

A photograph of three children playing with beach balls. One child in an orange and red shirt is in the foreground, reaching up. Another child in a white and blue shirt is behind them, also reaching up. A third child in a white shirt is at the bottom. Two colorful beach balls are visible in the air. The background is white with a diagonal white line.

LESLEY ELLIS SCHOOL  
ON THE GO

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT



## CORE VALUES

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ACCEPTING  
CARING  
COLLABORATIVE  
CREATIVE  
RESPECTFUL  
THOUGHTFUL

## OUR MISSION

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*Lesley Ellis School's outstanding and innovative academic program emphasizes critical thinking skills. We value what makes our children unique, and we encourage them to apply their talents and passions to their learning. Our community is centered on the values of mutual respect and global citizenship.*

## VISION

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*Prepare and inspire children to make their world a better place.*

## LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Friends and Families,

When we launched our community's "On the Go" fundraising campaign, little did we know what a remarkable year of growth awaited. I am excited to share with you some of the highlights of our 2010-2011 school year.

In the fall, our third, fourth and fifth grade students took over the Wing and happily made it their own. Elementary students began learning engineering concepts through LEGO robotics and enjoying an expanded physical education program. We welcomed a nurse to our school and our Afterschool program scaled new heights with skiing and rock climbing on the agenda.

These new ventures were the first to be put in place to meet the school's Strategic Plan goal of expanding the experiences and opportunities available to our students and preparing for our first sixth grade this September. With parents asking for further growth, the Advisory Board then moved to complete our Middle School by adding seventh grade in 2014 and an eighth grade in 2015!

We could not have reached these milestones without the dedication of our entire community—parents, alumni families, faculty, grandparents and friends—who contribute their time, creativity, energy, and donations to fulfill these ambitious plans. To all of you—thank you many times over for supporting Lesley Ellis in such profound ways!

I look forward to another year of working together to help Lesley Ellis continue to thrive and grow.

DEANNE BENSON  
*Head of School*

## LETTER FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

The 2010–2011 school year was another exciting time at Lesley Ellis filled with new programs, new teachers, and new families.

As always, our families pitched in—by organizing events, helping in classes, going on fieldtrips, and serving on PA and Advisory Board committees that touch all aspects of our school. And once again, the entire community generously supported both the school’s Annual Fund Campaign and Annual Auction.

Thanks to all of you, Lesley Ellis is stronger than ever. Our “On the Go Annual Fund” grew to a record breaking \$77,200, up 46% from just two years ago. “The Night at the Disco Auction” contributed close to \$38,000 to the school’s Financial Assistance Fund and the Book Fairs and Kids’ Gently Used Clothing Sale provided over \$4,500 in new books for our library.

Lesley Ellis has grown tremendously since my family joined the community in 2002. We’ve seen the addition of fourth and fifth grades and a new Transitional Kindergarten classroom. This year, my daughter Kimberly is a proud member of the first sixth grade class. While she is understandably disappointed that she won’t be at Lesley Ellis when seventh and eighth grades begin in 2014 and 2015, she is excited for younger schoolmates who will be able to enjoy the new Middle School program.

Lesley Ellis’s strong foundation and bright future are due to the countless parents, alumni families, faculty, grandparents, and friends who have so generously supported the school throughout the years. Your enthusiasm and commitment are helping Lesley Ellis remain a special place—one that values what makes our children unique and encourages them to apply their own talents and passions to their learning.

I look forward to working with Rebecca Trachsel, our incoming Advisory Board Chair, and the rest of the Board during this wonderful chapter in Lesley Ellis’s history. I can’t wait to see what this new year brings!

SUSAN L. SANTOS  
*2010–2011 Lesley Ellis Advisory Board Chair  
 and parent of Kimberly Santos, Grade 6*



**2011–2012  
 LESLEY ELLIS  
 ADVISORY BOARD**

Rebecca Trachsel  
*Chair*  
 Deanne Benson\*  
*Head of School*  
 Lisa Giovanetti\*  
*Parents Association  
 Co-Chair*  
 Lauren Goldberg  
 Kirsten Meisinger  
 Oona Metz  
 Helen Oh  
 Jackie Robinson  
 Susan Santos  
 Bill Valentine  
 Ted Wilson

\*Ex-Officio members

## LETTER FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Dear Lesley Ellis Community,

In an economic environment that has been challenging to independent schools, Lesley Ellis has continued to grow. This is a testament to the excellence of the Lesley Ellis program and the spirited involvement, support, and commitment of the entire Lesley Ellis community including administrators, teachers, parents, students, alumni families and friends.

