

GRADUATION!

A PROUD DAY FOR ALL

“Graduation Day at Larc School is always a happy day... an exciting day... but mostly it’s a proud day,” said Larc Executive Director Susan Weiner. And pride was almost palpable the morning of June 11, when four Pre-school Graduates, and two Senior Graduates, capped and gowned, received their diplomas.

In addition to the student body and staff of Larc, about 50 family members and friends were moved, some to tears, as teachers, who often work with individual students for many years, spoke personally of each graduate.

Delicious refreshments and hugs followed the ceremony.

“Words cannot describe the feeling of pride that filled the hearts of, not only the family members, but Larc Staff, and, most important, the graduates themselves,” said Ms. Weiner. “They worked hard... they learned much... and we all take great joy in their accomplishments.”



(left) Larc Student Grace holds her diploma following the exhilarating graduation ceremony. Standing proudly behind Grace are (left to right): Larc Teacher David Sheehan; Audubon Child Study Team Member Curtis Finnegan; Grace’s parents, Kathryn and Richard Traxler; and Grace’s sister, Abigail Traxler.



(right) Pre-school Graduate Katarina receives her diploma from Larc Principal Bethann Rogers, as Larc Teacher Julie Campbell looks on with pride.

Congratulations Graduates!!

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Larc School

Where success takes flight.

Message From The Board

By Edward McDonnell

From Dreams to Miracles

Just like all Larc parents, when my daughter Mandy was born her mother and I dreamed beautiful dreams for her. They were dreams of running and playing and dancing, of her first day at kindergarten, her senior prom, teaching her to drive and choosing the perfect college.

Sometimes even now – so many years later – her mother and I still remember those dreams and wish Mandy’s life could have been different. We wish she could walk and talk and live her life without so much assistance. We wish that none of the wheelchairs lining the halls of Larc belonged to Mandy. But one does.

And sometimes – just once in a while – we still cry quiet tears over all that Mandy has missed.

But in Mandy’s joyful years at Larc we have learned a great lesson: Dreams are effortless, but miracles require hard work. The teachers and therapists at Larc are miracle workers. These special men and women with gifted hands

and loving hearts labor brilliantly, quietly and without applause every single day.

Miracle workers know that it can take three years to get a child to utter her very first word.

“Dreams are effortless, but miracles require hard work. The teachers and therapists at Larc are miracle workers.”

And they are not discouraged knowing that sometimes, even after all that work, the first word never comes. There isn’t much glory in holding a child’s hand around his spoon and guiding it to his mouth a thousand times, until finally he does it once by himself. And there are no curtain calls for the speech therapist when a little girl, for the first time, swallows a spoonful of food that hasn’t been pureed. Miracles can be tedious.

And even we parents too often forget to applaud.

Like all the other children and young adults there, Mandy’s life at Larc is miraculous. Each day she is greeted by teachers, therapists and classroom aides who love her unconditionally. And she loves them back. Then the miracle workers get to work teaching her mind, manipulating her body, and making her smile out loud. The miracle workers thrive on Mandy’s smallest accomplishments, and never give up on her potential to achieve the next goal. They enrich her life beyond any dream we could have dreamed.

Before Larc, we only knew about dreams; now we know about miracles.

The dreams were ours; the miracles are Mandy’s.



Special Friend’s Perspective

by Sandra E. Capell

Community Services Manager, Subaru of America, Inc.

I first visited Larc School twelve years ago. Subaru of America, Inc. had funded The Haddonfield Symphony—now Symphony in C—to provide programs at various schools throughout the region. As a grant-maker for Subaru, I went to Larc to hear the Symphony perform. I left that day with a song in my heart for Larc School, its students and staff.

The day did not start out comfortably for me. In my profession, I’d had little experience with special education, and, as a mother of a healthy toddler, I was struck by a sudden realization of my good fortune. But I was

“Focusing little on their disabilities, students rejoice in their abilities and accomplishments. I believe we can all learn from their example.”

soon put at ease by Executive Director Susan Weiner, who greeted me warmly and took me on a tour of the school. As Susan told me of Larc’s history, its programs and families, I grew increasingly excited and connected.

I was touched by the children, and impressed by the commitment of the staff, many of whom were long-time employees. I believe it’s a calling to be able to express such drive, commitment and compassion on a daily basis, year after year. I knew my visit to Larc School would kindle a special relationship between Subaru and Larc that would last... and, after twelve years, it is a relationship that still stands fresh and strong.

