

Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS) Newsletter Fall 2014

**Great at Eight:
FOCRLS Celebrates
8 Years,
\$400K+ in Donations,
and New Volunteers!**



Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS) celebrated our 8th anniversary – and **passing \$400,000 in total donations so far!** – at our School Year Kick-off on September 23 with a cake and the welcoming of parents, city leaders, volunteers, and donors. At the gathering, co-hosted by **FOCRLS President Elaine Schear (pictured at left) and FOCRLS Treasurer Jamie Sabino (pictured below)**, longtime FOCRLS volunteers spoke to parents new to CRLS about the benefits of involvement and the



extent of our impact, with thousands of students reached through FOCRLS programs. Craig Kelley, who is active with FOCRLS in addition to being a Cambridge City Council member, described FOCRLS as “one of the jewels in the CRLS crown.” Larry Aaronson, a former CRLS history teacher, spoke about FOCRLS as the one organization that has succeeded, where others have failed, in harnessing the support of the CRLS and Cambridge communities over the course of the school's long history. Elisa Pepe, webmaster for FOCRLS.org, added, “FOCRLS fills important gaps in student and teacher support that the district does not have time or money to. FOCRLS listened to my time and interest parameters and found a volunteer activity that fits perfectly. I have been especially impressed at how organized and dynamic FOCRLS is.”

FOCRLS can find a volunteer activity that fits perfectly for you, too! Areas to consider include:

- business and/or community engagement
- career mentoring of CRLS grads
- media and social media
- writing articles
- volunteer outreach
- event planning
- grant writing
- fundraising
- the MayFair raffle →
- hosting a house party



If you would like to become a volunteer or mentor, start a scholarship, or make a contribution, please visit FOCRLS.org, email info@focrls.org, or call 857-235-9290.

Have Funds, Will Travel: Student Travel Fellowships Underway!

With at least three fantastic school trips already on the horizon – **England for math & science** with Mr. Benson and the **Galapagos Islands for marine biology** with Mr. McGuinness in April and **El Salvador for service learning & ecology** with the City Links Program in June – FOCRLS is expecting a record number of Student Travel Fellowships applications! Journeys to these and other domestic and international destinations give students opportunities to experience lives, languages, and locations unlike their own and immerse themselves in exploring fields of study that may inspire career goals. We are always delighted to help enthusiastic, financially-qualified students with B averages or better explore the Big Blue Marble! Whether you've been fortunate enough to travel the globe or would rather look at the world through your window, contributing to Student Travel Fellowships is a wonderful way to see your gift go far (really far)!

Innovation Nation: Faculty Innovation Grants Proposals Now Being Accepted!

We released our request for proposals for the 2014/15 cycle of Faculty Innovation Grants on September 24 and will continue actively promoting the grants until **proposals are due on November 3**. Since 2007, FOCRLS has awarded over 90 Faculty Innovation Grants, and this cycle will include number 100! Grants, each up to \$1,000, have been awarded across the range of CRLS departments and clubs for creative learning and social development projects and experiences that are not fundable through the Cambridge Public Schools/CRLS budget. Projects funded through FOCRLS often have lasting results and long-term impacts upon students' learning. Here are examples of recent visual art and design projects that the whole CRLS community can appreciate:



Anti-Discrimination Awareness Campaign Posters (Michele Watson Maxwell, Fall 2010) mounted as a collection in the Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA) office



Repair and Reinstall of The Fall (Jon Baring-Gould, Spring 2012), a ceramic and glass mosaic, damaged in the course of taking it down for the school renovation now gracing the wall encircling the Fitzgerald Theater.

Welcome to the "Village": New College Coach and New Mentors Join FOCRLS!

FOCRLS would like to extend warm welcomes to our new **"It Takes a Village" College Success Program (ITAV) College Counselor Kwame Dance and our new Career Mentors!** Kwame, who is a CRLS alum as well as a Teen Program Director with the City of Cambridge, guides CRLS alumni now enrolled at UMass Boston in overcoming obstacles to their studies. Career Mentors individually advise CRLS alumni through career exploration, job readiness, and networking skills. Counseling and Mentoring are two of the pathways of ITAV, along with Accuplacer workshops and scholarships, that help CRLS alumni make the most of their experiences at Massachusetts public and community colleges. Learn more about ITAV and mentoring opportunities at focrls.org.

more →

Teacher Feature: Congratulations to the Faculty Distinction Awardees!



