



STEM grows in Lynn

Eastern Bank funds after-school program

By PAUL HALLORAN

A new after-school STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math — program is up and running in Lynn Public Schools, thanks in part to a \$4,400 grant received from the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation.

The STEM Robotics and Engineering After-School Program for fourth-and fifth-graders is being piloted at four schools — Aborn, Sewell-Anderson, Shoemaker and Washington STEM — after the grant was procured by Sarah Jackson, coordinator of private partnerships for LPS.

“We’re excited and grateful to receive this grant,” said Jackson. “It’s funding a unique pilot program that will ideally expand into a district-wide STEM initiative over the next several years.”

The pilot STEM program is being coordinated by Richard Held, acting Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Science in LPS. One faculty member at each school teaches the 90-minute, bi-weekly class, with 24 students participating at no charge.

“This is a great program,” Held said. “We designed it to handle the maximum amount of kids.”

The program combines the use of the LEGO WeDo robotics construction set with a structured 20-week curriculum to stimulate students’ interest in engineering while exposing them to possible educational and career trajectories in STEM areas.

Held said students are designing and building a suspension bridge, as well as studying environmental, mechanical, electrical, biomedical and acoustical engineering.

Students are building robots using the LEGO sets, then they connect them to a computer via USB and program their actions, sounds and responses. “They will program

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Literacy governs learning

Gov. Deval Patrick had a captive audience as a guest reader at Harrington School. The governor told students his favorite book is “Life on the Mississippi” by Mark Twain.

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Excited with direction of district



JUDITH FLANAGAN KENNEDY

Looking back on my first term as mayor, it is heartening to reflect on what we have been able to accomplish in our schools. It has been a pleasure to work with Superintendent Latham and the Lynn School Committee, and I commend them for their

dedication to our students.

In the past four years, we have:

- ▶ upgraded from a Level 4 to a Level 3 school district;
- ▶ increased the number of teachers from 1,114 to 1,235 and increased the number of paraprofessionals

from 241 to 276;

- ▶ reopened the Fallon School and expanded the use of the Washington School as an innovation school concentrating on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM);
- ▶ provided dozens of summer learning programs;
- ▶ expanded the Know Atom science program to all elementary schools;
- ▶ restored the machine shop program at Lynn Tech;
- ▶ conducted a teen risk survey to assess negative behaviors in middle- and high-school students;
- ▶ consolidated all school administrative offices;
- ▶ established a committee to create a 25-year plan for school replacements and/or renovations, beginning with the new Marshall Middle School.

As I enter my second term, I am excited by the

direction this district is heading, especially with the construction of the new Marshall facility beginning in 2014. There are many other wonderful things taking place in our existing buildings on a daily basis – as you will see inside this edition – and it is always a pleasure for me to visit classrooms. I am always reminded of not only the dedication and hard work exhibited by teachers, students and administrators, but also the responsibility we in municipal government have to ensure we provide every student and teacher with the best possible learning environment.

I wish all our students and teachers a happy and safe holiday season.

Judith Flanagan Kennedy is mayor of Lynn.

Grateful for support for new Marshall



DR. CATHERINE C. LATHAM

As the 2013-14 school year comes to its halfway point, we have much to celebrate.

I am so grateful to everyone who worked tirelessly to ensure the passage of the referendum question in September on the new Marshall Middle School, authorizing the City to cover its share of the

construction project. The question won in every precinct by an average margin of 4-1. That type of support is overwhelming. The approval was a win for our children, a win for public education and a win for the betterment of Lynn.

Since the vote, the good news has continued. In October, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) approved a grant of up to \$53.5 million for construction of the new Marshall. Designed as a four-story, state-of-the-art, 182,000 square-foot facility, the school will give our students all of the modern facilities they deserve, such as science and technology labs, a media center and space for consumer sciences. I look forward to working with the MSBA as we enter the next phase of the building project.

As much as we would love to bask in the positive developments, there is no time for respite. We must be mindful of the other schools that need our attention. Pickering Middle School was built in 1917 and is next on the school

replacement list.

Also, as our city and its growing population continue to thrive, our public school space crunch is unfortunately showing no signs of easing. Moving forward, we will no doubt need to expand enrollment at the Commercial Street early childhood center, which opened at the start of this school year, and be creative in identifying other space options.

As always, thank you for your invested interest in our city's schools and I look forward to continuing our work to secure a bright future for our students.

Dr. Catherine C. Latham is superintendent of schools.



Lynn Tech students, teachers and alumni gathered for the dedication of the Life Skills Center in memory of Donna Stucker, a longtime teacher at the school who was passionate in her advocacy for the students who use the center. The refurbishing of the Life Skills Center was funded by the Lynn Tech Alumni Association, which was represented at the event by President Jim Ward and past president Ron Beckett, who spearheaded the fundraising drive. Members of Stucker's family were also present for the dedication.



Cobbet student Amerie Am shows Principal Susanne Garrity her work.

PHOTOS: MEAGHAN CASEY



Susanne Garrity watches as students Tiffany Ramirez, front, Dylan Maldonado and Angela DeLeon use computers to work on math.

