



LABBB Website
www.LABBB.com

*Executive Director
Blog:*
patricbarbieri.wordpress.com

LABBB 2nd Annual
Best Buddies
Holiday Craft Fair
*Lexington High School
Commons II Cafeteria
Saturday, December 3
9:00-3:00*

“One-LABBB” Re-structuring: Enhancing Communication and Services!

For almost forty years LABBB has established a strong brand name by developing innovative special needs programs. These programs include: Early Childhood, BIP, and the Vocational programs located in Lexington, Arlington, Bedford, Burlington and Belmont. The three programs have expanded and been extremely successful. LABBB has developed under this model since 1974.

For the past few years we realized that it was time for the Collaborative to re-structure its programs to build a system for the changing needs of special education and align with the district needs. We called this re-structuring initiative, “**One LABBB.**”

One LABBB’s initiative integrates and shares all our services and expertise regardless of what program a staff person works in. We wanted to keep the unique characteristics that we built while providing a structure where we can access all our expertise from pre-school through high school. Secondly, we needed a system that complimented our

continuum of services. And lastly, we wanted to build a structure that enhanced communication for our parents, staff, and the districts we serve.

LABBB serves students from over 60 districts and communication is paramount. Our future success will be to show districts once again that LABBB will be a leader in taking special education programming to a new level.

We made a decision to implement a developmental structure for our programs. We now have one Program Director for each developmental level for Elementary, Middle and High School.

Furthermore, we will refer to our programs by the name of the school they are located in. For example, If your child attends Francis Wyman Elementary School in Burlington, we simply call the Program **LABBB Francis Wyman Elementary School** if your child attends Ottoson Middle school, we call the program **LABBB Ottoson Middle School** and for

high school, **LABBB Lexington High School.**

Having one Program Director focus on one developmental level allows for easier communication among internal staff and the districts that send students to LABBB. Our programming and expertise is also enhanced as we now have a Program Director who supervises and coordinates only one developmental level rather than 2 or 3. Our Program Directors and Coordinators can now pay full attention to professional development and services for that level while also making student placement and transitions seamless.

These improvements have already proven to be more effective and will keep LABBB on the cutting edge of special education services. We have more work to do. This step has been successful for our future programming.

For more information and contacts please see our new website at: www.labbb.com

LABBB CurriculumShare: Bringing the best lessons to all Classrooms



LABBB CurriculumShare is an innovative on-line program for LABBB teachers and support related service providers to share their classroom lessons. If you have heard of the Khan Academy then you will be familiar with the vision of LABBB CurriculumShare for special education.

We have a diverse population of students in LABBB from pre-school through high school and we are located in 14

different buildings in five districts.

I have had the opportunity to see many great lessons going on in the classrooms. We needed to find a way to share the great work all our teachers were doing. The most practical method was to create an application that could upload lesson plans, videos, podcasts and any other programs that teachers would like to share with each other. The outcome is "LABBB

CurriculumShare!"

Teachers can now upload and download lesson plans that have been shared by their colleagues no matter which program, district, or building they are working in. Staff can modify a lesson they download and they have all of this accessible right from their computer.

At the time of this writing LABBB CurriculumShare has close to 150 lessons uploaded!



LABBB Assistive Technology Team to focus on Clicker 5

The use of Assistive Technology and technology in general has been more pervasive in all the LABBB classrooms. LABBB started an Assistive Technology Team two years ago and we have been building our use of technology in the classrooms. We want to be mindful that using more technology does not mean it is a "cure all" for all lesson plans. It is a tool that can supplement any lesson. It is important that

we do not ignore the human interaction which is so important for our students and replace with devices. We need a balance. We are investigating and exploring the myriad technology tools and we will continue to move forward. For example, the iPad has thousands of applications that are being developed and we are making sure we are evaluating what works and what does not work.

One program in particular we are committed to using in our classrooms is Clicker 5. This program is very functional and can be adapted for pre-readers through eighth grade; therefore, it can be used for most of our programs.

We are currently in the process of scheduling training sessions for Clicker 5. This is going to be a strong initiative for this year.

LABBB Professional Day offers many new learning opportunities for Staff

On Thursday, October 20, the LABBB Middle School and High School programs participated in a professional development day that offered a great host of workshops for staff.

