun and by providing him unconditional support. We are so proud of all Race has accomplished under the loving care of his teacher, aide, therapists and entire staff at Larc.”
- “ “Larc staff has helped Ryan spread his wings and fly since he was three years old. They have always made learning fun and not seem like work. Ryan continues to grow because of the support at Larc. Thanks”
- “ “Thank you for caring Larc Staff. Thank you for showing my daughter, Ja’lyn that she is unique, special and valuable. That she as a person matters regardless of having a disability. Thank you for seeing my daughter as a person. We appreciate you all!!”
- “ “Thank you for helping my brother Brett, learn so much.”
- “ “Ryan continues to grow, get smarter, stronger, stays happy, silly, and giggles because Room 10 and all the therapists are fantastic. You all are INCREDIBLE, POWERFUL, BEAUTIFUL, ADVOCATES, POSITIVE AND WONDERFUL.”
- “ “Larc Staff, I knew the day I walked into Larc that this was the right school for my Anthony. Anthony’s life is forever enriched from all of the things that you all have done for him. We are forever indebted to each and every one of you! We need 20 butterflies to tell you everything—Thank you.”

# COOPER NORCROSS RUN THE BRIDGE EVENT...

**A 10K Run, a Bridge Walk,  
a Kids Dash, and for Larc's  
Kids, so much more!**

As this year's Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge Event gets closer—always the first Sunday in November—we look back at last year's event! It was a gorgeous, sunny day filled with excitement and smiles as over 3,500 people—runners, walkers, volunteers, families, friends, and sponsors—came out in support of Larc's amazing kids! We say it every year, but we can't say it enough, we are so touched by the out pouring of love that we feel on this day. Thank you everyone from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for Larc's kids!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S RUN!  
Sunday, November 3, 2019**



Top, one of our graduates William, a Special Olympics athlete, congratulates a runner after crossing the finish line. Above, congratulations to the 2018 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge 10K Overall Male & Female Winners. Below, contestants and friends gather after the race. Photos by Avi Steinhardt, Camden County.

**REGISTER NOW AT [WWW.RUNTHEBRIDGE.ORG](http://WWW.RUNTHEBRIDGE.ORG)**





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## Larc Students Love our New Clubs!

Once a month, each student has the opportunity to select a club based on their interests. Club choices include games, music & movement, sensory play, spa day, craft making, yoga, building, and more. We are so excited to offer our students this unique opportunity for recreation and leisure with the added bonus of getting to choose their own activity while having fun and meeting new friends. ■



**September 15th**  
Annual Young Lawyers  
Lobster Bake

**October 2nd**  
Parent Workshop:  
Guardianship

**October 10th**  
Back to School

**October 10th**  
Open House

**November 3rd**  
Cooper Norcross Run  
the Bridge Event

**November 19th**  
Thanksgiving Luncheon

calendar

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