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Save the Date!

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Event is taking place on June 15 at Lucky Strike Lanes in Boston from 6-8 PM.

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NEWS FLASH

Spring 2009

The "Spring Break" Issue

Success Story: Interview with Math Initiative Volunteer, Taylor Gearhart

How did you come to be a Boston Partners in Education volunteer?

I've always enjoyed volunteering in my community. Also, I want to become a teacher one day myself, so I figured volunteering in classrooms would be good experience for me to have.

Why did you choose the Math Initiative?

It's funny, I'm actually studying writing and communications over at Emerson College. The truth is, I was a terrible math student growing up. From the moment I was introduced to fractions until my junior year of high school I always felt I was battling math in school. My senior year, however, things totally changed. I had an amazing calculus teacher and suddenly things clicked! I had barely scraped by with B's in math my whole life and suddenly I was getting A's and even feeling confident enough to start helping out my classmates. That year in Calculus class I learned what an impact a great math mentor can make, especially on students who feel helplessly bad at math. I decided to volunteer with the Math Initiative program so that I could help out, and maybe even inspire, students who are like I was as a kid: frustrated with math.



What do you gain from your experience as a volunteer?

Since volunteering with Boston Partners I have a greater sense of belonging in Boston. I know and love a much bigger, diverse spectrum of people than I did before volunteering. The students and teachers in each classroom that I work in teach me much more than I teach them and I feel welcomed and respected by the school communities in which I volunteer. In April, I attended The Tobin School's fundraiser "Spring Into Salsa." I had such a wonderful time watching students dance and play drums on stage. If I hadn't been volunteering, I wouldn't have even known that this event was taking place! I feel so lucky to be a part of the Tobin's beautiful community. In addition, volunteering for Boston Partners has given me an acute sense of social responsibility. While I do feel proud of the work that I do, I

cannot help but see that there is so much more to be done, and I know that all of these children deserve the best I can offer.

What is your favorite memory or biggest accomplishment as a volunteer academic mentor for Boston Partners in Education?

During the last few weeks that I volunteered with Boston Partners I helped some of the students in Mrs. Stafford's 5th grade class at the Tobin School make a math text book. Each student rewrote a problem from their mid-year exam and solved it step-by-step as it might be shown in a text book. The kids did an amazing job and now the 5th graders next year will be able to study for their mid-year exam with a homemade text book. I was so impressed by how thoughtfully each student solved and explained their assigned math problem; and it turned out to be a beautiful math book!

What Math Initiative Students from Ms. Medina's 5th Grade at the Emerson School are saying about the program:

"We solve problems (division and decimals) together. It's fun." - Jason, 11 who now scores up to 100% on tests.

"It was hard to understand before but now I got the hang of it." "I used to get 1's and 2's and now I'm scoring 2's and 3's and would like more than one day a week (in math help) if I could." - Allector, 13 who on his last report card scored eight 4's, six 3's and two 1's.

Boston Partners in Education's Big Cheese Reads Gala 2009



A roomful of "Big Cheeses" straightening their "Big Cheese Reads" ties from Vineyard Vines

On Wednesday April 29, Boston Partners in Education celebrated its Fifth Annual Big Cheese Reads Gala at the InterContinental Hotel. The honorees for the night were Gerald and Kate Chertavian of Year Up and Secretary of Education Paul Reville of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education. The event, which drew a crowd of about 450 attendees, brought together the business community and Boston Public School employees. The common theme throughout the evening was the important impact of corporate and community involvement on education.

The evening program included the presentation of awards to Mr. & Mrs. Chertavian and Secretary of Education Paul Reville. Three students tutored and mentored by Boston Partners' volunteers at Boston Community Leadership Academy also spoke about the value of working with a

volunteer and how it has helped them.

Boston Partners in Education Executive Director, Pamela Civins said this about the gala: "Boston Partners in Education is appreciative to all of the individuals who attended our 5th Annual Big Cheese Reads gala. We had a wonderful evening!

She continued, "In these current times when the financial climate is not at its best, it's reassuring to know that there are hundreds of individuals willing to give their time and money to support K-12 students in the Boston Public Schools. We are grateful for all of the support that we receive so that students can continue to receive the one-on-one and small group attention they deserve during the school day.

We have high expectations for all of the students in the Boston Public Schools, and with budget cuts looming, we believe the work of Boston Partners in Education is needed more than ever."

