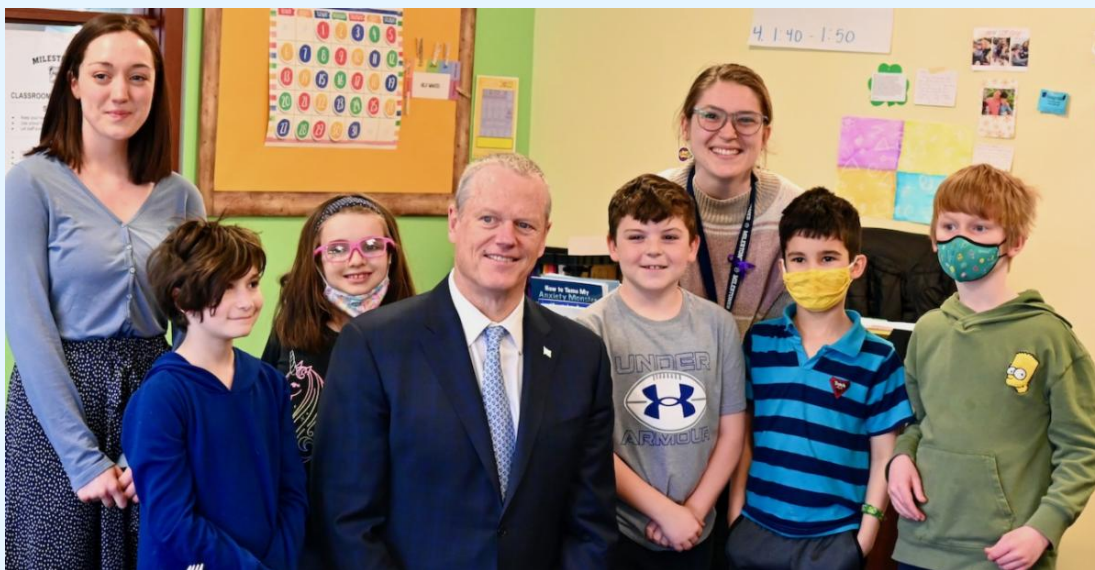




Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2022

Explore Milestones News and Notes



Governor Baker Visits Milestones

In March, Milestones had the privilege of an informal visit from Governor Charlie Baker. Milestones was identified by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as an example of an approved special education school making extraordinary efforts to maintain on-site, in-person instruction, and a previous visit was canceled due to a state of emergency snow storm and was able to be

Kimberly Rockers, Chief Executive Officer, added, "Governor Baker has been a tremendous advocate for approved special education schools. He has not only recognized the positive impact of our programs for remaining open for full onsite instruction during the pandemic, but he also championed critical funding initiatives for our industry aimed at faculty retention, recruitment, and helping to offset the

rescheduled. Governor Baker had the opportunity to tour the school, talk with staff and students about what they love about Massachusetts and where they are from, and even sample an apple fritter produced by student interns in our Post-High School program. His down-to-earth style and genuine interest in connecting with the Milestones community through conversation, selfies, and even shared jokes with students brought joyful excitement to all.

Matthew Rego, our student representative from Medford, said, "It was an honor to represent Milestones and meet Governor Baker. He was very relatable. He told me, 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again' and told us about his experience of losing his first run for governor in 2010, but coming back to succeed in 2014".

magnitude of COVID expenses. With pride, our faculty and students have been looking forward to welcoming the Governor to Milestones for an onsite visit since 2020. His sincerity, level of engagement, enthusiasm, and respect he offered our students and faculty was an honor, and this visit will undoubtedly remain as a highlight for our school community."

Throughout the pandemic, Milestones not only safely remained open for onsite instruction, but significantly expanded our facility, adapted and created new programming, increased staffing to meet students' complexity and the needs of public districts, and embraced initiatives to retain and recognize our most important asset to students' success - our dedicated faculty.



