

MAY NEWS

Updates | Inspiration | Celebration

Dash for Dyslexia Updates

What a great race! For our 4th annual Dash for Dyslexia, we enjoyed a beautiful spring day with over 100 runners and an additional 50+ volunteers and family members who participated in the event. Members of the Freeport AF & AM Masonic Lodge #23 served a delicious pancake breakfast. In total, we raised **\$6,697.00** to support our work here at the Center. Thank you to all the runners, volunteers, online donors, and raffle ticket buyers! Congratulations to the following top finishers with Center ties:

- John R, current student: 25:02
- Carl F, current parent: 28:15
- Nick R, past student: 24:52
- Susan H, past parent: 51:38



Photo Courtesy of Audra Welton



Creative Strengths

Last spring, Matthew finished his last tutoring session at the Children's Dyslexia Center. After two years of tutoring with Ramey, he says he went from "not being able to read at all to reading books and keeping up" in class at his new school. In addition to transitioning out of tutoring at the Center, Matthew also transitioned from home-schooling to the Harpswell Coastal Academy. All of the changes have been "really great," and Matthew has kept in touch with Ramey through the year. Through this correspondence, we learned that one of Matthew's drawings was chosen as the Holiday Card Artwork contest winner for the Lisbon Federal Credit Union. His picture was chosen out of 22 submissions and over 100 votes were cast to determine the winner.



We wanted to catch up with Matthew about how things have been going and to congratulate him on his contest win. It turns out that Matthew excels in multiple areas of creative and artistic expression. In addition to being a prolific artist, he is an





The Student Becomes The Teacher

In December, we featured a story about a self-advocacy presentation that Sarah put together for her teacher and her class. Sarah's mom shared the newsletter with family and friends. Dr. Hunter-Doniger, a friend who works as a professor at the College of Charleston, asked if Sarah would be willing to share her presentation with a class of aspiring teachers.

Sarah and her mom travelled to South Carolina and Sarah spoke with a group of about 20 preservice teachers. The class had great discussion about the

diagnostic process, statistics about dyslexia that some found to be new information, and the importance of flexibility in the classroom to allow for multiple approaches to address different learning styles, needs and abilities.

Any nervousness that Sarah felt speaking to a room of adults quickly disappeared, and the group was impressed with her courage and confidence. Congratulations to Sarah, and thank you to Dr. Hunter-Doniger for facilitating this important discussion!



accomplished pianist and has been playing for about 7 years. As a young child, he would hear songs on the radio and just be able to play them. Learning to read music was a challenge, but he's worked "hard at it" and now he's even been composing music of his own. When he's not creating art or music, you might find him building complicated Lego creations. He likes to build forts and structures with secret doors and hidden compartments.

When told that his story might be inspiring for other dyslexic students, Matthew emphasized that "your greatest weakness can become your best strength." We're so proud of Matthew's accomplishments and impressed with his optimism and work ethic. We can't wait to see what amazing project he tackles next!



Congratulations and Good Luck!

Please join us in congratulating the following students...they have worked hard and accomplished so much in the past two years! Please keep in touch and know that we believe in you and trust that your future holds great things!



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|--------|---------|--------|
| Adia | Griffin | Isaac |
| John | Jonah | Katie |
| Liam R | Maggie | Mary |
| Nic | Ryan | Xander |