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SWEET TREATS & Big Smiles

In June, through voluntary employee donations, Camden County Government once again brought Mr. Softee to Larc Norcross School for another wonderful year of this beloved tradition.

Students and staff were treated to a special visit from the iconic ice cream truck, creating a joyful and memorable experience for everyone on campus. Smiles were everywhere as everyone enjoyed a well-deserved sweet treat and a fun break in the day. ■



Commissioner Jennifer Cooley
Fleisher enjoys a special ice cream
moment with preschooler Kodi.



We are deeply grateful for Camden County's continued support and partnership, and for helping create these meaningful moments that bring so much happiness to our school community.



A Message from the Board

by Jameka Walker

“

...there are many great schools, but the best ones share two essential qualities: strong leadership and dedicated, knowledgeable staff.

”

As the newest member of the Larc Norcross Board of Directors, I would like to thank our sponsors, families, friends, staff, and volunteers for your continued support of The Larc Norcross School and our students. Your generosity and commitment allow us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students every day.

While I am new to the Larc Norcross Board, I am not new to education. For more than 20 years, I have had the privilege of serving as an educator—first as a teacher, then as an instructional coach, and now as Executive Director of Catholic Partnership Schools. Throughout my career, I have worked in a variety of educational settings, including public schools, private schools, cyber schools, colleges, and universities.

Over the years, I have learned that there are many great schools, but the best ones share two essential qualities: strong leadership and dedicated, knowledgeable staff. From the moment I met Stefanie and her team, toured the school, and spent time with the students, I was impressed by their unwavering commitment to the Larc Norcross community. Their dedication extends not only to the students and families they serve, but also to the staff who make that service possible. They recognize the importance of supporting and valuing their team, and they work diligently to ensure staff members feel appreciated and empowered each day.

This year, I also had the privilege of participating in the strategic planning process alongside the Larc Norcross team. Through that experience, I gained an even deeper appreciation for the passion, professionalism, and dedication of the staff. Witnessing their commitment to student success was truly inspiring.

Our students have achieved so much this year. From our youngest learners to the adults in the Adult Program, their growth and accomplishments have been remarkable. These successes are possible because they are surrounded by caring professionals who strive every day to help them develop their voices, build confidence, and achieve greater independence.

It is a joy and an honor to be part of the Larc Norcross community. Thank you again for your continued support. I wish you and your families a relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer. ■

Celebrating

EXCELLENCE AT LARC NORCROSS

As another incredible school year comes to a close, the Larc Norcross School community is reflecting with gratitude, pride, and celebration.

Our staff recently gathered at Dave & Buster's for the annual End-of-the-Year Staff Dinner. The evening provided an opportunity to recognize the exceptional employees whose compassion, talent, and dedication make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and adult participants every day.

A highlight of the celebration was the presentation of our annual staff awards:

Teacher of the Year

Lauren Barger

Paraprofessional of the Year

Kristin Gibson

Rising Star Award

Leilani Garibay

Direct Support Professional of the Year

Haniyah Mejia

Related Service Provider of the Year

Elizabeth Gross

These first-time awards honor staff members who consistently demonstrate outstanding service,

leadership, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to the Larc Norcross mission. Their work reflects the very best of our school community and the extraordinary care provided to those we serve.

This year's Heart of Larc Award was presented to Business Manager Karen Briggs in recognition of her tireless efforts and steadfast commitment to our mission. Since joining Larc Norcross five years ago, Karen has continually worked to secure additional resources for our staff, students, and adult participants. Karen consistently goes above and beyond. Her dedication, strong work ethic, and commitment to excellence make her a truly deserving recipient of this special honor.

The evening also included recognition of staff members celebrating service anniversaries ranging from five years to an extraordinary 45 years. Each milestone represents years of care, compassion, and commitment to the students, families, and adult participants of Larc Norcross. ■



Karen Briggs
Heart of Larc Award



Lauren Barger
Teacher of the Year



Kristin Gibson
Paraprofessional of the Year



Elizabeth Gross
Related Service Provider of the Year



Leilani Garibay
Rising Star Award



Haniyah Mejia
Direct Support Professional of the Year



Off to See the Art!

