



June 2010

## The Newsletter of Cardinal Cushing School Braintree St. Coletta Day School Adult Services

Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc., 405 Washington Street, Hanover, MA 02339  
[www.CardinalCushingCenters.org](http://www.CardinalCushingCenters.org)

### St. Coletta Day School Graduation

The pride and enthusiasm among families, friends, and the graduates themselves filled the auditorium of Archbishop Williams High School, where St. Coletta's 2010 Graduation was held in May.

"While it was our job to teach and guide you, it was also our job to learn from you," Jo Ann Simons, Cushing Centers president and CEO, told the four graduates.

Commencement speaker Nicholas Santacroce, a St. Coletta faculty member said that by looking beyond disabilities, we can see the joy, honesty, innocence and love in the souls of the students.



*Derek Barnes leaves the auditorium following the ceremony amidst applause and cheers from family members, friends, and school staff in attendance.*

*Graduate Jesse Resendes processes from the stage.*

### St. Coletta Day School Events in Collaboration with other area schools



Thirty 8th-graders from **Oak Hill Middle School** in Newton joined St. Coletta Students for music, games and crafts as part of the Oak Hill Community Class outreach initiative, a new venture for the middle schoolers that will likely become an annual event. "Our students could not have had a more positive experience," said Hill speech pathologist Courtney Beckerman, former speech therapist at St. Coletta's. Students reported that it was their favorite field trip. Ron Shepherd, St. Coletta's coordinator of student services, said staff and students across the board echoed these sentiments.



**Thayer Academy** and St. Coletta Students participated in a field day on May 27th at the Thayer Campus that brought smiles, fun and excitement to all.

## Student Car Wash Raises Funds for Senior Prom



*Brett Biela accepts his diploma from Larry Sauer, Cushing Centers VP, student programs and services.*



Cars lined up on the Hanover campus while students worked diligently at the annual Car Wash Fundraiser in support of the Senior Prom.



## Young Professionals Networking Event



*Dave Kartunen and his brother, Andrew, with other guests at The House of Blues Foundation Room.*

Dave Kartunen (2nd from the rt.), WHDH-TV News Anchor, welcomed some 100 young professionals to the House of Blues Foundation Room, sponsor of the event, on behalf of Cardinal Cushing Centers on May 19. The evening gave attendees the opportunity to socialize and network while gaining an introduction to Cushing Centers people and programs.

## Cardinal Cushing School Computer Lab Update



Using the programs MAXWRITE and MAXCOUNT, students have become more familiar with Office Programs. They have been working on word processing skills-- especially the use of the COPY, CUT and PASTE tools. They have also become more competent at dragging, dropping, and resizing items on the page, as well as working with computer-generated designs. Using TUXPAINT and



House of Blues, and Michelle Markowitz, Cushing Centers VP of admissions.

Special thanks to Volunteer Event Committee: Nikki DiGuilio,



Meaghan Larkin of The Boston Red Sox, Lauren Murphy, of Wells Fargo, and Ashley Duncan, of Reach, Inc., joined long-time Cushing Centers' volunteer Heather Barry, of Rockland Trust, for an

evening of networking.

## Upcoming Events

- **ACHIEVE Summer Program Registration**, ongoing. Residential and day options for 17 to 23 year-olds with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, autism, and Down syndrome. Held on the Hanover Campus, July 7 - August 15
- **Car Wash**, June 5, 9 AM to 1 PM, sponsored by the Braintree St. Coletta Day School Parent Advisory Committee (which also has St. Coletta sweatshirts and car decals for sale, call Nina Schliecher at the school, 781.848.6250, to order)
- **Cardinal Cushing School Graduation**, Hanover Campus, June 13, 11 AM
- **Springtime 2010**, June 24, 5:30 PM Ball Field & Track Dedication Ceremony, 6 PM Reception, 7 PM Program & Dinner, Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover: honoring former student Kendra Bourque, Procter & Gamble, The Will and Arline Cloney Family, and James P. McDonough, chancellor, Boston Archdiocese, and former Cardinal Cushing Centers Board Member
- **Special Olympics Young Athletes Open House & Demonstration Day**, July, 10, 10 AM to 12 PM, Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover, in honor of the birthday of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics Founder. Contact Barbara Johnson at SOMA to RSVP: [barbara.johnson@specialolympicsma.org](mailto:barbara.johnson@specialolympicsma.org)
- **St. Coletta Golf Classic**, September 27, Marshfield Country Club
- **Cardinal Cushing Centers Fall Classic**, October 12, Black Rock Country Club, Hingham

MAXPAINT to create and design colorful works of art, students' confidence in using the mouse has increased. We have continued Internet exploration using WebQuests and searches, while being mindful of computer safety. Some students have begun exploring photo editing programs and DVD production.