(left to right) Jon Baring-Gould, Amanda Hughes, Ned Flaherty, and Susie Van Blaricum were honored by the CRLS Class of 2014 with Faculty Distinction Awards (Photo by Larry Aaronson)

Four beloved and admired teachers at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) were honored with Faculty Distinction Awards at the June 5, 2014 graduation ceremony. Sponsored by Friends of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (FOCRLS) and organized by Assistant Principal Bobby Tynes, Faculty Distinction Awards are presented each year to the four teachers or staff members chosen by the graduating class as those who had the most positive influence. After Principal Damon Smith read honorees' self-submitted bios to the graduates and guests, the honorees were presented with framed certificates and letters of appreciation.

Jon Baring-Gould, Amanda Hughes, Ned Flaherty, and Susie Van Blaricum were selected for their abilities to teach, inspire, and encourage students.

Jon Baring-Gould, now in his 20th year as a ceramics instructor at CRLS, joined the faculty of his high school alma mater after receiving a Master of Art Education from MassArt. He credits his CRLS teachers for a lesson he instills in his students: believe you can succeed and flourish.

Amanda Hughes holds a Master of Education from Lesley and is working on a Master of American Literature from Harvard. Since 2009, she has taught American literature at CRLS and encourages students to use literature to develop empathy, challenge their thinking, and maintain joy.

Ned Flaherty, who has taught history at CRLS since 1997, holds a Master of Teaching from Northeastern. Outside of school he is a builder and he loves both of his jobs.

Susie Van Blaricum holds two Masters' Degrees from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has taught history and psychology in her eight years at CRLS, where she is also a dedicated advisor of the Club 4 students who volunteer twice weekly at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. As of September 2014, she is the Dean of Students of CRLS's Learning Community "L."

This year's honorees brought the total to 32 faculty recognized since FOCRLS began the tradition in 2007.

Taking Care of Business: FOCRLS Shopping Around for New Supporters!

FOCRLS is preparing a letter to members of the Cambridge business community – shops, restaurants, banks, theaters, realtors, media, and more – to promote a greater community investment in CRLS's students, grads, and faculty by describing FOCRLS's work and the importance of our efforts. Engagement of the business community is a win for everyone, as funds and in-kind donations contribute to the success of future spenders.

Scholarships Ahoy: We Help Students Get Far Even If They Stay Near!

We are always thinking about scholarships and how we can expand our college scholarship fund. At Scholarship Night in May 2015, we will be passing the \$40,000 mark in total scholarships we've presented in our eight years. We are planning on crossing the \$50,000 milestone, and would be thrilled to hit the \$60,000 target! With your help, we can make that happen! Donations to our existing scholarships – First Scholars (for students who are the first in their family to attend college), CRLS Core Values (*Opportunity, Diversity, Respect*), "It Takes a Village" (Massachusetts public/community colleges), Dr. Saheed Future Educators, and the Dr. Link scholarship for the Health Professions – are encouraged. We seek sponsors for new scholarships and urge a revitalization of former ones. Please email info@focrls.org if you would like to start a conversation about establishing a scholarship.

Casual for a Cause

The Hyatt Regency Cambridge staff will be raising awareness and donations for FOCRLS by wearing jeans on Wednesday, November 12 as part of their ongoing "Casual for a Cause" community involvement efforts. Thank you to Stacey Nichols, Emily Sharp, and everyone at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge for selecting FOCRLS as one of the beneficiaries of their denim days!

A Village Voice: Ray Ciccolo Visits CRLS, RSTA, and ITAV!

Friends of CRLS welcomed Ray Ciccolo – Rindge Tech alum (Class of '55), president of Village Automotive Group, and philanthropist – for a special visit in June. Ray's visit included offering words of wisdom to newly minted alumni participating in FOCRLS's "It Takes a Village" College Success Program (ITAV) Accuplacer workshop alongside his Rindge classmate Roland Gibson, who is a member the ITAV Advisory Board. After taking a look under the hood of the RSTA Automotive department, Ray and his hosts landed in the Falcon's Nest for a delicious lunch beautifully presented by the RSTA Culinary Arts students.

Thank you to Ray's assistant Karen Beasley, FOCRLS President Elaine Schear, RSTA Executive Director Mike Ananis, the RSTA Culinary Arts students, Rob Cooper and the RSTA Automotive students, Roland Gibson, Paula Riley, Lizzy Buehl, Janis Navikas, Ted Darling, Neil Rosenburg, Rene Meshon, Leslie Davis, and everyone else who helped get Ray's visit rolling!



Roland Gibson (left) listens intently as his Rindge Tech classmate Ray Ciccolo (right) shares some life lessons with the ITAV Accuplacer workshop participants.

Giving Thanks

We give thanks this season for our volunteers, mentors, participants, awardees, grantees, and donors who make it possible for Friends of CRLS to offer opportunities to the CRLS community!

To learn more about Friends of CRLS programs, becoming involved, or donating please visit focrls.org, email info@focrls.org, or call 857-235-9290.