



# SPRING NEWS

Updates | Inspiration | Celebration

## Center Update

Given the most recent Maine stay-at-home order, the Center will be officially closed until at least April 30. We will have limited ability to respond to mail or phone messages. You can, however, reach our Center Director, [Barbara](#), via e-mail.

## Support our Sponsors

We recognize that many local businesses are seriously impacted by closures. We are so grateful for the following businesses that pledged support for the Dash for Dyslexia - please support them if you can!

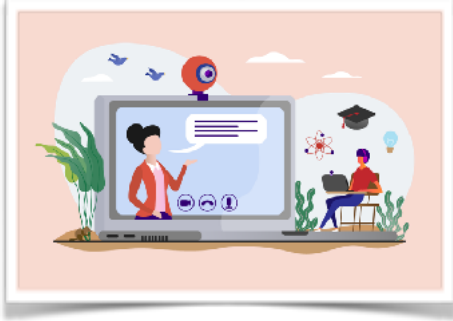
Island Dog Brewing \* OTTO Pizza \* Machias Savings Bank \* HM Payson \* Portland Kiwanis \* Fleet Feet Maine Running \* InterMed \* Harborview Investments \* Law Offices of Joe Bornstein \* Clark Insurance \* Brent & Lisa with Portside Real Estate Group \* Dalkia \* Saco and Biddeford Savings \* Blue Elephant Events and Catering \* Poland Spring Natural Spring Water



## Dash for Dyslexia - Cancelled

Due to all of the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we have come to the difficult decision to cancel this year's Dash for Dyslexia. The original date falls during Maine's stay-at-home order, and while we explored an alternate date, we are not able to choose one with confidence. We are so disappointed - this year's race promised to be so much fun! We are also a bit nervous, as we depend upon the revenue from our fundraising events to sustain our Center. In 2018, the Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc., our parent organization, informed us that we would need to be entirely responsible for raising our own operating budget within two years or risk closure. Since that directive, we have implemented several major fundraising initiatives including an Annual Appeal, a more inclusive Dash for Dyslexia, and a fall Silent Auction event. We made terrific progress against our goal of self-sufficiency during the last fiscal year. We determined that if we could increase our participation in all three of these major fundraisers this year, that we would be close to our self-sufficiency goal. Cancelling the Dash for Dyslexia is potentially catastrophic for our fundraising efforts. We will be hyper-focused on creating a spectacular Silent Auction this fall. In the meantime, we invite you to make a gift to our [Quarantine Dash](#) fund. We are looking for 100 \$25 contributions to help offset lost revenue for the race. If you were planning to attend the race, please consider contributing what you would have spent to attend, and invite your friends to do the same. Thank you for your support - together, we will work through these challenges!





## Keeping Busy with At-Home Resources

We are all adjusting to some major changes in education with school and Center closures. We recently updated our [website](#) with some resources that can help you support your child's dyslexic learning challenges. We've shared some great exercises and activities to help with practicing phonological awareness, supporting fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, etc.

Our current students are also staying busy and learning with all sorts of activities ranging from nature walks to virtual reality field trips. Check out some of these great updates:

Jacob has been reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and doing some online work through Spelling City, i-Ready, and Scholastic News. He's also taken a virtual field trip to Yellowstone National Park!

Grayson has been playing video games, spending time with his Mom and his dogs, making jello, FaceTiming with friends, and heading outside with his metal detector. Fun!

## Student Spotlight: Ava is a Bruin For A Day!

Ava's family entered her into an online contest for an opportunity to be a Boston Bruins player for a day. Happily, she was selected for this once in a lifetime experience. She traveled to the TD Garden and signed a one-day contract with the team. Ava received a customized Bruins jersey with her name and number, and then got a behind the scenes tour of the arena where she was able to see the Zamboni and the official net. She also met Blades, the Bruins bear mascot and Bruins player Joakim Nordstrom. After the tour, she was escorted to box seats where she was served dinner while watching the game. The Bruins played the Vegas Golden Knights and won the game 3 to 2. Ava had the time of her life!

Ava is a second-year student at the Portland Children's Dyslexia Center. Her Mom reports that she has been doing extremely well since starting to receive services at the Center. Her family has seen such great improvements in her reading and confidence. They note that it has been extremely helpful for her to go to the Center and see that she is not alone and that other children experience the same types of learning challenges. Congratulations to Ava for all her hard work and her experience as a Bruin For A Day!