Taking her turn at the top

Garrity happy in role as Cobbet principal

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Susanne Garrity never thought much about being a principal until she started working as the program specialist at Harrington as the school worked to emerge from Level 4 status. It was the time she spent with Deb Ruggiero that convinced Garrity she would like to lead a school someday.

"Deb helped me think about it," Garrity said of the Harrington principal. "She was an incredible mentor."

Garrity thought about applying when the Aborn, Ingalls and Washington openings were posted as a group in the spring of 2012, but her work at Harrington was not yet complete. "I felt obligated to help see Harrington through the Level 4 process," she said. "When this position came up, I knew we were in good shape and it was my time." (Harrington and Connery were both removed from Level 4 status this fall.)

"Sue is an exceptional leader," said Ruggiero. "She has a great ability to communicate to parents and teachers the importance of working together for the benefit of the child."

"This position" is the principalship of Cobbett Elementary, where Garrity took over this fall. So far, so good.

"It's been a very smooth transition. I'm thrilled to be back," said Garrity, who taught at Cobbett from 1999 to 2000. "The teachers are very hard working."

Garrity, who started teaching in Lynn in 1998, faced a personal tragedy as she was preparing to earn her certification as a principal when her husband, Rob, died in April 2011 only 12 days after taking ill. He had encouraged her to pursue a principal position, and Susanne was determined to see it through.

"It was very difficult," she said. "My job was very therapeutic for me. It helped me to stay focused and it got me out of the house in the morning doing something purposeful. I think he would be very proud of me right

now."

Rob was the reason the Garritys came to Lynn in the first place. He got a job with the DPW working at Gannon Golf Club, and the city's residency law required him to live in the city, so the couple moved here from Lakeville with their two daughters, Jetta and Jennifer.

Garrity, who started as a preschool teacher, said she was happy to move to an urban district.

"That's where I feel at home," said Garrity, who taught at Ingalls and Cobbet before moving to Harrington in 2000 and working as a teacher, Curriculum Instruction Teacher (CIT) and program specialist. "I feel as if I have more of a purpose. I started out at a wealthy preschool in Boston and I felt like I could give more."

Working at Boston City Hospital with therapeutic teachers who helped children academically, socially and emotionally convinced Garrity that was her calling. It prepared her for teaching in Lynn and serving as principal at Cobbet, where the minority population is 94 percent and all students are eligible for free or reduced lunch under federal guidelines.

"I think I have the skill set and it's a natural fit," she said. "I love being here."

Garrity, who said she works well with Cobbet program specialist Tim Burt, has implemented some small group instruction and professional development, encouraging more collaboration among teachers.

"The teachers are very enthusiastic about learning new things and working together, and I'm very proud of that," Garrity said.

She is also proud of her and Rob's two daughters. Jetta is a WPI grad working as a biomedical engineer. Jenny is a senior at Emmanuel, captain of the softball team and preparing for what she hopes will be a career as a teacher, perhaps in special education. She will do well to follow her mother's example.

An inspirational visit

Travis Roy shares his story with Classical students

By PAUL HALLORAN

Any teacher will tell you it can be challenging to keep the attention of even a small group of adolescents for an hour, so a gymnasium filled with 1,500 of them is imposing to say the least. It turned out to be no problem at all for Travis Roy.

After being introduced by Classical senior Amanda Enquist, who suffers from cerebral palsy, Roy took to the floor in his power wheelchair, which has been his primary mode of transportation for almost half of his life. The Classical students quickly quieted down, and you could hear a pin drop as he shared his story with them.

Roy's appearance — sponsored by Eastern Bank — was in conjunction with Classical's One Book project, in which all students and staff read the same book over the summer, students complete three projects related to the book, and the author visits to discuss it.

Roy was there to discuss his autobiography, *Eleven Seconds* — the title signifying the exact length of his collegiate hockey career at Boston University.

"October 20, 1995. I was like a kid on Christmas," Roy told Classical students. "My feet never touched the ground. I had made it."

BU was hosting North Dakota that night and raising the national championship banner from the 1994-95 season. It was a banner day for Roy, who was achieving one of the three goals he had set for himself as a freshman in high school in Yarmouth, Maine: play Div. 1 college hockey; make it to the NHL; and make the U.S. Olympic team.

When Coach Jack Parker tapped him on the shoulder two minutes into the game, "it was my turn to take the ice," Roy said. "This was going to be my big moment."

Tragically, that moment was fleeting. Roy lowered his head to check a North Dakota player, but missed and went head-first into

the boards. "I think I knew immediately I was in trouble," he said. Roy had cracked his fourth and fifth vertebra. In an instant, he was a quadriplegic.

"That's the challenge that chose me," he said. "There are times in life you choose the challenges and there are times they choose you. It's what you do in the face of those challenges that will define who you are and who you can and will become. I've come farther than I could have ever imagined."

Roy was back at BU less than a year after his injury, graduating with a communications degree in 2000. He started the Travis Roy Foundation in 1997 to support individuals with spinal-cord injuries and supporting research to find a cure for them. He works as a professional motivational speaker and, judging by the reaction of the enraptured Classical crowd, he is very good at it.