In April, our auditorium was magically transformed into a vibrant art gallery, bringing our "There's No Place Like Larc" theme to life in the most creative ways.

Our annual art show truly had it all, highlighting the incredible talents of our students, staff, and Director/Physical Therapist, Elizabeth Gross—bravo, Liz!

Even L. Frank Baum would have tipped his hat to this colorful and imaginative journey down our own yellow brick road. ■

A Season of Flyers Fun at Larc Norcross School

Orange and black spirit was on full display as the Larc Norcross community enjoyed not one, but two unforgettable experiences with the Philadelphia Flyers!

The Flyers donated nearly 100 tickets so Larc Norcross students, families, and staff could attend a game in March. Families cheered together and students showed their Flyers spirit as the organization went above and beyond to create a welcoming, inclusive evening full of shared memories.

The Flyers fun didn't stop there.

In May, the Flyers' beloved mascot, made a surprise visit to Larc Norcross School. Gritty's larger-than-life personality and playful energy brought joy to everyone he met. Students eagerly greeted their special guest as he visited classrooms, posed for photos, shared high-fives, and showed off some of his signature dance moves.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Philadelphia Flyers organization and, of



course, to Gritty for helping make this season so special for our school community. Your generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment to inclusion brought tremendous joy to our students, families, and staff. Let's go, Flyers! ■

FROM PRESCHOOL TO PROM NIGHT: *Larc Celebrates Together*



June 5th was a truly special day at Larc Norcross School as students across our programs celebrated prom in unforgettable ways.

Our preschool students kicked off the festivities with their very first prom experience, 70's themed. Dressed in their best and full of excitement, they enjoyed a joyful morning filled with smiles, music, and meaningful moments that made the occasion extra special.

Later that evening, our older students attended Prom Night at the Camden County Boathouse, where they celebrated alongside friends and staff in a beautiful setting. The night was filled with dancing, laughter, and memories that will be cherished for years to come.

From morning to evening, the day reflected the spirit of Larc Norcross—celebration and joy at every stage. ■

SIX YEARS OF SMILES AT LARC NORCROSS AND CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE



Smiles were everywhere as we celebrated six years of an incredible partnership with Camden County College Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene Programs—one that continues to turn dental visits into positive, empowering experiences for our students.

In March, our Community-Based Instruction (CBI) students had the Camden County College Dental Hygiene Clinic all to themselves. The clinic was closed so they could explore the sights,

sounds, smells, and tools like “Mr. Thirsty.” This hands-on experience helped ease anxiety and build confidence. That preparation paid off as dental students returned to Larc Norcross a week later to provide dental exams and wellness screenings for our students, supporting both oral health and overall well-being.

Now in its sixth year, this partnership—made possible by the Healthcare Quality Strategies

Foundation—continues to grow, with nearly half of our students participating and Camden County College adding another session next year. Most importantly, it is making a lasting impact, including students who no longer require sedation for dental visits thanks to the confidence they’ve gained. We are deeply grateful for this collaboration and its continued positive impact on our school community. ■

EVERYONE'S A VIP AT LARC NORCROSS



Taylor and her parents enjoying our 1st VIP Day.

This Spring, Larc Norcross proudly hosted one of our very first VIP Days where students could invite their own very important people to the school.

Families joined students for a day centered on connection, joy, and shared experiences. Together, they created personalized picture frames, took photos, and captured meaningful moments that reflect the heart of our school community.

Throughout the day, families had the opportunity to build relationships and strengthen the sense of belonging that makes Larc Norcross so special. ■

the heart of our school community



Sal was all smiles with a surprise visit from his Mom.



Karl was so proud of his picture frame that he and his Mom made.