### Strong Foundation

Lesley Ellis has enjoyed significant growth over the past decade. This growth has been built on a legacy of fiscal responsibility that continues today. Prudent financial management, a larger number of students, and an active, supportive parent community have combined to produce positive bottom lines year after year. The results are two-fold: an enhanced program and a strong balance sheet. Lesley Ellis's continual investment in its program has, in just the last few years, added sixth grade, enhanced the science curriculum, enhanced the arts by offering animation, theater, and dance, and added a multitude of enrichment options that include swimming, rock climbing, skiing and more. Meanwhile, the strong balance sheet provides reserves to weather a storm and a solid foundation for continued growth.

### Meeting New Challenges

Lesley Ellis is now poised to respond to the community's requests for a Middle School. This will require facilities improvements to make room for more students and investment in a new Middle School program. While we can applaud our ability to successfully fund operations without the contribution of endowment income, the lack of an endowment fund limits the capital available to invest for fueling this growth.

In short, Lesley Ellis must become less reliant upon tuition revenue and continue to increase its fundraising efforts. An expanding program, growing student body, and prospect of new facilities are thanks to the hard work and diligence of the Lesley Ellis community to date. Now our community must not only continue its hard work, but also increase its efforts to meet these exciting new challenges.

Lesley Ellis has a 60-year history of educational excellence. I am confident that our community will continue to successfully embrace opportunities to significantly increase Lesley Ellis's ability "to prepare and inspire children to make their world a better place."

JOSEPH MAXWELL

*2010-2011 Lesley Ellis Advisory Board Finance  
Committee Chair and alumni parent*



## Our Guide

The 2010–2015 Strategic Plan: “From Vision to Results”, created by the 2009 Strategic Plan Committee, provides a road map for growth at Lesley Ellis that will continue to guide the school for the next four years. Our Strategic Plan incorporates revised vision and mission statements and further articulates the school’s core values, which can be seen on the inside front cover of this report.

Priorities for the coming years focus on four key areas: program and support, enrollment, facilities, and finances. While distinct, these focus areas are interrelated with shared goals and strategies woven throughout this five-year plan. Copies of the complete Strategic Plan are available in the school office and online at [lesleyellis.org](http://lesleyellis.org).



## Look What’s New

There have been many changes, large and small, here at Lesley Ellis. We have expanded the arts and Spanish program for PreK and TK students. And all of our Early Childhood students began a new monthly tradition—a sing-along! Children in Preschool, PreK, and TK now gather in the music room along with their big buddies from Kindergarten to sing familiar songs with their teachers and the Early Childhood Music specialist. This has become another wonderful way for our youngest students to make connections and strengthen ties within the Lesley Ellis School community.

Elementary students in third, fourth, and fifth grades have settled into classrooms in the Wing where they were joined this fall by our first sixth graders! These students are happy to be in their “Upper Elementary Suite” and are enjoying an expanded science program with a dedicated science teacher.

All elementary students, from Kindergarten to Grade Six, are busy exploring our new LEGO Robotics curriculum. Students can’t wait for Lego Robotics time where they are found hard at work—constructing and programming their own robotic creatures and learning about a variety of engineering concepts in the process.

## On the Go

The launch of the first sixth grade at Lesley Ellis this fall is the first step to what will ultimately be an exciting Middle School program at our school. The Lesley Ellis Advisory Board unanimously supported this decision as an important and natural evolution of the school. Given Lesley Ellis's current strength, the Board agreed that the time to take this momentous step is now!

Lesley Ellis will open its doors to its first seventh grade class in September 2014, which will be followed by eighth grade in 2015! This exciting growth will allow Lesley Ellis to extend its unique and innovative curriculum in a rich educational experience for students all the way from Preschool to Middle School.

### CONTINUING JON PFEIFER'S LEGACY

Longtime and beloved Lesley Ellis School faculty member Jon Pfeifer died on July 9, 2011, after a lengthy struggle with cancer.