We at Subaru recognize that Larc is a unique school and a center of support for its families. You can’t visit Larc without being inspired by the students’ positive outlook and enthusiasm for what they can achieve. Focusing little on their disabilities, students rejoice in their abilities and accomplishments. I believe we can all learn from their example.

Subaru of America is proud to be considered among Larc’s friends, and takes great pleasure in being able to contribute to the joy and growth of its students.



Capell

Larc's Annual Golf Tournament 19 Years Of Success... And Fun

SUNNY skies and sunny faces provided a sunny start for Larc School's 19th Annual "Help the Kids" Golf Tournament, held on Friday, June 4, at the Pennsauken Country Club.

About 125 golfers turned out for this very successful tournament. Following an exciting 18 holes of golf, the banquet held its own excitement for its 170 guests—raffle prizes, including an overnight at the Crowne Plaza in Philadelphia; tickets to a Sting concert and to the AT&T National PGA Tournament at Aronimicks Golf Club; dinner at Guimarello's, in Westmont; and a River Sharks Suite for 25, with VIP parking!

An auction added yet more excitement as guests bid for embroidered, Mediterranean-styled boots; a one-week stay at a condo in Salt Lake City, Utah; and autographed items from Philadelphia Flyers Alumnus and Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who come out to this and other Larc events. Your help makes success possible! It was a great day for Larc Kids... and for Larc Friends and Sponsors!



In the midst of enticingly wrapped raffle prizes, long-time Larc friends and sponsors **Dan and Anne Boychuck of Benefit Concepts** relax at the Banquet following a sunny day of golf.



It's all about Larc Kids... but great fun is had by all, including (left to right) Larc supporters **Robin Blaker** and **Paul White**, **Assemblyman Lou Greenwald**, and **Larc Board Member Jim Rhodes**.

Mark Your Calendar

- Saturday, September 11, 2010 – *Young Lawyer Committee Lobster Bake To Benefit Larc School*
- Sunday, November 7, 2010 – *2010 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge Presented by AmeriHealth New Jersey*
- Wednesday, April 6, 2011 (note new date!)
– *Appreciation Breakfast*

Larc School Sincerely Thanks the Sponsors of the 19th Annual "Help the Kids" Golf Tournament

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SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC. HONORS LARC WITH GRANT



Yoshio Hasunuma, Chairman, President and CEO, Subaru of America, Inc., presents a \$5,000 grant check to Larc School Executive Director **Susan Weiner**, at an April reception for Subaru's honorees. **Tim Colbeck, Senior Vice President, Sales, at Subaru** (far left), and **Kim Marino, Larc School Community Relations** (far right), joined the celebration.

\$100,000 was granted to 20 organizations in the communities where Subaru has offices, to celebrate Subaru's record sales year for 2009. Subaru employees chose the organizations. Larc School is most grateful and honored to be a part of this celebration. Thank you, Subaru!!

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT by Harry Flomenberg

AT 85 YEARS OLD, I have a lot of good things to be thankful for in my life. I'm thankful for my family—my wife Ruth; my son Neal and his wife Phyllis; my grandson Jacob and his wife Ashley, the newest and very special member of our family; my grandson Sam and his twin sister, my granddaughter Sarah. I'm also thankful for Larc, where Sarah, goes to school.



Harry Flomenberg

and the president... she's studied history, learning about the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. And she gets therapy that has helped her so much.

It's comforting to know that Larc is there for Sarah... for all of us, really. Every person at Larc, from the director, to the principal, teachers, therapists, and aides, have been just wonderful to all of us.

I'm so grateful for my family; I'm also grateful for my Larc family. And Larc is a family of families. I do what I can for Larc. I only wish my age and health would let me do more. Over the years I've volunteered at various Larc events... and I can still use the telephone!

So much has been done at Larc in the time Sarah has been there—remodeling, air-conditioning, improved access—it's a marvel. There are not many ladies in the world like the Executive Director Susan Weiner. I can't say enough about her and the Board of Directors, who give so much of their time and energy.

Larc School is an important part of Sarah's life, and it's part of our lives, too. The Flomenberg family has not only a deep appreciation and thankfulness for the people at Larc, but we love them. We're grateful to them for the love and help they give to our Sarah, and the comfort they give to all of us.

Born prematurely, almost 16 years ago, Sarah has cerebral palsy. She uses a wheelchair and communicates through a computerized device. As a grandfather, I can tell you that, as I get older and each year passes, I worry about Sarah, who is dependent on others for so much. Finding Larc School and the support it offered, 13 years ago, was a very happy day for us all.