"He is an inspiration to all of us, especially the athletes," said Brian Maldonado, the senior class president and captain of the cross country and swim teams. "Everyone who read the book feels a strong connection to him."

Roy's message to students was that they should not let limitations get in their way. "There's no difference between star hockey player Travis and the Travis you see before you now," he said. "I can still laugh, I can still cry and enjoy the people around me. What's more important than that?"

Classical Principal Gene Constantino and social studies teacher David Poland, who coordinated the One Book project, said the fact that more 75 percent of students passed in their projects on the book (English, science and social studies) on time shortly after the start of the school year indicates how much they enjoyed the topic.



Travis Roy poses for a photo with Lynn Classical students after delivering his speech.



From left, Classical teacher David Poland, Principal Gene Constantino, senior class president Brian Maldonado, Travis Roy, senior Amanda Enquist, senior class vice president Rebecca Potter, Rocco Cennami and aide Susan Strakus.



Travis Roy had the undivided attention of the Classical student body during his visit.

ENGLISH SPOKEN HERE

Lynn students benefit from new Middlebury College language-immersion program

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Working with Middlebury College, Lynn Public Schools took English immersion to a new level with the inaugural Lynn Summer English Learning Academy (LYSELA).

Funded through a Gateway Cities grant from the state Executive Office of Education, the 4-week intensive program was for 29 middle-school students with varying levels of proficiency in English. The main component of the program was that the students spoke only English at all times.

“We were thrilled when Lynn asked us to work with them,” said Jane Swift, CEO of Middlebury Interactive Languages and former Massachusetts governor. “This is the first time we have extended into ELL. We have other school districts around the country looking at this with great interest.”

Middlebury Interactive, the academic leader in world language instruction for K-12 students, provides full-immersion language instruction in which students speak only the language they are learning. With LYSELA, Middlebury offered the program in reverse for the first time.

“This innovative model was designed to help Lynn students gain the English skills they need to be successful in school and beyond,” said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jaye Warry. “The goal was for them to learn 40 new vocabulary words. They went way beyond that.”

Rene DeJesus saw how much his son, Erskine, benefitted from the program.

“This program exposed him to a kind of learning you wouldn’t see during the school year,” DeJesus said of Erskine, who spoke no English when he came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic in 2011. “He’s reading a new book every 2-3 weeks. He couldn’t read a single paragraph when he got here. This will put him on a different path for college and a career.”

Middlebury Interactive provided the curriculum and professional development for the Lynn Public Schools teachers that staffed LYSELA, which included a mixture of academics, field trips and cultural experiences. The students especially enjoyed staying at Endicott College a few weekend nights.

“Not only did these students gain valuable English-language skills, they also experienced a variety of enrichment opportunities that will serve them well as they advance in school,” said Superintendent Dr. Catherine C. Latham. “This was a unique opportunity.”

While the majority of students who participated were originally Spanish-speaking, there were several who spoke Arabic and one Portuguese. Batool and Shahad Faraj are sisters who moved to the U.S. from Iraq in 2011. Their grandfather was killed in the war and their father had been shot several times. He was determined to provide his daughters with a better life.

“Our dad said we needed to go to the U.S. to get a better education,” said Shahad Faraj, who along with her sister spoke no English when arriving here.

The sisters said they enjoyed the fun aspects of LYSELA, including designing a shoe after learning about Lynn’s history as a shoe-making city. “We learned more English and made new friends,” Batool Faraj said.

The program was equally rewarding for the LPS teachers who staffed it.

“We got to really know the kids and learn different ways of teaching them,” said Helena Diamond, who teaches math at Breed. “I learned a lot from them. We had the opportunity to take our time teaching and let them discern things on their own.”

In addition to LPS and Middlebury Interactive, LYSELA was presented in collaboration with Endicott College, Gordon College and Centerboard of Lynn.

“We were delighted with the level of excitement among students, parents, teachers and the school district,” Swift said. “The atmosphere for learning was tremendous. Students gained not only language skills, but the cultural awareness to use those skills in context.”



Superintendent Dr. Catherine C. Latham, Mayor Judith Flanagan Kennedy, Erskine DeJesus, Rene DeJesus and Middlebury Interactive Languages CEO Jane Swift, former Massachusetts governor.



Sisters Shahad, left, and Batool Faraj show the boot they designed to teacher Amy DeRosa.



LYSELA students share their experiences with Superintendent Latham and Jane Swift.



GE SOWS SEEDS OF VOLUNTEERISM IN LYNN SCHOOLS

Victor Zakak does some planting at Hood.

GE employees who helped spruce up the Hood School included Peter Rock, Bob Kursmark, Ron Chiappini, George Berube, John Ramsey, Victor Zakak and Mark Nestor.

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

A legacy of good citizenship runs deep in the culture of GE, where, for more than a century, its employees have dedicated millions of volunteer hours to communities such as Lynn.

The work of these volunteers may go unpaid, but it does not go unappreciated—as evident by the gratitude of students and teachers at Hood Elementary School.

Prior to the opening day of school, a group of 17 GE employees visited Hood to make school improvements—landscaping, gardening and painting classrooms, stairs, ramps and games in the school yard.