Jon was passionate about teaching. He was well known in this school community for his unwavering commitment to nurture and inspire each and every one of the students he taught throughout his years at Lesley Ellis. He will be greatly missed by all of us fortunate enough to have been touched by his creativity, wry smile, kind heart, and dedication to his students.

Jon's family and the Lesley Ellis School community have established two special funds in Jon's memory to help advance the teaching legacy he began some 18 years ago at this school.



The *Jon Pfeifer Financial Assistance Fund* will help Lesley Ellis continue to assist students from a broad range of families grow as learners, friends, citizens, and leaders. The *Jon Pfeifer Excellence in Teaching Fellowship Fund* will provide an annual professional development grant offering teachers opportunities so they may develop their own educational passions to bring joy, creativity, and love into all Lesley Ellis classrooms. For additional information about these funds, please contact the Lesley Ellis School Development Office at 781.641.1256.

# Annual Giving

Last year our annual giving program raised \$122,000, despite a difficult economy! Current parents, alumni families, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends of the school came together to ensure that Lesley Ellis will continue to prepare and inspire children to make a better world for many years to come.

We deeply appreciate the support of our 167 donors to the 2010–2011 Annual Fund. Thanks to each and every one of you for helping make possible everything that is extraordinary about Lesley Ellis!

## Annual Giving by the Numbers

**\$77,200**

Annual Fund supports significant program enhancements and continued growth

**\$38,000**

Night at the Disco Auction provides financial assistance for our families

**\$6,800**

Kids' Gently Used Clothing Sale and Book Fairs provide funds for new books and materials for the school's library and Original Works and other PA fundraisers pay for special events for children and families

Total 2010–2011 Giving: **\$122,000**

### Founders Circle (\$5,000+)

John Capeci &  
Barbara Clarke  
James Croom &  
Tara Hurley  
Susan Santos &  
Tricia Sullivan  
Jeff & Rebecca Trachsel

### Heads Circle (\$2,500+)

Michael Benedek &  
Karen Flood  
Colin Gounden &  
Alyson Gounden Rock  
John & Amy Mariani  
John & Tricia Nguyen  
Anne Norris &  
Lisa Corrin  
Ed & Sarah White

### Benefactors (\$1,500+)

Pat Egan &  
Kirsten Meisinger  
Jeffrey Held &  
Lisa Giovanetti  
Jonathan How &  
Carolyn Ruppel  
Christopher &  
Virginia Lynch  
Barry & Cheryl Mullan

### Contributors (\$1,000+)

Deanne Benson  
Alexis Borisy &  
Lia Meisinger  
Doug Burdi &  
Hong Cheng  
Ian & Jenn Swope

### Supporters (\$500+)

Frank Borriello &  
Penelope Metropolis  
Jonathan &  
Laurie Calvert  
Lindy & Marcie  
Campbell  
Morgan Cohen &  
Karen Harris

Ken Dornstein &  
Kathryn Geismar  
Paul Gallagher &  
Christine Albertelli  
Diane Lewis  
Robert Linn &  
Erin Driver-Linn  
Steve & Laura McAnena  
Peter Panagako &  
Erica Soper  
Hans Pfister &  
Jennifer Roderick  
Jeffrey Pokorak &  
Julie Lueck  
Eric & Pam Price  
Daniel &  
Jenny Stodolsky  
Mauricio &  
Martha Ventura

### Friends (\$250+)

Steve & Jackie Agular  
Tamer Bahadir &  
Sibel Babacan  
Niels Burger &  
Julie Rosenberg  
Robert Carey &  
Afsaneh Samadani  
Kristin Ciotti  
Michael &  
Manisha Eckton  
Jonathan Feinberg &  
Katherine McVety  
Todd & Maria Giatrelis  
Larry & Lauren Goldberg  
Jim Highum &  
Marion Cole  
Julie Hoebelheinrich &  
Mary Jane Favazza  
Jesse Hughes &  
Ling Cheung  
Ryan & Una Kelley  
Christian & Sandra Klee  
Rob Larsen &  
Deb Baskin  
Jie Lu & Chunrong Liu  
Sumeet & Shveta Mehra  
Oona Metz &  
Laura Longworth