The Big Cheese Reads Gala raised approximately \$215,000 for Boston Partners in Education. Money raised will go directly to support Boston Partners in Education programming in the Boston Public Schools. Over the 2008-2009 school year, Boston Partners in Education has reached approximately 5,000 students in 69 Boston public schools through the efforts of 969 volunteers.



Kate & Gerald Chertavian (Year Up) accept their honoree awards from Joe Antonellis (State Street) and Pamela Civins (Boston Partners in Education)



Gail Huff (WCVB—Channel 5); Pamela Civins (Boston Partners in Education); Maura Banta (IBM), Massachusetts Secretary of Education Paul Reville and Joe Antonellis (State Street)

See more Gala photos on our web site: www.bostonpartners.org

Boston Partners in Education Volunteers Quoted in Boston Business Journal Article on Surge in Volunteerism

The Boston Business Journal recently published a feature story on the surge in volunteerism in the Boston area. Boston Partners in Education was asked to comment on if we're seeing an increase in volunteers and how. Executive Director Pamela Civins spoke with BBJ reporter Mary Moore, as did several of our volunteers. The article ran in the April 24, 2009 edition of the Boston Business Journal and can be found online on their website. Boston Partners volunteers Brian Glazer and Gloria Ristaino talk about how volunteering is helping them sharpen their job skills and allowing them an opportunity to give back while looking for full time employment.

Young Boston Partners' Trivia Night at the Rattlesnake Raises Funds and Awareness



Young Boston Partners, Boston Partners in Education's young professionals group, gathered at The Rattlesnake on May 13, 2009 to play trivia. This was the second event the group has held and it was a great success. The sold-out crowd of area professionals enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a very close game of trivia. The event raised funds and awareness for Boston Partners in Education. Winning teams won generous gift certificates to local restaurants and there were prizes awarded to raffle winners.

On July 22, 2009 be sure to join Young Boston Partners for cocktails and networking at the Atlantic Beer Garden.

To learn more about Young Boston Partners and to join the mailing list, email Faye Pantazopoulos at fpantazopoulos@bostonpartners.org or check out our facebook page.



Sheila Levine Named Boston Partners in Education's Educator of the Year

The **Boston Partners in Education Educator of the Year Award** is presented to an educator currently working with our programs who goes the extra mile to ensure that his or her students receive the instruction and support they need for success. This person demonstrates sincere dedication to the volunteers who come into his or her classroom. He or she supports the volunteers' efforts and recognizes the true value of their time and work with students.

This year, the award goes to Sheila Levine, a native Bostonian who graduated from Girls Latin School and received her Bachelors of Education from Boston State. She is a 7th grade ELA teacher at the Clarence Edwards School in Charlestown. She's taught there for 23 years.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Mrs. Levine is a mediator for the City of Boston, handling mediation cases for the Boston Teachers Union, and she is also the liaison for many writing programs, such as the Celtics Stay in School contest and Do The Write Thing violence prevention writing contest. She and her students have won the prestigious Do The Write Thing National Writing Contest Award two consecutive years for the City of Boston.

Mrs. Levine leads the Edwards School in organizing Big Cheese Readers and volunteers for Boston Partners. Currently she is working on a writing project for MASS 20/20 called People of the Bay. Student work will be displayed in the new Boston Museum, which will be built near Faneuil Hall. When she was at home raising her family, Sheila was a volunteer reader at her local library, so she truly knows the value of volunteering to bring reading to children of all ages. Sheila wholeheartedly supports the volunteers of Boston Partners and hopes to keep up the relationship after she retires.

Find out who our other award winners are on the next page.

Let's Celebrate You!



**Come to the Boston Partners in Education
Annual Volunteer Recognition Event!**



June 15, 2009 from 6-8 PM

Lucky Strike Lanes
145 Ipswich St., Boston, MA 02215

Awards Given:

John C. Rennie Volunteer of the Year Award– Jolene Singh

Isabel G. Besecker Award– Mike Kerrigan

Nicholas A. Lopardo Corporate Volunteer Award– John Snow Inc./
World Education Inc.

Pamela L. Trefler School Partner Award– The Emerson School

Boston Partners in Education Educator of the Year Award– Sheila
Levine, Edwards Middle School

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Award– Eneida Bonilla

Joyna Bozzotto Award– Mary Ann Hardenbergh and Kim McLarin

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