Winter Fest and Art Show

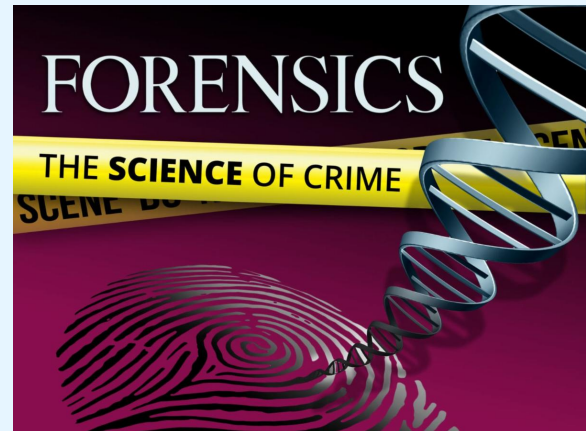
In February, the Milestones community celebrated the talents of our students through the annual art show and talent contest known as Winter Fest. While COVID has changed the logistics of the event, it has not dampened the enthusiasm or creativity.

[Read More](#)

[Check out the video of Winter Fest performance!](#)



[PBIS Rewards](#)



[Who dunnit?](#)

New PBIS Rewards program motivates and rewards students for meeting expectations around our core values of safety, respect and responsibility.

[Read More](#)

Seniors Explore Forensics in STEM Class

This year seniors have had the opportunity to integrate science, math, technology and even writing in a new and innovative STEM class

[Read More](#)

Important Dates

- June 10th
Admissions Information Session
10:00-11:00 am
- June 13-16th
Senior Week
- June 16th
Graduation 12:30 pm
Moving Up Day 9:30 am
- June 20th
Closed Juneteenth
- June 21st
Last Day/Half Day
- July 5th
Summer Session Begins

Parent Advisory Group (PAG)

The staff at Milestones would like to thank all the people who contributed to the Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week celebrations in May.

All the treats, meals, notes and support meant a lot to the faculty and staff.

Information Session

**Onsite Group
Tour/ Info session:**
*Milestones' Head of
Admissions, Sarah Folk*
(space is limited to 12

Parent Support Group Offered

Milestones is proud to be offering a new service to our families. Bill Salloway and Carrie Fryzel (Clinical Psychologists) will be offering a monthly parent support groups for the parents of Milestones students in the coming school year. The group will be an opportunity for educational and clinical presentations based on the interests of the group. Please look for the survey that was recently sent out and RSVP by June 15th if you are interested in participating.



April was Occupational Therapy Month

April was Occupational Therapy Month. At Milestones, our Occupational Therapy staff members work closely with our students, both individually and in groups. Our OT staff help students with motor, visual processing, executive functioning, sensory/self-regulation, life skills goals, and more. You can find them taking students out into the community, creating in the student kitchen, hanging around the foam pit (see above), helping students in the classroom, playing games, and generally contributing throughout the day. We are grateful to have so many dedicated clinicians working with our students.

Better Speech and Hearing Month in May Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) Recognized

attendees)
Friday, June 10
RSVP.events@advancingmilestones.com

Informational tours are open to anyone looking to learn more about Milestones.

Tours are not intended for students.

10:00-10:15: Introductions
10:15-10:40: General program overview / Q & A
10:40-11:00 am: Tour of facility

410 Totten Pond Road in Waltham

Please proceed to our lobby on the second floor.

Masks are required for visitors. All visitors will be required to fill out a health attestation form.



At Milestones, the SLPs spend time helping students understand and advocate for their communication preferences. They also work with students to understand the time and place for infodumping, which is when someone shares a lot of detailed information about a topic of interest. Our SLP staff also runs social skills classes and co-lead Community Based Instruction with the Occupational Therapists.



Grace Little Wins Award for Exceptional Direct Service

On May 26th, our very own Grace Little was recognized by the Massachusetts Association of Approved Special Education Schools (MAAPS) for her excellence in service at their annual awards ceremony. Grace was the co-recipient of MAAPS' Albert E. Trieschman Memorial Award for Exceptional Direct Care Service.

Grace is a speech and language pathologist known to be a force of positive energy in the school community, supporting students with the same generosity as with her colleagues, volunteering her time to offer professional development, and investing countless hours in creating comprehensive curriculum and lesson plans for students with acute language-based learning challenges.

Soon after starting at Milestones, Grace was instrumental in creating and leading a social group for girls at the majority-male school which remains a beloved tradition today. Milestones'

Head of Admissions Sarah Folk, in her nomination letter, said: "With relentless determination, Grace finds inroads to even those of our students whose self-esteem and anxiety is most impactful. Grace is largely responsible for creating the framework and support system that inspired one student to use his voice for the very first time in school." She is currently pursuing a master's degree in special education.



Milestones Day School and Transition Program | advancingmilestones.com | 781-895-3200 | [Privacy Policy](#)

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