“They were wonderful and so accommodating,” said Hood Principal Gayle Dufour. “We gave them our wish list and they came back with supplies and tools and did a beautiful job. Parents, students and neighbors all noticed. When you have pride in your school and your community, everyone benefits.”

“Volunteering is a GE corporate initiative and we try to do it as often as we can get people together,” said Bob Kursmark, Chief Consulting Engineer for GE Aviation, who was one of the 17 volunteers at Hood.

GE also supports Lynn Public Schools through the KnowAtom program, an inquiry-based science curriculum that puts students on the path to excellence in science and engineering. In July, Lynn’s GE Volunteers Council received one of just three corporate

Education Impact Awards given globally for implementing sustainable solutions in education. The Council was recognized for its work with KnowAtom because what began in 2009 as a project in four schools is now a sustainable solution for science achievement in all the city’s elementary schools. As a result, the council awarded Lynn Public Schools \$2,500 to be used for various improvement projects at several schools.

“GE volunteers are igniting a passion to teach and learn science, technology, engineering and math,” said KnowAtom CEO Francis Vigeant. “Their impact has spread district-wide in one of the 10 largest urban school districts in Massachusetts. It’s hard to imagine a greater gift than equipping our youngest neighbors for a lifetime of opportunity and success.”

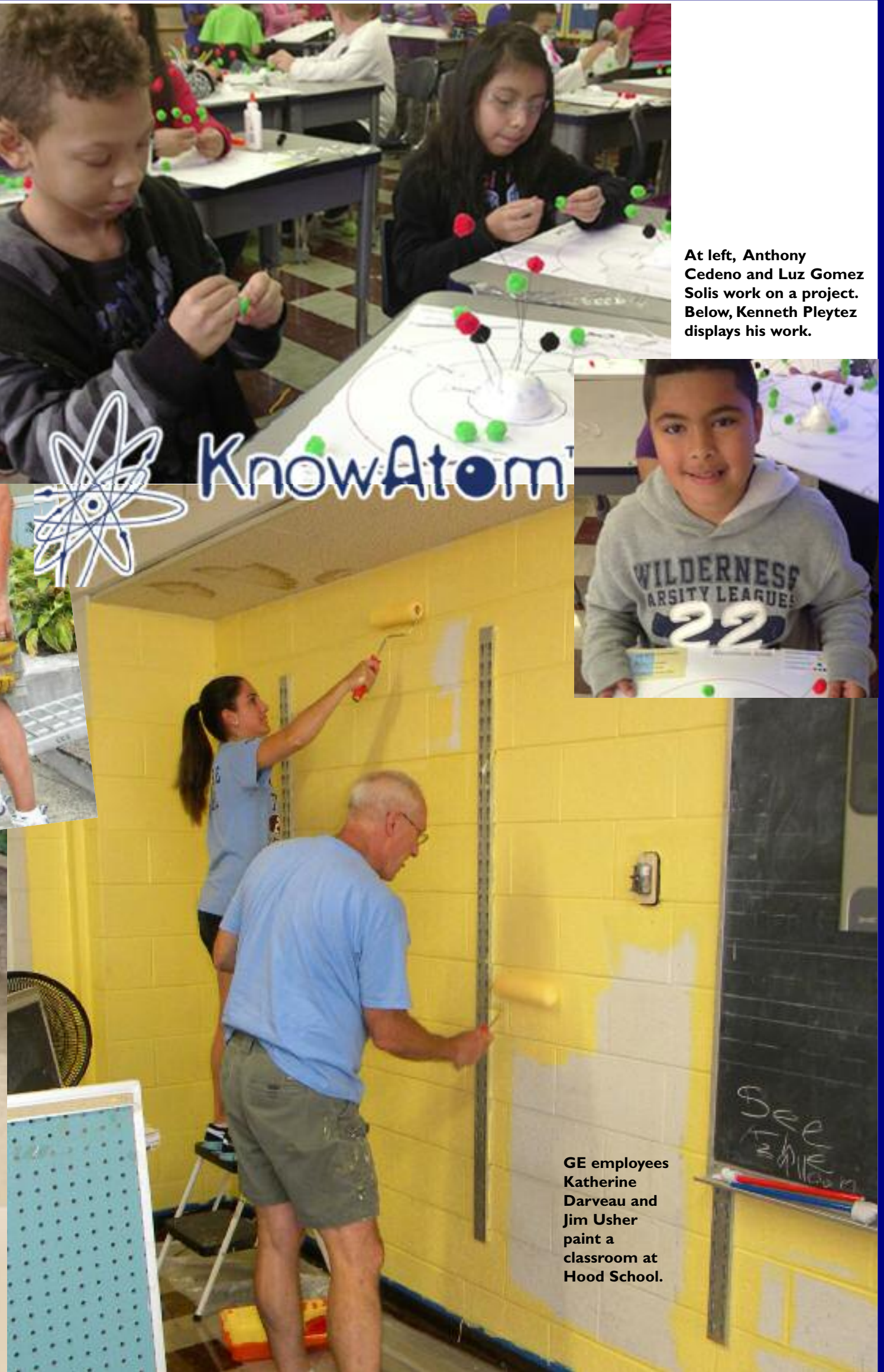
KnowAtom’s team of science educators developed the classroom-tested curriculum that includes teacher background information, lesson plans, visual aids, vocabulary and concept assessments, as well as common core connections to math, English language arts, and history/social studies. The curriculum is carefully aligned with state and Next Generation Science Standards. KnowAtom empowers teachers to guide students through fun, inquiry-based learning in which students master the scientific processes and the engineering design process. GE volunteers, led by Arati Bennett, Joseph Burger, Heather Caplan, Ric DeLisio, Anthony Mathis, Carol Wallis and Shawn Warren, provided funding, assisted teachers with professional development and worked with students in the classroom on their experiments.

