

# DECEMBER NEWS

Updates | Inspiration | Celebration

## Thank You

The Center participated in GivingTuesday for the first time, and we are grateful for the contributions! We raised \$400. Special thanks to Jessica, who created her own Facebook fundraiser and generated an additional \$350 from friends before any GivingTuesday match. Wow!

## Annual Campaign

You can help ensure our continued success! We've launched an Annual Campaign, and every gift helps us to achieve our mission of providing free tutoring to dyslexic students and free training to tutors.

## What is a Story Walk?

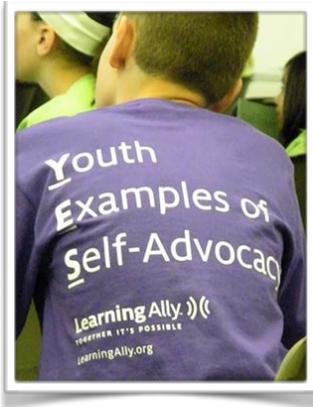
A Story Walk is an opportunity to journey through a book! We will set up the pages of "Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee" on stakes along a path. You will be able to walk to each page, read it together, and perform a few related exercises!



## Save the Date! Dash for Dyslexia April 7, 2019

Join us for the 4th annual Dash for Dyslexia! In years' past, this 15K has attracted a small but dedicated group of runners - some of whom are training for the Boston Marathon. This year's Dash for Dyslexia will feature several new, additional events for families, including a timed 5K, a Family Story Walk, and post-race festivities including a bounce house and a pancake breakfast prepared by the Freeport Masons. The race will begin and end at the Mast Landing School in Freeport. This major fundraising event will be a great opportunity to support the Center, stretch those legs after the winter months, and experience fellowship with other families. We are especially excited about the teacher-training partnership this year with RSU-5 (Freeport, Pownal, Durham schools), and hosting this event on a Freeport school campus feels very fitting! For more information or to register for the race, please visit <https://dashfordyslexia.wixsite.com/dashfordyslexia2019>. We are also happy to add new sponsors. If you or someone you know would be interested in exploring sponsorship opportunities, please contact Emily at [emily@dyslexiacenterportland.org](mailto:emily@dyslexiacenterportland.org).





## Advocacy Corner

Sarah got the idea to put together a presentation (story at right) from YES (Youth Examples of Self-Advocacy), a Learning Ally program. For more about this inspiring program that matches younger students with an older student mentor, see <https://1in5.learningally.org/YES-Program>

For more about Learning Ally, see <https://learningally.org>

For other resources to help your student learn to self-advocate, see some great articles on [understood.org](http://understood.org):

<https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/self-advocacy/5-things-your-grade-schooler-with-dyslexia-can-say-to-self-advocate?view=slideview>

<https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/empowering-your-child/self-advocacy/5-things-your-middle-schooler-with-dyslexia-can-say-to-self-advocate>

## Sarah Shares Her Story

Fourth grade held some challenges for Sarah. She is dyslexic, and she hid it from her classmates. She felt frustrated and picked on. "It wasn't much fun," she acknowledges. She wanted to do something different for fifth grade. So over the summer, she created a presentation to share with her new teacher at Open House, before school even started. Her presentation, using Google Slides, included facts about dyslexia, examples of how she learns, and ideas on how the class could work "to help each other." Sarah's teacher appreciated the presentation and said, "You should show this to the class." She revamped the slides to be appropriate for her classmates, and delivered a humorous, honest presentation about being dyslexic and the importance of "being yourself." Sarah flashes an infectious smile when she talks about the impact of her presentation. "It's great. Now everybody understands," she says. One of her classmates even recognized some of the symptoms, she shares. Her teacher followed up to let Sarah's parents know that she was very impressed with her presentation skills. So far, fifth grade seems to be a welcome improvement over fourth grade. Sarah feels comfortable in class and appreciates how helpful her computer can be. She says she would do a similar presentation again, and as she prepares to enter Middle School, there will be opportunities to share her story with multiple teachers.

We're all proud of the strengths shared in this story - presentation skills, computer savvy, initiative, self-confidence, and educating a group. Way to go, Sarah!