It's hard to find words to tell you what a comfort it is to be a part of the Larc family. The school has done wonders for my granddaughter, and she loves it as we do. My wife and I live with my son and his family, and I take Sarah out to the bus each morning. You can see the excitement on her face when that bus pulls up. The camaraderie and love the children have for one another is evident and very touching.

Larc is not just a babysitting service. It provides a wonderful learning experience for Sarah. Last year she studied about the election

A Festival Of Art... And Love

The morning of April 30, love hung on the walls of the Larc School auditorium and danced on its stage.

"Decades" was the theme for Larc's 2010 Arts Festival. Art projects created by Larc students showed how the different styles and techniques of art evolved throughout the decades. For example, some of the art projects compared Jackson Pollack's splatter paintings, from the 1940s Abstract Expressionist movement, to graffiti painting of the 1990s, said Larc Teacher Julie Campbell.



Larc Student Dolapo joyfully creates a work of art for the Art Festival, with the help of Classroom Assistant Diedra Stone-McGrory.

Many students enjoyed making splatter, dot and sponge paintings, while some older students, having learned to take and develop photographs, created photographic projects reflecting this year's theme. Other classes created performance art: pre-school danced to "Splish Slash" and "The Twist," for the 1950s; Room 3 danced to "Let's Get Physical and the "Rocky" theme, for the 1980s; and Room 11 danced to "Can't Touch Me," for the 1990s.

Every classroom was involved in the festival, whether making artwork or performing on stage. The paintings and photos were matted and hung with care in the auditorium, where students and staff, along with about 100 guests—Larc families and friends—enjoyed them during the festival hours.

Room 3 Teacher Christine Smith said, "The Arts Festival gives the students the opportunity to show off their special talents through their unique interpretation of a particular time period."

The festival also provides a wonderful opportunity for everyone at Larc, and everyone who loves Larc, to see the fruits of the children's hard work—the thoughtfulness, creativity, and love that goes into their original works of art.

Spring Cleaning At Larc



Employees of Assurant Employee Benefits, a benefits company, generously gave of their time, providing a day of service to help clean Larc's classrooms over the spring break. The smiling crew includes: (Front row) Michael Hall, Michael Gencarelli, Carrie Miravich, Kate Baldwin, Greg Meagher—holding his daughter, Larc student Emily Meagher—Stacia Almquest, Carol Staples Jordan, and Amy Saunders; (Back row) Dan Hubacek, Matthew Courchense, Marc VanGils, Jodi Hillen, Kevin Henry, Kevin Burdge, Wanda Graff, Matthew Julien, and Bob Hanzlik.

Friends of Larc School

Larc School gratefully acknowledges these gifts from our caring friends—individuals, foundations, corporations—whose generosity makes it possible for Larc School to provide the very best for its students and their families. We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor.

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Listed above are contributions from January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010. Please let us know if a name was omitted, and we'll be sure to print it in our next issue.

When remembering those you love, remember Larc

Make a donation to Larc School - the perfect remembrance for all occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, congratulations, and condolences

Contribution may be sent to:

*Larc School, 1089 Creek Road, Bellmawr, NJ 08031 (Envelope enclosed)
or donate online at www.larcschool.org*

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Kudos To Larc's "Time-Honored" Staff!

Long-time Larc School staff members were honored Tuesday evening, June 15, at the annual End-of-year Staff Dinner, held at the Coastline restaurant, in Cherry Hill.

Larc Teacher **Vicki Potter** and Speech Therapist **Roxane Adams** received awards for their 30 years of service, as did Administrative Secretary **Carolyn Loveland**, who recently retired after 30 years at Larc.

Classroom Assistant **Terry Kerns** and Teacher **David Sheehan** were honored for 25 years of service; Physical Therapist **Jackie Ricketts**, and Classroom Assistants **Edie Siciliano** and **Maryann Tomlin**, for 20 years of service; and RDI Teacher **Michele McCloskey** and Classroom Assistant **Irene Clark**, for 15 years of service.

The **Heart of Larc Award**, given each year to a staff member who consistently goes above and beyond the scope of his/her position, both in and out of the classroom, this year was presented to **Adult Program Coordinator Pam Tozour**. Kudos, Pam, for a job more than well done!



Larc Teacher **Vicki Potter** and Larc Speech Therapist **Roxane Adams** gleefully accept mementoes of their long-time service to Larc School, at the End-of-year Staff Dinner.



Adult Program Coordinator **Pam Tozour** receives the Heart of Larc Award for a job exceptionally well done, from Larc Executive Director **Susan Weiner**.