Lincoln-Thompson Elementary School began using KnowAtom in 2010, and it has seen remarkable improvement in its MCAS scores. In just four years, the school has improved proficiency in fifth-grade Science and Technology/Engineering by nearly 50 points.

“We went from 36 percent in the advanced and proficient categories in 2009 without KnowAtom to 83 percent advanced or proficient in 2013,” said Lincoln-Thompson Principal Helen Mihos. “That’s a dramatic impact.”

The program has had such tremendous success in improving the district’s science achievement scores that the Lynn School Committee voted to fund KnowAtom as the core science curriculum in all elementary schools for the 2013–2014 school year. The Gelfand Family Charitable Trust provided generous philanthropic support to match the support and continue the efforts of GE, the Lynn Business Education Foundation and Footprint Energy to ensure success in STEM education with KnowAtom for Marshall Middle School, as well as the experimental STEM Lab at Tracy Elementary. The Hood School, which was named a Level 1 School this year, is in its second year implementing the KnowAtom curriculum. Dufour praises the hands-on material and interdisciplinary content.

“Our teachers love having it and the children really look forward to it,” said Dufour. “They’re building background in a lot of subject areas and understanding the scientific process.”



At left, Anthony Cedeno and Luz Gomez Solis work on a project. Below, Kenneth Pleytez displays his work.

GE employees Katherine Darveau and Jim Usher paint a classroom at Hood School.

Spirit of collaboration leads to return of E-team skills-training program

The E-team machinist training program, which had been canceled the last few years due to a lack of funding, returned this fall.

The revival of the E-team program can be attributed to a true public/private partnership involving IUE-CWA Local 201, elected officials, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Lynn Public Schools.

Local 201, through Vice President Pete Capano, and the Essex County Community Organization successfully advocated for the program to Sen. Thomas McGee and Rep. Steve Walsh, who in turn helped procure funding through the state Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, led by Secretary Greg Bialecki.

The E-team program runs at Lynn Tech four days per week throughout the school year. Classroom sessions are held Tuesday through Thursday nights, and all-day technical classes in the shop on Saturdays. Tony Dunn is program director. Students are in class for 20 hours per week for 34 weeks and receive a certificate upon graduation.

“We are very pleased to get this program back,” Dunn said. “We have had very good results in the past and we are looking forward to preparing more individuals for good jobs.”

Dunn praised the community support for this program. “There are so many people who know the value of this type of training,” he said, “from ECCO to employers to the superintendent and principal at Lynn Tech, and the School Committee members who



Tech teacher Joe Fountain shows Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki and Superintendent Dr. Catherine Latham welding projects done by students. Bialecki came to Tech to confirm the state's support of the E-team program.

worked with us to restore the E-Team. We always make sure our students appreciate the work that goes into making this happen for them.”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Catherine C. Latham called the E-team program a “positive for the community,” and credited School Committee members John Ford and Charlie Gallo with working diligently to have the program return to Lynn Tech.

“John and Charlie correctly pointed out that having the E-team take place at Tech is good for the program and for the district,” Latham said. “Many who will benefit from the program will be graduates of our high schools or parents of current Lynn Public

Schools students. I agree with John and Charlie that the E-Team will be beneficial both educationally and economically for our graduates and current students.”

Originally developed in 1996 for children of Local 201 members and others in the greater Lynn community, the E-team is geared to providing training that leads to a job that pays a living wage, with benefits, and a career path. More than 330 students have graduated from the program, with the vast majority of them getting hired in relatively short order. About 75 are currently working at GE, though the company has no direct affiliation with the program.

There is no cost to participate in the E-team. Interested individuals must apply and pass a basic skills test in math and English. Dunn said there were more than 100 applicants for the 30 available slots.

“We are very happy about this,” Capano said. “You hear a lot of talk about public/private partnerships, but you rarely see it happen, especially at this level. This is the only program of its kind in the state.”

Dunn leads a staff of five instructors that includes current and former LPS teachers. Students range in age from 18-62, though they all work toward the same goal.

“We want people who are going to be employed after they go through the program,” Dunn said. That’s what we’re all about.”



Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki, second from left visits with E-team students and program director Tony Dunn, center.

Adult-education program in Lynn is bigger and better

There is something for everyone in the Lynn Community Enrichment Program (LCEP), an adult-education program that is growing in popularity in its second year.