Max and Grandma share a special funny moment during our VIP day.

Honoring Those Who Strengthen Larc Norcross

This April at the annual Appreciation Breakfast, the Larc Norcross School Board of Directors recognized two individuals whose service and support have made a lasting impact on our community.

Jim Anderson, a former auditor, with Nisivoccia LLP, who supported the school through several periods of transition, received the Lauren Higgins Hope Award. This award honors those whose generosity inspires hope that, for Larc's students, each day can be better than the last.

Joe Madera of Hardenbergh Insurance was presented with the Paul Porado Award in recognition of his many years of volunteerism and support of



Larc Norcross Board Member Chas Higgins presents Jim Anderson with the Lauren Higgins Hope Award.

Larc Norcross employees and their families. The award honors the legacy of Paul Porado, a cherished friend of The Larc Norcross School, and is given to individuals who consistently champion the needs of people with disabilities. ■



Joe Madera was honored with the Paul Porado Award from Larc Norcross Board Member Jim Rhodes.

Inclusion

IN ACTION ACROSS



Students from Larc Norcross and Volz School enjoy a fun game of basketball during Larc's Field Day.



Will and Jenna enjoy the new sports equipment generously donated to the Larc Norcross School by Mountain View Middle School.

This spring, inclusion shined at Larc Norcross School through four meaningful partnerships that built upon one another to create lasting memories, new friendships, and shared moments of inspiration. Together, these experiences reflected the power of young people and community partners coming together with kindness, creativity, and a shared commitment to inclusion.



Room 4 enjoying the gift given to the students from Mountain View Middle School.

The season began when the Volz School joined us in February for Read Across America activities and returned in June to volunteer at our annual Field Day. Their continued involvement helped strengthen a spirit of inclusion across both events, creating an environment filled with teamwork, connection, and school pride.

Building on that momentum, the students of Mountain View Middle School, Mendham Borough School District, NJ, selected the Larc Norcross School as part of their "One Book, One School" initiative centered around *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper. As part of this project, students connected with Larc Norcross through a Zoom interview with Principal Stacie Halscheid, gaining insight into our school community and the

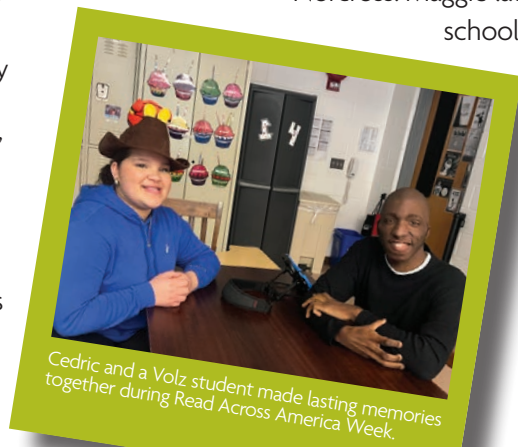
daily support provided by our teachers, paraprofessionals, and therapists. Their efforts extended beyond learning to action through their "Silver & Bills" fundraiser, which raised \$1,400 to support Larc Norcross and helped enhance our Adapted Physical Education program with new equipment now benefiting all of our students.

That spirit of connection continued in April when the Hamilton A's 11U Baseball Team spent the morning at Larc Norcross School participating in adaptive baseball, followed by an afternoon of empathy training. The team engaged directly with the tools our students use every day, including the OBI feeding system and communication devices, gaining

LARC NORCROSS COMMUNITY

a deeper understanding of daily life at Larc. The impact of the visit carried far beyond the day itself—later that weekend, the team won their championship and dedicated the victory to the students of Larc Norcross. As each player came to bat, teammates proudly chanted the name of the student they had been paired with—“For Ma-ria,” “For Cast-i-el,” and “For Dami-en”—a powerful reminder of the relationships formed in such a short time.