## New fitness craze embraced by Cardinal Cushing School Students



Evening Zumba classes welcome residential and day students as well as young adults from the community. Fusing hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves, this unique fitness program helps achieve long-term benefits that have proven to energize, engage and captivate participants. Classes are led by physical therapist Michelle Aucoin (Zumba Certified Instructor) and speech and language assistant Christine Guarnotta. For information and registration, please contact Tom McElman, director of recreation, 781.826-6371, ext. 1295.

## Best Buddies and Cardinal Cushing School Collaboration



Best Buddies and Cardinal Cushing School have paired up to find job opportunities in competitive work environments for vocational students. Kelsey Jordan, a Best Buddies employment consultant works with Cushing's older students

## Reaching out to Haiti



For Milka Fong and her husband, Richardson, reaching out to Haitian earthquake victims, especially the children, has become more than a personal quest to adopt their nephew, orphaned at birth. Milka, who works with students in Cardinal Cushing's residential program, has made the wellbeing of disadvantaged children her mission.

"Cardinal Cushing has been a sort of bridge in helping me discover my real interest in life, which is the passion to help," she says. Guiding 15- and 16-year-old students, there are six boys in her house unit, has reaffirmed what she has always known, that she will continue to find ways to make life better for children in need.

"It has always been my life's purpose, working with children. Since I've been working at Cushing, I've grown so much in many ways."

Earlier this year, students and staff joined the Fongs and their fellow church members to raise money, collect clothing, toiletries and toys for their trip to Haiti to help earthquake victims and check on family and friends in their native country.

Milka, a U.S. citizen and mother of two, is completing her masters degree in mental health counselling at Cambridge College. Her latest and most ambitious endeavor is to raise awareness and money to open an orphanage in Haiti.

"We already have a name, The Angel's Voice Orphanage, and the property."

Milka's father has agreed to transfer his home in Haiti to Milka to house upwards of 50 Haitian orphans. On June 13th at 5:00 p.m., the Central Baptist Church in Quincy is hosting a banquet, proceeds from which will go into the orphanage fund. The event will feature live music, dance performances, raffles, poetry and dinner.

Visit The Angel's Voice Orphanage website for more information: [http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103438032677&s=250&e=001-hx26DmLWSEiJV75OB\\_P0c9RpLZTSQPeci-sgw2alriFVcdXblBbuph7FJaFAuGDNmRCxkcZbKrRh3hcgKtMXHKh9YmP-z-SwcrxUIgL202K5oVWrR2waAjgedjhT-D](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103438032677&s=250&e=001-hx26DmLWSEiJV75OB_P0c9RpLZTSQPeci-sgw2alriFVcdXblBbuph7FJaFAuGDNmRCxkcZbKrRh3hcgKtMXHKh9YmP-z-SwcrxUIgL202K5oVWrR2waAjgedjhT-D)

**Cardinal Cushing Centers School and Recreation Calendars are available on our website or by using this link:**

<http://www.coletta.org/CARDINAL/calendar/calendar.htm>

on job development, resume writing, the application process, interview preparation and short-term job coaching. "The ultimate goal for each student participant is to work independently in the community in a job that he or she enjoys," says Kelsey. Some of the students she is working with have already been placed in jobs at Verc Enterprises Briteway Carwash, The Fresh Market and Super Stop & Shop.

## Cushing Centers Greenhouse in full bloom



The Greenhouse, located at Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover, is full of colorful, aromatic plants. Flowering annuals, hardy perennials, assorted herbs, and vegetable plants, many sown from seed, all carefully maintained by students, are reasonably priced.

With several businesses open to the public located on campus, students gain meaningful work experience in the greenhouse, Bass Cafe, the thrift shop, a bottle redemption center, and Cushing Trader, which offers student, hand-made jewelry, functional pottery, baskets, framed artwork and more.

Open weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Greenhouse offers the season's full bounty.

