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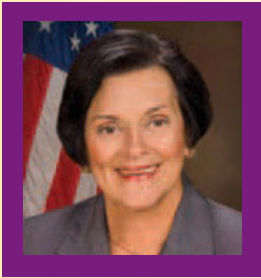
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Wings of Inspiration

Last March, Larc held a contest

to bring color and life to the reception area in the front of the building. The winning design was created by Art Teacher, Kathy Vespe. The mural, which was painted by Miss Kathy and her daughter, Natalie, just before the start of school, was inspired by the "What Lifts You Campaign" by artist Kelsey Montague. Since the mural was painted, many Larc visitors have stopped by the mural and reflected on what inspires them in their lives. For us, there is no question: it's kids, participants, and staff! ■





A Message from the Board

by Patricia Egan Jones

I have come to believe that Larc School and its staff are among the best secrets in New Jersey. We tell everyone, show everyone, shout about it to all we can reach! Larc, its staff, and its programs - i.e. "The Whole Child" philosophy - are wonderful. It is not just about the student. Instead, the entire family becomes special at Larc.

Just think about the innovations in learning that happen at Larc, nevermind the gentle care and encouragement found in everyday activities through individualized instruction. Larc educators and therapists work alongside the family and the student to welcome each new day, and achievements from the smallest ones to the biggest. The staff is always there to hold hands with students and their families. They walk into a new day with some old challenges, but always ready for the new ones and how to accomplish these challenges with a smile, a "way to go," and a pat on the back.

We only need to take a look at the experience of one of our students, Ryan Brunswick, and his family. Ryan started at Larc when he was only three and after his family had looked at other schools. Ryan is now 19 and in his twelfth year academically. His family, mom, dad and devoted younger sister, Madison, believe Larc School has always lived up to its "Whole Child" philosophy. They opted for Larc because its size (smaller than some) seemed right for Ryan and their family. Twelve years later they know they made the right choice.

His mother even told me that everyday when Ryan gets on the bus for Larc she knows he will be okay and that all his needs that day will be taken care of. They, and all the families of our students, receive daily communications about their child, what happened that day and how they did. This welcomed communication is a two-way street for our families and the school staff is rightfully proud of the work they do.

This is just one example of how families put their trust in Larc. Parents know that their child will be cared for and nurtured by an incredible staff. As a board member I am also proud to represent this school, to help, nurture, and ensure our resources are there for all our current students and for students to come far into the future. So there you have it from one grateful board member.....thank you to the professionals who handle the day-to-day operations and to our students and familiesyou are all the best! ■



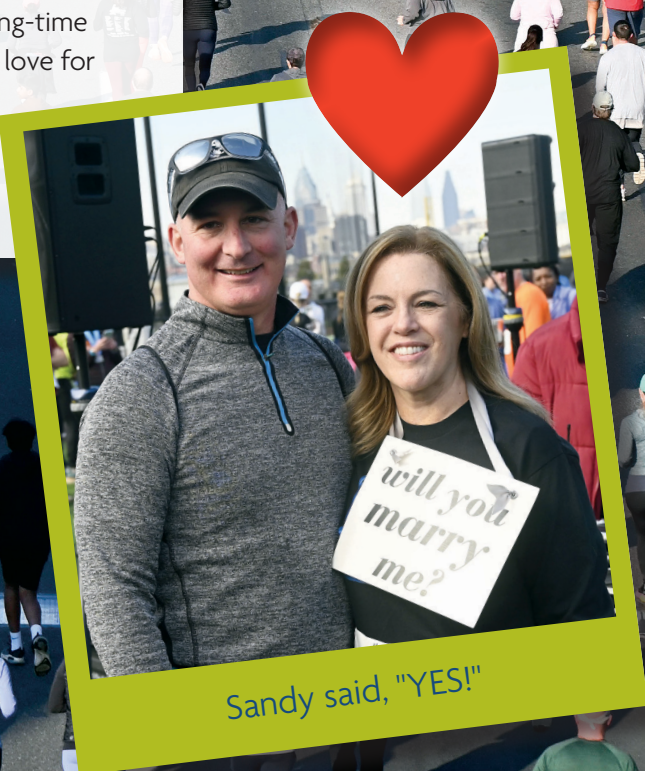
Ryan and his family enjoyed the Spring Formal.



Thousands & One Special Couple Say "YES" to the Bridge

On November 5, 2023, thousands of runners, walkers, and spectators took part in our Run the Bridge Event. The gorgeous weather, refreshing beer, and appearance by the Phillie Phanatic all contributed to a festive event. Perhaps the best moment was when a participant named Sandy LeDonne not only said "yes" to the Bridge, but also to her now-fiancé Andrew Jamison! Andrew told us it was a long-time coming, but the warm fall day, spectacular scenery, and her love for the event made it the perfect place!