The day started with a Bullying presentation for

all staff and then the staff had the opportunity to choose 2 workshops to attend.

The workshops included: ABA training, Bookshare, CurriculumShare, Reality Therapy / Choice Theory, Tech Tools, Sensory, Bullying case studies,

blogging, MCAS, among many others.

On Thursday, November 10, our pre-school / Elementary Programs are having a professional day and the workshops include: ABA training, Math and Literacy Curriculum and CPR.

Good Business: Work with LABBB!

A strong feature of LABBB is its career development program where students have the opportunity to work in a myriad of businesses and organizations. Some of these worksites include: Lahey Clinic, Whole Foods, Sun Micro-systems, Pine and Baker, Marine Polymer, Interactive Data, and many others.

LABBB has a very successful history of building worksites and developing work opportunities for our students. This component of our program has been the model for all other programs striving to build work placements for students in community businesses.

To build worksites in

businesses takes many years of understanding how to bridge school and business settings to create a lasting relationship that benefits our students and the company. LABBB has been a leader in creating these partnerships.

The LABBB staff is very skilled at working within an organization and making this a win win situation for the organization and our students. LABBB has demonstrated that it has the ability to work within these settings and offer a very efficient and productive service. LABBB is seen as more than just a program within a company. We have the resources and model that have made our students part of an organizational community working alongside the companies

employees.

Many of our worksites have come from referrals from parents who know of company's that are open to this partnership. We have been at many of our worksites for over twenty years; this demonstrates the longevity we can build for serving local business and creating placements for our students.

LABBB is always looking for new and exciting challenges for our students to work in local businesses. If you have any ideas or leads for worksite placements we would be very interested in exploring them.

For more information please contact Karen Conway, LABBB Vocational Coordinator at kconway@labbb.net

LABBB Opens New Program at Burlington High School

This September LABBB opened a new program at Burlington High School. This program started as an extension of our Belmont High Program as we needed to expand our space to accommodate our student's needs. The population of students range from high developmental delays to Aspergers.

The Burlington High School staff and administration have been extremely welcoming. They have embraced our program and given us quality space for our students. Furthermore, within the first month of

school the Burlington High School Vice Principal and LABBB started the PAL's program. Students from Burlington High School will work within the LABBB classrooms and coordinate social activities. Many of the PAL's programs that have developed with LABBB have turned into a Best Buddies Chapter and this is one of the goals of the program.

The Best Buddies Buddies programs support the Collaborative vision. We believe in housing all our programs in the public schools so that our students can be in the

least restrictive environment. The Best Buddies and PAL's programs help our students be engaged within the schools' community.

We want to thank all the Burlington High staff who have made it clear that LABBB will be fully integrated and be part of all the schools functions, assemblies, faculty meetings and more.



Using Technology as a Team by Patric Barbieri



It is great to see many of our staff interested in technology this year. I wanted to share some insight into beginning this initiative in your classroom or work site. With so many technology / assistive tech websites, blogs, new devices and tools available it can be very overwhelming for your team. Where do you start? Who do you listen to? Everyone is talking about the latest and greatest tool they have heard about and your head is spinning.

The Speech Therapist has an interest in the iPad and is beginning to introduce applications to the students; the Occupational Therapist has experience with intelli tools and has been speaking of using this with the students; the Teacher is just beginning to learn Clicker 5; a few members in the classroom are inspired to start a classroom blog; the LABBB AT team wants every classroom to learn Clicker 5 and another team member has been learning about all the services that Google has to offer...I can only imagine this would be very overwhelming for any team. This is great energy and passion for AT, but how

can you work together to really make these tools work effectively?

Meet with your team and discuss an assistive technology plan for your classroom. It will be much more productive if you implement one tool that every team member understands and can use, rather than experimenting with many tools without really evaluating whether they are being effective or not.

The LABBB Assistive Tech team needed the same kind of plan. We spent time sharing websites, blogs, iPad applications and any technology tips that we have used and it was clear that everyone was very excited about using technology, but we couldn't go in ten different directions we had to focus on a few tools at a time.

