**BLS Step Squad Takes Strides in Fight Against Cancer**

Many BLS students and staff members have seen the Step Squad perform at football games, the pep rally and the Student Council Rocktober Fest. In addition to these events, the members of the Step Squad have made being leaders in the community a part of their mission.

Earlier this month, the girls took an active role in the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk, stepping and cheering on participants in the walk-a-thon that took place along the Esplanade. According to Class I student Rasheeda Cutts, the group’s adviser and the BLS Private Industry Council Career Specialist, Ms. Rose Delorme, suggested that the Step Squad volunteer to participate in the walk. After arriving at the Hatch Shell early on Saturday morning, the girls found a spot on a walkway bridge along the Charles River where they stepped and cheered on participants from 8:00-10:00 am. The girls adapted their step routine calls to support the participants in the Making Strides event.

While the weather did not cooperate on the rainy Saturday morning, many walkers participated, including a large number of breast cancer survivors.

“It was uplifting to see the many survivors, hear their stories and be there to support them,” said Rasheeda. 

**Kudos to the BLS Step Squad!**

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**Sophomore Volunteers on Courts**

It started at age 11 in Queens, with a quest to find a sport he enjoyed and excelled at. Four years later, Kevin Gao is a sophomore at Boston Latin School, a member of the tennis team and a volunteer at Tenacity and Harvard tennis programs.

When Kevin moved to Boston at age 12 he got involved with the Jackson Mann / Harvard Tenacity program, working on his game at the Tenacity summer camp at Ringe Park in Allston.

Soon he found himself volunteering at Tenacity and Harvard where he worked with Harvard tennis coach Mike Mercier.

Kevin attends community tennis clinics at Harvard and volunteers at events including the wheelchair summer camp and the Special Olympics.

Now an active volunteer at both Tenacity and Harvard, Kevin said that he “enjoys meeting new people, watching tennis players improve and impacting their lives.”

While Kevin likes to volunteer on the tennis court, it is not always easy. “Some times the young kids are so energetic that it is hard to keep them focused and working on the same thing.”

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**Passion & Community Service**

Participating in something you love and feeling good about helping others enjoy it. That is what junior Hannah Brown is doing volunteering at the Holy Name after school theater program.

A Holy Name graduate herself, Hannah got her theater career started at the school based program run by her mother.

Every Wednesday after school she returns to where it all began to assist and inspire a new cast of aspiring thespians.

The students in the program are in grades 1-6, an age group that Hannah enjoys working with.

“I really enjoy watching the kids learn and gain confidence,” stated Hannah. “They progress from stage fright to confident performers while rehearsing for the shows.”

Since they are so young and inexperienced, the program starts with theater games and short skits in the fall and progresses to the production of an original musical in the spring.

With Hannah and her mother working with 40+ kids, there is always a lot to do. Hannah helps to teach and train the aspiring actors, assists with the theater games, helps with casting and is the backstage manager during the productions.

While Hannah enjoys the program, it is not all fun and (theater) games. “Keeping the kids focused and quiet can be a real challenge,” said Hannah, “and when they freeze and forget lines I feel bad for them.”

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