There were 16 courses offered this fall from Oct. 8 to Nov. 14. Courses were held at Lynn Tech weekly on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night for six weeks.

LCEP coordinator Kevin McDormand, who works as an ESL math teacher at Tech, said enrollment doubled from the approximately 110 people who attended last spring.

“We want people to know how good the instruction is and

how much fun the courses can be,” said McDormand, noting that there were several new courses this fall and the number of vocational courses increased to six.

The vocational courses include Machine Shop 1 and 2, and McDormand said people who did not get into the E-team machinist training program, which returned this fall, had the opportunity to enroll in those courses.

“They could take Machine Shop 1 and 2 in the fall and 3 and 4 in the spring,” he said. “This will give people a leg up when they are applying for competitive jobs.”

Other courses this fall included carpentry, cooking, volleyball, swimming, filmmaking, first aid/CPR, job skills, Spanish and literacy. The tuition is very reasonable, ranging from \$20 to \$90 per course, with materials included.

“I took a course in administration and did a project on adult-education programs throughout the state and ours costs less than half of most of the others,” McDormand said.

The courses are taught primarily by Lynn Public Schools teachers and staff.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Catherine Latham, who has made the improvement of the adult-education program a priority, said she is very pleased with the results this far.

“This program is providing a valuable service to members of our community,” Latham said. “Whether they are looking to obtain skills to prepare them for employment, or simply expand their horizons, there is something for everybody.”

Latham said a spirit of collaboration has led to the enhancement of the LCEP program, crediting School Committee members Charlie Gallo and John Ford, City Councilor Peter Capano, the New Lynn Coalition, McDormand and Lynn Tech Director Diane Paradis.

“This program is something everyone in the City can be proud of,” the superintendent said, “and I am grateful for all those who have worked to make it a success.”

Those wanting more information on next spring’s course offerings can visit www.facebook.com/LynnCEP or contact McDormand at mcormandk@lynnschools.org or 781-832-0222.



From left, Lynn teachers Mary Johnson, Belinda Durgin and Donna Whalen participated in the training conducted by Debbie Diller Associates.

Teachers learn that less can be more

BY PAUL HALLORAN

When it comes to teaching young students to read, less is more.

That was the message heard by about 65 Lynn elementary-school teachers in a workshop conducted by a representative of Debbie Diller Associates, an educational consultant based in Houston. The purpose of the seminar was to train teachers in small group instruction, with students working independently in groups of two at literary workstations.

"It gives you the opportunity to use mini-lessons," said Donna Whalen, a third-grade teacher at Lynn Woods. "You can gear the workstation to what those particular kids need."

Aborn third-grade teacher Belinda Durgin agreed. "It meets different needs for different students," she said. "It also encourages kids to interact."

The workshop was paid for out of a \$5,000 Hardscrabble Education Fund Grant from the Essex County Community Foundation. The grant was written by Callahan School third-grade teacher Deb DeMala, who also received a donation from the Callahan PTO, allowing her to bring Debbie Diller to Lynn for the first time.

"We decided to open it up to the entire district," DeMala said. "The focus was on bringing small group instruction and literacy centers into the classroom. I'm glad everyone got something out of it they can bring back to their classroom."

Sheila Galvan-Clifford, who conducted the training, said the idea is to "give teachers time to work in small groups on skill-specific needs of students. You have pairs of students working through the classroom and the teacher working with a group of 4-6 kids," she said.

Galvan-Clifford, a fourth-grade teacher in Houston, has seen the results.

"I know it works," she said. "I have seen it in action. It's very effective."

The Lynn teachers who attended know whom the ultimate judges of the efficacy of the system will be.

"The kids will know best how it's working," Whalen said.

STEM grows in Lynn

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the robots to do different things each week," Held said. "There will be a wide array of engineering and robotics projects that kids will build and share."

One of the most important aspects of the program is the spirit of teamwork and collaboration that is fostered. Students are paired and work with the same partner throughout the school year. It is expected that engineers from GE will come in to speak to students about robotics, engineering and other STEM topics.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for these students," said Dr. Catherine C. Latham, superintendent of schools. "We are thrilled to provide this STEM programming and most grateful for Eastern Bank's support."

"Eastern Bank is proud to support Lynn Public Schools and its efforts in science, technology, math and engineering," said Laura Kurzrok, executive director of the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation. "There is no question that STEM education and the opportunities for students to pursue careers in



Shoemaker students Grace Patterson and Katie Dunn work on building a robot.

STEM are critical to ensuring that students will be competitive in the global market. Lynn Public Schools' STEM programming fits perfectly with our mission to support organizations that are creating opportunities for local students."

LPS plans to hold an engineering day in June at the end of the program in which all 96 student participants will come together to share and discuss their projects. "It will be a collaboration, not a competition," said Held, a longtime science teacher at Aborn.

Jackson said she is actively seeking support from other companies and foundations to fully fund the pilot program. "Our goal is to provide high-quality STEM programming that kids would otherwise not have access to," she said. "To attract additional support, we have created a high-visibility sponsorship opportunity and welcome interested businesses to contact Dr. Latham's office, Rick Held, or me directly."

