

## 5-K Walk- A- Thon Steps to Success

Granite Academy's first 5K Walk-a-thon was a huge success, thanks to the planning, participation and generosity of students, parents, staff, local political leaders and friends.

Over \$13,000 was raised, which will support the strengthening of our science department and STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) program. The funds will enable us to purchase science lab equipment, robotics kits and science curriculum materials.

Months in advance of the October 14th event, members of the Parent Advisory Council, with the assistance of long-term supporter and former board member Lou Tozzi, met, planned and coordinated the many critical details that supported our success. Holly Mazelli and the JRI marketing team were also critical members of the team, helping us get the word out to the larger community.

The event was held October 14th and drew 86 registered walkers of all ages! and we thank each and every one of you! In addition to the walkers, volunteers were on hand to cook and to set up the event. We want to particularly thank volunteers Lauren and Eric Brennan and Norm Schmidt.

### Happenings at Granite Academy

November 22 | Basketball Team Tryouts

Early December | Chess Club Starts

Date TBA | Mathletes Program

December 6 | PAC Presentation - Personal Resource Education

January 17 | PAC Meeting & Poetry Slam

February 14 | PAC Meeting & Google Classroom Training for Parents



L to R: Lou Tozzi (see article), Amy Barber, Head of School; Ann Gerriets, Hilary Bruel, Nicole Hennessey, Alexi Sarnevitz, Barbara Sanford Epps, Sherraine Glover, Michelle Brusard, parents; Lynne Mitchell, Clinical Director; Thomas Koch, Mayor of Quincy

## Thank You Lou Tozzi

Every now and then an organization is fortunate enough to have a tireless supporter whose generosity knows no bounds. For Granite Academy, this person is Lou Tozzi.

Lou's generosity has been continuous for well over 15 years. We have benefitted in countless ways from his friendship, professional expertise and knowledge (Lou is the former Director of Special Education for the City of Quincy), his good humor, his support for the professional development and credentialing of our staff, his service to the board of directors, his attendance at every home game of the Gladiator's basketball team, his financial support and most of all, his uplifting spirit that has touched generations of Granite Academy staff and students!

Lou played such an important role in our Walk-a-thon. He met with the Parent Advisory Committee numerous times to guide the event planning. In addition to soliciting donations to the event, Lou willingly reached out to his many contacts and arranged for all of the following AT NO COST to Granite Academy: use of Faxon Field, event T-shirts, bibs and banner, required permits and on-site municipal personnel.

Lou, thank you for all you have done for Granite Academy!



## Olympic Athlete Speaks to GA Students

On October 18th Granite Academy students spoke with Jordin Andrade, via Skype video. Jordin is a track and field hurdler representing Cape Verde at the Olympics in 2016 and World Championships in 2017. He specializes in the 400-meter hurdles and was a silver medalist in the 2015 NCASS division outdoor track and field championships. Jordin is 51st in the world rankings in the 400 hurdles. He is currently in training for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Jordin joined us from Seattle, Washington where he is currently training. He shared his personal journey and the challenges he has faced along the way as an athlete. His message to our students was “Never let others tell you that you can’t do it. Always believe in yourself.”

Among the questions students posed to Jordin were these:

GA Sophomore: “What do you use to motivate yourself?”

Jordin: “People told me I couldn’t do it. That stays with me and pushes me every time I feel like quitting.”

GA Junior: Do you ever get nervous before a meet?”

Jordin: “Yes! Nerves are not bad. They remind you that you are passionate and care about something, so don’t let nerves deter you, it is your strength.”

We thank Jordin for taking the time to speak with our students and wish him much success as he pursues his goals and dreams! It was an honor to have this opportunity to learn from him.

**Granite Academy**  
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Interested in learning more about Granite Academy? Please contact one of our administrators.

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Amy Barber  
Head of School

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Tatyana Rozenblyum  
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