Finally, that same spirit of generosity was echoed by Maggie Fewkes, daughter of our therapy assistant, AnnMarie Fewkes, who led a fundraiser at her school, Doane Academy, encouraging students to participate in a dress-down day to support Larc Norcross. Maggie later visited the school to deliver the contributions in person and meet the students whose lives she had helped impact through her initiative.



We are deeply grateful to Maggie, the Hamilton A's, Volz School, and Mountain View Middle School for their kindness, enthusiasm, and commitment to inclusion. These moments remind us that inclusion is not a single event, but something built over time—through shared experiences, genuine connection, and a willingness to see and support one another. ■

ONE STAGE, TWO MILESTONES:

Celebrating Our Graduates

On June 11th, students from both the Preschool and Secondary Programs participated in a combined graduation ceremony, walking and rolling across the stage in front of family members and staff to receive their diplomas. Five preschool graduates—Ki'Mari, Max, Mila, Amelia, and Mateo—donned caps and gowns as they were recognized for their achievements. Our only secondary program graduate, Austin, was honored in his blue cap as he prepared for his next chapter in the Larc Norcross Adult Program. The ceremony reflected years of growth, learning, and perseverance across all students. Congratulations to all of our graduates! ■



PERFECT WEATHER & BIG HEARTS MARK 35TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Monday, June 15, the Larc Norcross School community came together at Ramblewood Country Club for the 35th Annual “Help the Kids (and Adults)” Golf Tournament, presented by Hardenbergh Insurance Group.

Under bright skies and beautiful early summer weather, golfers enjoyed a full day on the course filled with camaraderie, friendly competition, and a shared commitment to supporting the Larc Norcross kids and adults.

As we reflect on another wonderful tournament, we are reminded of the strength of our community and the incredible impact that comes when people come together for a shared purpose. Thank you for being part of this special day—we look forward to seeing you next year! ■



Thank You!

6.15.26
help the kids
35TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Larc Norcross School Sincerely Thanks the Sponsors of the 35th Annual “Help the Kids” Golf Tournament