Jackson has been contracted by LPS to identify potential sources of funding for educational and enrichment opportunities for students. Her position, which was proposed by School Committeeman Charlie Gallo, the chair of the grants subcommittee, is being funded through the existing budget of the grants department at no additional expense to taxpayers.

Around Lynn Schools



From left, Lynn Business Education Foundation President Brian Thomas, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Catherine Latham, Lynn English Principal Thomas Strangie, Lynn Business Education Foundation Treasurer John Greeley and Lynn English social studies department chair Carol Ruggiero.

LYNN BUSINESS-ED FOUNDATION DONATES JEOPARDY! KITS TO SCHOOLS

The Lynn Business Education Foundation has donated more than \$4,000 worth of educational materials to schools in the City, purchasing Classroom Jeopardy! kits for five high schools and a LEGO education kit for Washington STEM Elementary.

Classical, English, St. Mary's, Tech and Fecteau-Leary received the Jeopardy! game, according to Lynn Business Education Foundation Executive Director Dr. Frederick M. Cole. "We saw that English, Classical and St. Mary's had a Jeopardy! competition at the end of last school year, so we thought we would see if they were interested in getting the classroom version," he said.

The Jeopardy! donation was the idea of foundation treasurer Jack Greeley, who suggested offering it to all the high schools, which gladly accepted. Each kit

includes buzzers for the players to signal they want to answer, questions and scoring system. "It's exactly like what you see on TV," Cole said.

It is fitting that the primary point of contact for the game at Lynn English is social studies department chair Carol Ruggiero, who appeared on the TV game show in 1989. Ruggiero, who is in her 51st year teaching, said the kit will be put to good use.

"It will be used to review for tests, and by the academic teams that are preparing for competitions," Ruggiero said, mentioning the College Bowl, History Bowl and a team trying out for High School Quiz Show on WGBH. "There are all kinds of possibilities for it."

At the Washington STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) school, the LEGO kit will be used by the fledgling robotics team.

"We are very grateful for the continued support of the Lynn Business Education Foundation," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Catherine C. Latham. "These educational tools they have provided will benefit students for a long time."

LYNN SCHOOLS RECEIVE \$225,000 IN HARDSCRABBLE GRANT FUNDING

Lynn Public Schools teachers, principals, and professional staff have been awarded Hardscrabble Education Fund grants worth \$225,000. The grant money will be used to purchase technology to improve student engagement and performance in science and English language arts.

The Hardscrabble Education Fund promotes and supports academic achievement in public schools by issuing grants primarily in the

fields of English, mathematics and science. This year the fund, run by the Essex County Community Foundation, will award \$383,000 to schools in Beverly, Lynn, Nahant, Salem and Swampscott. The grant applications are generally submitted by teachers to support projects in their classrooms.

Since its inception in 2002, the Hardscrabble Education Fund has awarded more than \$950,000 to Lynn Public Schools.

The mission of the Essex County Community Foundation is to promote local philanthropy to strengthen the nonprofit organizations of Essex County, MA. ECCF is a catalyst of philanthropy, manager of charitable funds for both donors and nonprofits, a grant maker, teacher and advisor to nonprofits and their boards and a bridge between donors and organizations matching those who want to give with those in need. Learn more at www.eccf.org

Lynn Public Schools Directory

Elementary schools				Middle schools		English	
Aborn Patricia Muxie, Principal 409 Eastern Ave., Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7320	Drewicz Bernadette Stamm, Principal 34 Hood St., Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7350	Lynn Woods Ellen Fritz, Principal 31 Trevett Ave, Lynn, MA 01904 781-477-7433	Breed Julie Louf, Principal 90 O'Callaghan Way, Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7330		Marshall Dr. Richard Cowdell, Principal 19 Porter St. Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7360		Lynn Vocational Technical Institute Diane Paradis, Director 80 Neptune Blvd, Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7420
	Ford Dr. Claire Crane, Principal 49 Hollingsworth St., Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7375	Sewell-Anderson Patricia A. Mallett, Principal 25 Ontario St., Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7444					
	Harrington Debra Ruggiero, Principal 21 Dexter St., Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7380	Shoemaker Patricia Riley, Principal 26 Regina Road, Lynn, MA 01904 781-477-7450					
	Hood Gayle Dufour, Principal 24 Oakwood Ave., Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7390	Sisson Jane Franklin, Principal 58 Conomo Ave., Lynn, MA 01904 781-477-7455					
	Ingalls Irene Cowdell, Principal 1 Collins Street Terr., Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7400	Tracy Patty Griffin, Principal 35 Walnut St., Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7466					
Callahan Dr. Brian Fay, Principal 200 O'Callaghan Way, Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7340	Lincoln-Thomson Helen Psallidas Mihos, Principal 115 Gardiner St., Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7460	Washington John Licorish, Principal 58 Blossom St., Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7401	High schools		Alternative/ Special schools		
Cobbet Susanne Garrity, Principal 40 Franklin St., Lynn, MA 01902 781-477-7341							
Connery Dr. Mary Dill, Principal 50 Elm St., Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7344							
			Classical Gene Constantino, Principal 235 O'Callaghan Way, Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7404		Fallon Elementary Nancy Takis-Conway, Principal 100 Robinson St. Lynn, MA 01905 781-477-7470		
					Fecteau-Leary Junior-Senior High Maura Scully, Principal 33 North Common St. Lynn, MA 01902 781-268-3000		
					LEEP Evening Program Karen Twomey, Director 50 Goodridge St., Lynn, MA 01902		

Around Lynn Schools



David A. Kelly, author of “The Fenway Foul-up,” autographs his book for Brickett third-grader Delliya Njoroge during a visit to the school.



