

## Enter to Win an iPod Touch!

Boston Partners in Education is juicing up its Annual Appeal!



Everyone who returns an appeal envelope fully completed with contact information will be eligible for a drawing to win a brand new iPod Touch.

Of course we are hoping to receive envelopes stuffed with donations, but no contribution is necessary to be entered in the drawing.

You can also register by emailing us your contact info (name, address, phone/cell phone and email address) to [fpantazopoulos@bostonpartners.org](mailto:fpantazopoulos@bostonpartners.org).



*Lessons in learning. Lessons for life.*

44 Farnsworth Street  
Boston, MA 02210  
617.451.6145  
617.482.0617 (fax)

### United Way Makes Donating Easy and We Need Your Support!

Please include Boston Partners in Education in your United Way designation at work.

Our ID is: **M 106750**



### Double Your Money!

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, every dollar contributed to Boston Partners in Education's Annual Appeal by volunteers will be matched cumulatively up to \$10,000.

If you are a volunteer and have supported us in the past, please keep doing so. If you have worked with us as a volunteer but have not made a contribution—or have not in a while—this is a great way to double your contribution in support of Boston's public school students.

No amount is too small. The kids in the classroom will smile broadly as they master schoolwork challenges thanks to your generosity.

### Inside this issue:

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Another Way to Donate

Double Your Money

Win an iPod Touch!

### Don't forget!

Boston Partners is now accepting applications for 15 numbers for the 2009 Boston Marathon @.

Contact Matt Allen for details:  
[mallen@bostonpartners.org](mailto:mallen@bostonpartners.org)

**BOSTON PARTNERS**  
**IN EDUCATION**

*Lessons in learning. Lessons for life.*

**NEWS FLASH**  
**Fall 2008**

The "Back to School" Issue

## Boston's Favorite "Big Cheese" Kicks Off 5th Annual Big Cheese Reads

Mayor Thomas Menino launched Boston Partners in Education's 5th year celebration of its signature Big Cheese Reads sponsorship program at the McKay School in East Boston on October 21, 2008. The Mayor spoke with 6th graders and answered their questions, sharing with them his career path, the challenges he faced along the way and how education helped him prepare for his current role.

"We have a goal of bringing 100 "Big Cheeses" into Boston middle schools this year," said Pamela Civins, Executive Director of Boston Partners in Education. In addition to the Mayor, Keith Lockhart and leaders from State Street, IBM, Harvard, KPMG and Bank of America—to name a few—will be "Big Cheese" readers this year.



Mayor Tom Menino kicks off the 5th year of Boston Partners in Education's Big Cheese Reads by speaking to the 6th grade class at the McKay School in East Boston on October 21, 2008! (photo by Jean Hangarter)

### Quote of the Day:

"I believe most volunteer commitments are recession proof. It is a sign of their commitment that many volunteers stay late to finish their work rather than miss their volunteer time with their student."

- Paulina Swartz, State Street Global Advisors  
Boston Partners in Education, Corporate Volunteer and Board Member

## Success Story: Interview with Kelli Spoor



Kelli Spoor was a student whose life was changed due to the influence a Boston Partners in Education academic mentor.

Boston Partners in Education's new Communications Manager, Faye Pantazopoulos recently caught up with Kelli and discussed her experience as a junior in high and how it led her to law school.

### **What grade did you begin your experience with a Boston Partners in Education Academic Mentor?**

I was first introduced to Boston Partners in Education during my junior year at South Boston High School. I can still remember the day like it was yesterday. I was sitting in U.S history class and my teacher informed us that we would be having a visitor coming in to work with us for a few days. The visitor was Catherine McClure from the Attorney General's Office. When Catherine McClure came to our class, she told us that we would be participating in a mock trial re-enacting the case *Lochner vs. New York* (1905). I was assigned the role of the prosecutor (Lochner's lawyer). I was so nervous about having to speak in front of the class. Once I got into the role, I was confident and my fear of speaking went away. It was exciting having to argue my case like it was a real trial.

### **How did this experience benefit you?**

This experience changed my life. I honestly don't know where I'd be today if I hadn't had the opportunity to meet Catherine McClure (volunteer from the Attorney General's office) and the positive feedback that she gave me for my performance as the prosecutor for the mock trial. The confidence that I gained from this experience gave me the motivation and determination to get where I am today. I've recently graduated from Suffolk University with B.S and I am currently working on the application process for law school.

### **How did this experience affect your choice of career?**

During my first few years in high school, I was unsure what career path that I wanted to take. After my experience with Boston Partners in Education, I knew that a legal career is what I am most passionate about.

### **Tell me if you would recommend us to a student, a teacher and to other volunteers/academic mentors.**

Most definitely! The overall experience wasn't only a positive one but it encouraged me to follow my dreams and to have confidence in myself.

## Strong Start to the School Year

Boston Partners in Education is thrilled with the number of people interested in being matched with Boston Public School students in grades K-12 as academic mentors this year. "The number of people going through our placement process is 109% over September and October 2007," according to the Director of Volunteer Placement. "All of our volunteer training sessions have been well attended," added Corry Banton, Training Manager.

"Our goal is to support 5,000 students this year with academic mentoring. Most of our academic mentors work one-on-one with small groups of students. We do have some that work with entire classes," said Pamela Civins, Executive Director.

"Delivering academic support in the classroom is a key differentiating feature of Boston Partners in Education's work. There are many afterschool programs, but precious few that are on the frontline in the classroom working directly with students and teachers."



## Performance Partners—A New Model

The 2008-2009 academic year is bringing a change to the way Boston Partners in Education matches up its services with Boston public schools.

Using four schools as pilot sites, we are deepening our roots by working with school personnel more strategically to track and measure the impact that academic mentoring has on students in grades K-12.



The schools gain by receiving more volunteer support tailored to their students' needs; and Boston Partners will collect more data to share with many constituents—school partners, volunteers, parents and financial supporters.

If successful, it is expected that as many as 25 schools will benefit from the Performance Partners model. Boston Partners received funding through the Verizon Foundation to help launch this important initiative which can be replicated beyond Boston, in other major urban school districts with strong volunteer participation.

## Greg Tang Is Back!

Boston Partners in Education volunteers who have been lucky enough to take a math training session with Greg Tang, you'll be thrilled to know he is returning!

### Greg Tang Math Support Session

#### When:

Monday, November 10 12-1 pm  
Thursday, December 4 12-1 pm

#### Where:

Boston Partners in Education  
44 Farnsworth St.  
Boston, MA 02110

Contact Corry Banton to sign up: 617-451-6145 (space is limited)



## 35th Anniversary Celebration Nets Donation to Boston Partners

Boston Financial Data Services is celebrating 35 years in business. To honor this milestone they chose Boston Partners in Education to receive a charitable donation.



Pamela Civins, Executive Director accepted the donation at a special dinner held at the John F. Kennedy Library on September 10, 2008.

Boston Financial Data Services top executives also participated in Boston Partners in Education's fundraising initiative, The Big Cheese Reads.

"We are delighted to be the beneficiary of Boston Financial Data Services' landmark anniversary celebration. Their commitment to Boston public school students is wonderful. We are honored to have them as a corporate partner," said Pamela Civins.