Rani Nelken &  
Aviv Regev  
Daniel Press &  
Stephanie Shapiro  
Ken Rogers &  
Gina Yarbrough  
Dan & Abbie Shore  
Ted & Christine Straub  
Matthew Trunnell &  
Leslie Bennett  
Jay & Liz Valenta  
Bill & Sonia Valentine  
Thomas Wheatland &  
Rose Ann Miller

#### **Donors (up to \$249)**

Jeffrey & Dineli Ahearn  
Maija Alksnitis  
Robin Alperin  
Robert Augart &  
Ardith Welwood  
Dave & Beth Balter  
Oscar Benedek  
Brian Binkowski  
Steven & Eva Bitteker  
John & Wendy Book  
Arne & Delilah Brataas  
Eugene Cabana &  
Lila Hamill  
Denise Cadiero  
Sybil Carey  
Thad Carlson &  
Neva Corbo-Hudak  
Michael & Lakshmi Cox  
Susie Craft  
Bex Craik  
Karl Damitz & Ali Karasic  
Katie Dealy  
Brad Dickerson &  
Allison Berger  
Helen Duncan  
Marcus Favero &  
Esther Dechant  
Nicole Ferrari  
Joshua Finkelstein &  
Krista Sykes

Scot & Carrie  
Fitzsimmons  
Rich Garner &  
Jennifer Melcher  
Elon Goldstein &  
Helen Oh  
John Goodnow &  
June Mark  
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Tom Green &  
Vicki Mountain  
Stefanie Grossman  
Marilyn Guisbond  
Jeff Halperin &  
Heidi Berke  
Adam & Kristin Harder  
Amy Hass  
Mark & Dina Hexamer  
Chris Hurff &  
Jeanne Codori-Hurff  
Peter & Laura Ickes  
Walter &  
Rebecca Jewett  
Shannon Jockel  
Naresh & Carrie  
Kachoria  
Yahia & Romy Karabadji  
Gloria Kelley  
John Kelly & Jenn Young  
Daniel Kiecza &  
Sirri Spiesel  
Peter & Sibylle Kim  
Hyoung Woo Kwon &  
Yunjoh Lee  
David & Suzanne Larsen  
Gray Lemay  
Helen Lewis  
Shawn & Nicole Linehan  
Gordon &  
Donna Mackey  
Alex Marthews &  
Catherine Tucker  
Hugh & Carolyn Mason  
Joseph &  
D'Ondria Maxwell  
Alaina Mayfield  
Jonathan &  
Kathleen McCormick

John McDonald  
Janet McLaughlin  
Ashley Meister  
Onur & Melda Mergen  
Charles &  
Rebecca Mihok  
Samuel Milton &  
Jinna Halperin  
Kurt Moellering &  
Mica Richards Moellering  
Carlos Morales &  
Sandra Mostajo  
Tricia Moran  
Liam Nolan  
Ravi Nori &  
Hsin-wei Wang  
Derek & Michel Ohly  
Larry & Bettina Parks  
Sanjay & Shanthi Patnaik  
Jon Pfeifer  
Margy Powell  
Deepak Prabhakar &  
Gowri Murthy  
Dana Pratt &  
Susan Frigoletto  
Barbara Quoos  
Daniel & Stacey Raiche  
Rajeev & Caitlan Ram  
Sudhir & Hema Rao  
Molly Richard &  
Oscar Goff  
Jackie Robinson &  
Amy Nelson  
Sean & Jenny Rynne  
Steve & Jen Saulnier  
David & Amy Sawyer  
Steve Schaedel &  
Ilse Rieger  
Rebecca Shedd  
Rahul Shukla &  
Amisha Pardasani  
Don Smith &  
Lisa O'Brien  
Andy & Stephanie  
Stratford  
Andrew &  
Sarah Stockwell  
Sandra Torello  
Thomas & Susan Turpin  
Deirdre Wade &  
Lisa Portscher  
Reich Watterson &  
Catherine Fiore  
Bob Welch &  
Diana Gamser  
Ted & Rachel Wilson  
Mark Wise  
Michael & Kristine Wise  
Kathy Wren &  
Catherine Ng  
Mara Zymet

#### **Matching Gift Companies**

Eastern Bank  
Charitable Foundation  
Friedman Billings &  
Ramsey Charitable  
Foundation  
Google Matching  
Gifts Program  
Millennium  
Pharmaceuticals  
Sanofi Aventis  
Thomson Financial