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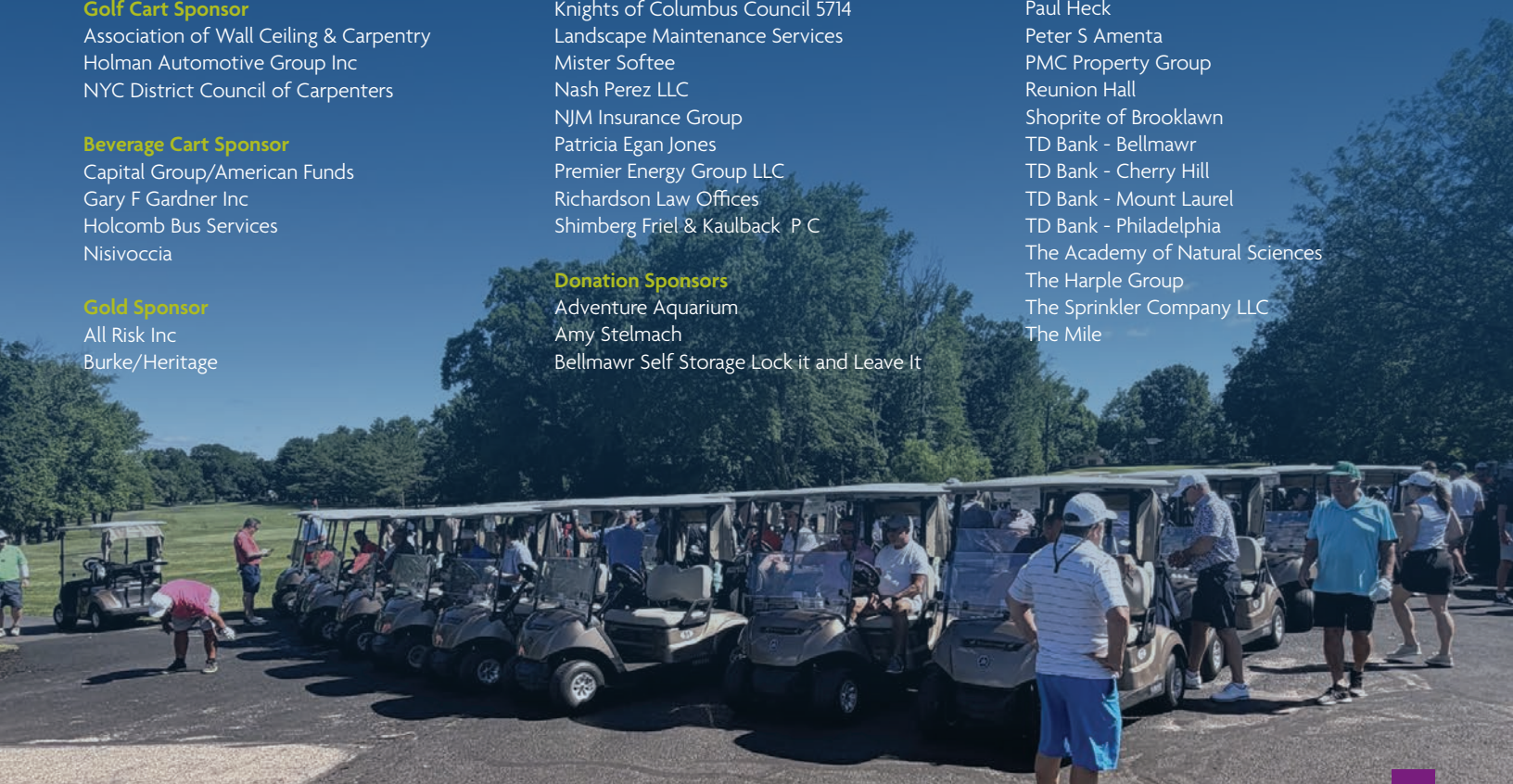
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*Recognizing donations received from January 21, 2026 - July 6, 2026

The Larc Norcross School acknowledges these gifts from our caring friends whose generosity makes it possible for us to provide the very best. We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor! There are many ways to support our mission, including planned giving and charitable donations through required distributions. Amounts donated may be excluded from taxable income. For more information about our donation opportunities, please contact Kim Cowperthwait at kcowperthwait@larc.school.org.

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Love

from Coast to Coast - and Beyond

The Hearts Across America Valentine's Day project was a huge success at the Larc Norcross School! Our secondary students invited students, friends, families, and supporters from across the country to send postcards, notes, and messages of kindness. Each piece of mail was added to a growing map, helping students visually see just how far their Larc Norcross Family extends.

We were thrilled to receive love from all across the United States—from Washington State to Florida, and from Vermont to Colorado. We even received a postcard from as far away as India!

Our students loved watching the map fill in day by day, eagerly checking for new arrivals and celebrating each connection. The project sparked excitement, curiosity, and meaningful conversations about geography, community, and kindness.

More than just postcards, Hearts Across America helped our students understand that they are part of a caring network that stretches far beyond the classroom. It turned a simple idea into a powerful lesson in connection and belonging. A heartfelt thank you to all of our Larc family for your kindness, participation, and enthusiasm! ■



Lights, Sounds, and Big Ideas

Shine at Larc Science Fair

What a bright and exciting day at The Larc Norcross School Science Fair! This year's theme, Lights and Sounds, came to life as students proudly shared the amazing classroom projects they worked so hard to create. Families and school friends were treated to a hands-on celebration of curiosity, creativity, and discovery.

The fair featured glowing lava lamps, experiments blending light and color to create new shades, and even a standout demonstration where a Slinky paired with Styrofoam produced a sound strikingly similar to a lightsaber when moved back and forth—an imaginative favorite of the day! What a terrific day filled with science, smiles, and discovery. ■