See everyone next year on Sunday, November 3, 2024! ■



Sandy said, "YES!"

THANK YOU!

A Sincere Thank You to the Sponsors of the "Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge"



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PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK/RUNTHEBRIDGE TO KEEP IN TOUCH FOR THE 2024 EVENT.

Giving Tuesday

The Larc School Family thanks all those who contributed to Giving Tuesday on November 28, 2023! Over \$10,000 was raised to expand our art program, music program, and facility dog program with Jimmy, the Larc Family Dog! Thanks to nearly 30 friends of Larc, Art Teacher, Miss Kathy, will have more materials and art supplies to bring out the talent and creativity that exists in each and every one of our students. Students will also be able to rock out, play, and sing along in more sessions with Mr. Bobby, a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and music therapist. Last, but not least, Jimmy, the Larc Family Dog will have enhanced opportunities to facilitate communication, aid in gross motor skills/activities, and serve as a



Miss Kathy and Sophia enjoying an art project for Mom.

motivator for our students. "All three programs are so important to those we serve at Larc School," said Melissa Carey, Principal. "They bring nontraditional communication approaches like art, music, and interaction with animals to benefit students of all abilities at Larc."

"Larc is lucky to have found Miss Kathy, Mr. Bobby, and Jimmy. We are even more fortunate to have the ability to expand these programs



Jimmy, The Larc School family dog Thanks you!

These programs continue to inspire Larc's kids, as Larc's kids inspire us all!" Ms. Carey said. ■

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

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Mr. Bobby and Sal jammin' to some tunes!

Brett Waters
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Melanie Willoughby



friends OF LARC SCHOOL

Larc School gratefully acknowledges these gifts from our caring friends—individuals, foundations, corporations—whose generosity makes it possible for Larc School to provide the very best for its students and their families. We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor.

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In memory of Theodore White, Sr., Kevin

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Daniel & Veronica Kelly

Giving Thanks for Larc School & For Each Other

Every day is special at Larc School, but November 21 was particularly so as Larc celebrated its very own Thanksgiving. The luncheon gave everyone an opportunity to collectively give thanks for each other, Larc's kids who never give up, and a staff that truly feels like family. We are particularly grateful for the Larc staff who coordinated such a wonderful day of thanks. They include Roxane Adams, Jackie Buechele, John Capaldo, Lacey Carney, Elizabeth Gross, Jen LaGrande, Paula Rivell, Lea Soldevila, Maddie Storms, Betsy Thompson,

Bari Ungerleider, Jordan Yates, and Larc's amazing kitchen team of Kristin McCunney and Bernadette Sori. ■



Anthony and his parents are enjoying a special moment at Larc's Thanksgiving luncheon.



Room 5 celebrates all they are thankful for!



Larc Staff and Lindsey "Z" Briggs pose with their puppets.

Larc School teachers, therapists, and paraprofessionals teamed up with The Jim Henson Foundation to learn how puppetry can be used to support communication and therapeutic practices for those with special needs. Research from Yale University found

Puppets & Possibilities

that puppetry can be a gateway not only for communication but also for learning empathy, behavior modeling, and role-playing. Puppets can also elicit a heightened state of awareness, observation, and understanding. Lindsey "Z" Briggs taught a series of virtual and live classes in October, November, January, and February to over 30 Larc staff members. Ms. Briggs helped classes experiment with the selection of puppets to find the right fit so the puppet is attractive to the

entire class. She also discussed the relationship with and handling of the puppet so that it can be seen as a peer who maintains a special place in each classroom. A professional puppeteer, "Z," plays monster foster mom Dalia on Sesame Street, and the host Foley on a Sesame Street podcast. "We are hopeful that this training will help our Larc family encourage deeper relationships and strengthen their students' confidence and communication skills however these skills may emerge," said Stefanie Riehl, Executive Director. ■



Holidays at Larc



As in past years, the magic of the holidays

came to life this year at Larc School. We were the recipients of many acts of kindness. Donations came in to make the holidays brighter for Larc students. The magic began with a holiday concert from our friends at Holiday Express. The holiday spirit continued with our friends, the Camden County Corrections Officers, who organized a parade and a Breakfast for the Larc family. Before the season ended, our longtime friends at Pellegrino Auto Group provided our staff with a wonderful and delicious holiday luncheon and visited with each child. ■

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,
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(Envelope enclosed) or donate online at www.larcschool.org