Lynn Woods Elementary School students put on an outstanding production of “Seussical Jr.” Dec. 13-14.



Teacher Duke St. Pierre oversees Fecteau-Leary students Keicha Garcia, Johannah Lewis and Tiara Marquez painting a mural at Drewicz School.



Good luck to Margaret Hines, who is retiring after 34 years in Lynn Public Schools. Hines has served as confidential secretary for the last several superintendents.

LPS, LYNN POLICE, DA SHARE INFORMATION

At first glance, it might seem odd to see the superintendent of schools, police chief and district attorney seated together signing the same document, but it is a yearly occurrence in Lynn, and the parties could not be any more pleased about it.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Catherine C. Latham, Police Chief Kevin Coppinger and Essex District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett gathered in Latham’s office to sign a memorandum of understanding. The agreement recognizes the formal working relationship agreed upon by Lynn Public Schools, the Lynn Police Department and the

DA’s office to provide a safe and violence-free educational setting for the city’s students.

“This enables us to share information and better work together,” Latham said. “The support for the school system from law enforcement is excellent.”

Coppinger said the memorandum is reflective of the mutual goals of “educating students, keeping them safe and giving them direction to help them make good choices and avoid pitfalls.”

“You can’t lose when you have the superintendent, police chief and DA working well together to help kids,” said Blodgett. “We have people in my office who spend their professional life trying to help kids make good decisions. I always like to see kids in schools and not in courtrooms.”



Lynn Police Chief Kevin Coppinger, Essex DA Jonathan Blodgett and Superintendent Latham sign the memorandum of understanding.

ALUMNI
PROFILE

HOME COURT

Ridley happy
to be back as
teacher, coach

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Helen Ridley was coaching at the highest level of college basketball and she certainly could have made a career of it, but it turned out that the appeal of coming home was greater than that of a life on the road.

“You’re coaching athletes that are driven athletically and academically,” Ridley said of her seven years as a Div. 1 assistant coach. “But recruiting is 75 percent of the job. You’re traveling all the time. In Div. 1 athletics it’s the biggest part of the job. If you don’t have the talent, you’re not going to do so well.”

When Ridley got to the point in 2012 that she was looking to take a step away from the frenetic lifestyle of a collegiate coach, she wasn’t sure what she wanted to do, but she had a good idea of where she wanted to do it.

“Coming back to Massachusetts was something I always wanted to do,” said Ridley, a 2001 Classical graduate who had lived away since leaving for her freshman year at Quinnipiac. “I loved the coaching aspect of the job, but I did not like the recruiting.”

Ridley returned home to Lynn and took a job as a recruiter for a biotech company. It didn’t take her long to figure out that wasn’t for her. “It was awful,” she said. “I had always thought about teaching, so I talked to my dad and I started taking the (teacher certification) tests.”

Ridley could not have had a better sounding board. Her father, Jim, is the universally respected retired principal and former boys basketball coach at Lynn Tech. He did not hesitate to steer Helen in the direction of teaching. In September 2012, she started working as a physical education and health teacher at Tech.

“My dad was a big influence,” she said. “I remember he was always happy in his job. He told me as a teacher I would never get rich, but I’d have great hours and I would be working with kids. Everything has worked out for the best. I couldn’t be happier.”

Ridley has maintained a close connection with basketball, running skills clinics and working with players individually and in groups. When Classical girls coach Tom Sawyer learned she might

be interested in returning to coaching, he quickly added her to his staff.

“I love working with kids,” said Ridley. “With taking classes (to complete her certification), I wouldn’t have the time to be a head coach, so this is perfect. It’s been fun.”

Coaching at Classical completes the homecoming, as Ridley was one of the best players ever at the school, scoring more than 1,000 points, including a school-record 52 vs. English as a sophomore, and being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011.

“To be back working at the school that I went to is great,” she said. “I love high-school kids. They have a great attitude and it’s different every day.”

After graduating in 2005 from Quinnipiac, where she was a 4-year player, Ridley got a graduate assistant job at UNH. After one year, she was offered a full-time assistant position and she accepted it, putting her graduate studies on hold temporarily. She returned to Quinnipiac as an assistant in 2007 and stayed for five seasons, along the way earning a master’s in organizational leadership.

Returning to this area gives Ridley the opportunity to be near her parents, Jim and Anne, three brothers, Keith, Matt and James, and sister, Lillie, as well as her two nephews and her niece. “It’s nice to see them more often,” she said.

It’s nice to be home.



**HELEN RIDLEY
SCHOOL RECORD
52 POINTS
GIRLS BASKETBALL
1999**