One decision we made in the last few weeks was to focus on Clicker 5 for our classrooms. We discussed working with Classroom Suite but we came to the conclusion that Clicker 5 will be much more user-friendly and easier to teach to the staff. This is an initiative that we will work on throughout the year. We will continue to work and expand the use of

the iPad but we have a definitive plan to all work together to implement Clicker 5, acquire training, and use LABBB CurriculumShare to upload the stories or templates that staff have created.

The classroom team should talk about AT. What does it mean for their students? One size doesn't fit all. Make a plan and let everyone know what steps you will take to introduce a new tool, device or program. Speak to a LABBB Assistive Tech team member to get more information, or have one of them attend a meeting with you to talk about your classroom plan. Most importantly, make every team member in the classroom a part of this plan. Less is more when starting off with implementing AT. Start small and build. You can always add as you go but the important thing is that you do it as a team.

Recreation Corner by Paula Rizzo

One of LABBB's highlights of its services is the opportunities that students have for social and recreational activities. These activities enhance our student's lives and give them an option that they may not have in their own community. Paula Rizzo has been organizing these events for twenty five years. If you speak with any parent of a child who takes full advantage of these activities then you will find that they will passionately describe how this is something their son or daughter looks forward to.

This fall the students have enjoyed many indoor and outdoor activities. Listed below are some of the community events that have occurred since September:

- Reunion Dance
- Halloween Dance
- Mini Golf trips

- Apple picking trips
- Roger Williams Pumpkin lighted tour
- Pumpkin picking
- Dinner at Buca's
- Hikes
- Bowling Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Photo groups
- Wednesday afternoon rec: Walking group, Flag football, Arts and Crafts, Hip Hop
- Special Olympic flag football at Harvard stadium

These are just some of the activities that have taken place this fall. We want our students to have many diverse opportunities for social recreational interactions.

Upcoming Trips this year include:

- Best Buddies Bowling
- Harvest Dance

- Indoor mini golf
- Hockey game trip
- Best Buddies Turkey Gobbler 5K
- Special Olympics Jolly Jaunt
- Special Olympics Passion plunge
- Shen Yun Trip

Please note that LABBB also has an interscholastic unified basketball team that has been competing for the past five years. We welcome everyone to come and watch one of our games.

For more information about LABBB Recreation and social activities please go our website www.labbb.com or e-mail: prizzo@labbb.net

Follow Paula on Twitter: @aperec



Best Buddies and PAL's Programs

A feature of the LABBB program that has really built strong interactions within the school communities is the Best Buddies and PAL's Chapters. We cannot begin to express the value that these programs bring to our students. The Best Buddies activities are extremely impressive. The interaction between the Best Buddies and LABBB students has increased

the awareness to all the public school communities where LABBB has programs.

Our newest PAL's chapter was developed in the new LABBB Burlington High School program that began this year.

The Best Buddies coordinate many social activities for our students and they get involved in supporting our students. We have developed many

great relationships with the students in our schools through Best Buddies. These students really want to take an active part in making our students part of the school community.





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We're on the Web!

See us at:

WWW.LABBB.COM

LABBB Wellington and LABBB Memorial move into new School Buildings

Two of LABBB's Elementary programs have moved into their new homes. The Wellington Elementary School in Belmont and the Memorial Elementary School in Burlington were both on the same construction schedule and they both opened on time for the start of the new school year.

All the staff worked very hard to move their classrooms under extreme time constraints to be ready for the students' arrival.

Both school buildings are very state of the art buildings and the staff have been very accommodating. As with any change, it takes a little time to settle in to get acclimated to the surroundings. The classroom space in both Wellington and Memorial are very spacious and is a great environment for our students.

LABBB's philosophy since its beginning was to be part of the public schools. All of LABBB's classrooms

are located in public schools. This integration allows all our students to be part of a least restrictive environment.

LABBB has participated and been included directly in the plans for construction of new buildings.

We want to thank all the Burlington and Belmont staff for welcoming us and making our students lives better by being a part of the community.

About Our Organization...

LABBB is an Educational Collaborative that serves students with special needs from over 60 districts.

Mission Statement

The LABBB Collaborative helps students with special needs reach their full potential through high quality programs that integrate academic, social, recreational, and vocational services and

enable participation in the least restrictive environment.

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