*Listings in this report reflect gifts made to Lesley Ellis School during the fiscal year July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Please accept our apologies if an error or omission has occurred, and kindly notify the Development Office at 781.641.1256.*



## 2010–2011 Volunteers

### ANNUAL FUND CHAIRS

Barbara Clarke  
Oona Metz  
Rebecca Trachsel



### NIGHT AT THE DISCO AUCTION VOLUNTEERS

#### Planning Committee

Jennifer Roderick  
*Chair*  
Jackie Agular  
Sibel Babacan  
Barbara Clarke  
Jeanne Codori-Hurff  
Lynne Jacoby  
Jeanette Keller  
Sandra Klee  
Diane Lewis  
Abbie Shore

#### Volunteers

Kanthi Damodaran  
Marian Cole  
Morgan Cohen  
Maria Giatrelis  
Lisa Giovanetti  
Ali Karasic  
Oona Metz  
Cheryl Mullan  
Amy Nelson  
Michel Ohly  
Dana Pratt  
Lisa Portscher  
Margy Powell  
Jackie Robinson  
Rebecca Trachsel  
Deirdre Wade  
Ed White

*And all the parents and teachers who pitched in with donations, staging, and selling raffle and table tickets*

### LESLEY ELLIS SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Susan Santos  
*Chair*  
Deanne Benson\*  
*Head of School*  
Lauren Goldberg  
Alyson Gounden Rock  
Joseph Maxwell  
Kirsten Meisinger  
Oona Metz  
Jennifer Roderick\*  
*PA Co-Chair*  
Rebecca Trachsel  
Bill Valentine  
Sarah White  
Ted Wilson  
Gina Yarbrough

#### Development Committee

Diane Lewis  
Oona Metz  
Rebecca Trachsel  
Gina Yarbrough

#### Finance Committee

Dale Lemke  
Joseph Maxwell

#### Marketing Committee

Alyson Gounden Rock  
Diane Lewis  
Helen Lewis  
Kirsten Meisinger  
Tricia Moran  
Heather Silvestro

#### Program Committee

Lauren Goldberg  
Helen Oh  
Bill Valentine  
Jenn Young

\**Ex-Officio members*

# Lesley Ellis School Parents Association (PA)

The goal of the Lesley Ellis School Parents Association (formerly known as the PTO) is to create educational and social opportunities for Lesley Ellis families. Proceeds from the winter and spring Book Fairs and Kids' Gently Used Clothing Sale support the library. PA activity fees cover the cost of PA activities, events and special assemblies. Total PA funds raised \$6,800.

Thank you to all of the parents who have worked so hard on these committees – we couldn't do it without you!

## PA Chairs

Lisa Giovanetti  
Jennifer Roderick

## Admission Committee Chair

Tricia Moran

## Children's Events Planning Chairs

Laura Douglass  
Nicole Linehan

## Community Outreach Committee Chairs

Alaina Mayfield  
*Faculty Co-Chair*  
Barbara Quoos  
*Faculty Co-Chair*  
Robert Linn  
*Parent Chair*

## Family Playdates Committee Chair

Cheryl Mullan

## Kids' Gently Used Clothing Sale Committee

Susan Frigoletto  
*Chair*  
Leslie Bennett  
Barbara Clarke  
Lisa Giovanetti  
Laura Longworth  
Vicki Mountain  
Michel Ohly  
Julie Rosenberg  
Dana Pratt

## Library and Book Fair Committee Chair

Jenn Young

## Room Representatives

### PS Blue:

Joshua Finkelstein  
Rose Ann Miller

### PS Yellow:

Dina Hexamer  
Alex Marthews

### PK Green:

Wendy Book  
Jennifer Roderick

### PK Blue:

Natasha Bregel  
Shanthi Patnaik

### TK:

Amy Nelson

### K Orange:

Beth Balter  
Cheryl Mullan

### K Yellow:

Lila Hamil  
Lisa Portscher

### 1/2 Purple:

Abbie Shore  
Dana Pratt

### 1/2 Green:

Kathryn Geismar  
Penelope Metropolis  
Amy Sawyer

### 3/4:

Diana Gamser  
Karen Harris

### 5:

Diane Durette





# lesley ellis school

41 Foster Street  
Arlington, MA 02474  
781.641.5987

[www.lesleyellis.org](http://www.lesleyellis.org)