On THE Move!

2014-2015 Annual Report

FENWAY HIGH SCHOOL

On the Move!

2014-2015

Annual Report
Welcome to FENWAY HIGH SCHOOL! Fenway has been a pioneer among Boston public schools since 1983 and is devoted to providing a high-quality, personalized education to students from all over the city of Boston.

Fenway’s designation as a “pilot” school means extraordinary autonomy. At Fenway, we are free to design a schedule and curriculum that meet the particular academic needs of the students we serve.

We have the flexibility to create alternative approaches and test new programs from student assessment portfolios and performance, to professional development for our teachers, to an integrated humanities curriculum combining literacy, history and social studies. Further we have the freedom to respond to our students’ real needs - academic, social-emotional and practical. We can offer important “real life” learning and support alongside challenging academic work and give our students opportunities for real success.

The following pages highlight the many ways in which our friends, family and partners support our school community. We invite you to learn about our school and join us in celebrating the 2014-2015 academic school year.
Dear Friends,

The 2014-2015 school year marked the last year in the building across from Fenway Park. As we prepared for the transition to the Mission Hill neighborhood, we celebrated and reflected on our 17 years at Ipswich Street.

During these years, Fenway grew from a student body of 250 to one of over 320. These years marked the continued development and maturation of Fenway’s curriculum and practices. When Fenway first moved to Ipswich Street, it had recently become a pilot school and it was during these years that the school was able to fully appreciate and take advantage of the pilot schoolautonomies. Fenway’s curriculum and assessment practices were honed, creating a capstone experience for juniors into Junior Review, senior science fair exhibitions at the Museum of Science Boston and developing graded seminar instruction and assessment in humanities classrooms. These years were also marked by instituting a personalized learning environment for all students through the creation of the house structure and through the admission process.

As we prepared for our transition from Ipswich Street, so, too, did the class of 2015 prepare for their post-secondary transitions. Out of a class of 74 seniors, 93% were accepted to colleges with the vast majority to four-year institutions. Five girls were accepted and are attending Mount Holyoke and two more are at Smith College. Three students were accepted to the College of the Holy Cross and five each to Lesley University and Framingham State University.

Highlights of the year included stellar performances by Fenway’s debate team which was named the most improved team of the year! A number of students also won individual awards from the Boston Debate League when they participated in the City Tournament. Continuing their remarkable run, the girls’ basketball team won the Division IV East state championship and one graduate was awarded a full basketball scholarship to the University of Rhode Island, a Division One school. In early April, friends of Fenway came together at the Island Creek Oyster Bar to celebrate “On the Move!” raising funds in celebration of Fenway’s move to Mission Hill.

Much of the year was devoted to planning for our move ensuring that our new space would meet the demands of a high school in the 21st century. Your advocacy and friendship, support and guidance have made our years in the Fenway so fulfilling and our future so promising.

With deepest gratitude and appreciation,

Peggy Kemp
Head of School

Ralph Verni
Co-Chair Board of Trustees

Sally Dias
Co-Chair Board of Trustees

Bob Ross
Co-Chair Board of Trustees
Our Students

Total Enrolled 328

- 75% at or below the poverty line (as reported)
- 21% have documented learning disabilities
- 48% come from homes where English is not the primary language

- Fenway students like to come to school: the AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE is 93%.
- Fenway students apply themselves everyday: 97% are PROMOTED to the NEXT GRADE LEVEL.
- Fenway students stay in school: the DROP OUT RATE of <1% is one of the lowest in the district.
Total Faculty and Staff 44

- Full and part-time teaching staff: 24
- Student Support Counselors: 3
- Americorps VISTA Volunteers: 3
- Faculty to student ratio: 1:12

Female 66%
Male 34%

Black 32%
White 50%
Asian 4%
Latino 14%
At Fenway, we know and respect each student as an individual. Our faculty members work hard to ensure that each student is supported, connected, and intellectually challenged. We encourage creative, interdisciplinary thinking and active, engaged citizenship.

At the core of our philosophy is a simple idea: Nothing should hold you back. All students deserve a chance to acquire the knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to find success. Our goal is to ensure that all students in our care have the education they need to realize their dreams. We provide our students with comprehensive resources and support both in and out of the classroom: students benefit from after school academic mentoring and tutoring, SAT preparation courses, and student support advisors.

THE CLASS OF 2015

74% attending a 4-year college

19% attending a 2-year college

COLLEGE CHOICES: 93% of Fenway graduates were accepted to college; many are first-generation college students. We are pleased to share the college choices of the Class of 2015:

Babson College
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (2)
Bennington College
Brandeis University
Bridgewater State University (4)
Community College of RI
Fitchburg State University (2)
Framingham State University (5)
Gwinnett College
College of the Holy Cross (3)
Lasell College
Lesley University (5)
Mass Bay Community College
Mass College of Liberal Arts (2)
University of MA, Boston (8)
Mount Holyoke College (5)
Mount Ida College
Northeastern University
Northeastern University Foundation Year
Pine Manor College (2)
Quincy College (7)
Regis College
University of Rhode Island
Salem State University
Simmons College
Smith College (2)
University of Southern Maine
Stonehill College
Suffolk University (2)
Wentworth Institute of Technology (2)
All public school students in Massachusetts are assessed using the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test. Students must pass this standardized test in order to graduate from high school. Fenway students are tested in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>English Language Arts</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fenway High School</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston Public Schools</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Advanced/Proficient
- Needs Improvement
- Warning/Failing
Fenway’s home on Ipswich Street proved to be an incubator for the school to expand, create and implement new programs and nurture old ones. Fenway became the first Pilot school to be accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. During its years at Ipswich Street, Fenway received numerous awards and forms of recognition:

- One of six “Boston Blue Ribbon Schools” by Citizens School Academy (2003)
- One of 9 highest performing non-selective urban high schools in MA by Mass INC (2004)
- Recipient of Reebok Human Rights Award (2004)
- Only Boston school named as an exemplary Compass School (2006)
- One of two BPS high schools named as helping Latino students succeed (Mauricio Gaston Institute) (2007)
- One of 3 schools nationwide profiled in Rethinking High School for the math program (WestEd) (2008)
- One of 4 schools nationwide that received an award from the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color for narrowing the achievement gap (2012)
- Named a Level 1 School by Mass DESE (2013, 2014)

With its central location, Fenway at Ipswich Street developed new partnerships that enriched student learning. As part of the effort to increase the college attendance rate and improve the quality of colleges that graduates attend, Fenway and Emmanuel College embarked on a dual enrollment partnership in 2004. Two recent partnerships, Fisher College and Wentworth Institute of Technology, have expanded the dual enrollment options for students. In the class of 2015, of the 74 seniors who graduated, 46 completed one college class, 14 completed two and 7 completed 3 classes.

The Ventures program, which began in 1999, developed a partnership with the neighboring Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts earning recognition by the Boston Business Journal for the Corporate Citizenship award and continuing to serve as an important bridge to post-secondary opportunities for graduates.

In Fenway classrooms, students learn and discuss issues pertaining to social justice and moral citizenship. Those lessons were brought clearly to the forefront in the two year struggle to keep a beloved teacher, Obain Attouoman, from being deported. Obain, as he was widely known, had been a special education Math teacher - teaching in BPS for 10 years and at Fenway for three. His students loved him and he was admired and liked by the entire school community. He was arrested and threatened with deportation to his native Ivory Coast after missing an ICE hearing. Once students found out, they united and protested, first outside the school, then at government center. Student protests brought media interest and Obain was released from jail but still under threat of deportation. A delegation of students and faculty went to Washington, D.C. and convinced then - Senator Kerry to file bills to put his deportation on hold. Their efforts paid off and Obain was safe until January 2007 when the bills filed by Kerry and Markey were no longer in effect. Obain was deported in 2008 without any notice. He currently lives in the Ivory Coast.

Fenway students received the Reebok Human Rights award for their efforts to prevent Obain’s deportation. Student action was also generated when Fenway was informed that it would be moved to Mission Hill. These actions had a happier ending as student, alumni, parent and board advocacy led the city and school district to make significant improvements to the Mission Hill building at 67 Alleghany Street!
Fenway on the Move!

On April 8th, 2015 our friends and supporters gathered at Island Creek Oyster Bar to celebrate our move to Mission Hill. The program included remarks from Peggy Kemp, Head of School; Kevin Brill, Associate Head of School; and Jason Mejia, Class of 2014.

After sharing buildings with other schools at four different locations, Fenway High School has a home of its very own! Our new space will bring many opportunities to enhance programs, enrich academic offerings, and form new partnerships and collaborations.

“At Fenway I learned about who I am. Now I am finding my place at Tufts but it was at Fenway where I first learned about what I was capable of achieving and where I found a place to be myself.”

Jason Mejia, Class of 2014
Our THANKS!!

**EVENT CO - CHAIRS**
Barbara and George Beal  
Martha Bedell and David Dryer  
Lora and Chuck Farkas  
Annie Hurd  
Anna and Jim Rehnquist

**HOST AND EVENT COMMITTEE**
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Leah and Andy Silipo  
Betsy and Walter Van Dorn  
Kathy and Ralph Verni  
Martha and Rick Wagner

**SUPPORTERS**
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Susan and Ted Bedford  
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Greer Candler  
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Ann Marie and Richard Connolly  
John Cormier and Jim Bonanno  
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Leah and Andy Silipo  
Larry Spang  
Betsy and Walter Van Dorn  
Kathy and Ralph Verni  
Martha and Rick Wagner  
Donna Robinson and Christopher Zook

**SPONSORS**
ARS Restoration Specialist  
New England Baptist Hospital  
Island Creek Oyster Bar

**SPECIAL THANKS**
Fenway Girls Basketball Team  
Dick Flavin, Boston Red Sox  
Gordon Webster, New England Image
Fenway Annual Fund

**ADVISORY CIRCLE** ($10,000+)
Alice Willard Dorr Trust
Richard Belin & Rosanne O’Brien
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Nancy & Maurice Lazarus Fund
The Janey Fund
James Smith Trust
Rosenberry Charitable Term Trust
Walter S. Rosenberry, III Charitable Trust

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The Charlotte Foundation
Yale Charitable Foundation
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**FENWAY FANS’ CIRCLE** ($1,000-$4,999)
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Keogh Family Fund at the Boston Foundation
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Novack Family Foundation, P’05
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Betsy & Walter Van Dorn
John & Barbara Vogelstein Foundation
Martha & Rick Wagner
We extend our deepest thanks to the following individuals, organizations and corporations that have given generously in support of Fenway High School’s Annual Fund.

**PANTHER’S CIRCLE (up to $999)**

Anonymous
Anonymous, P’15
Heather & Bryan Adams
June & Michael Adams
William & Shirley Andrews
Susanne Beck & Billy Parker
Martha Bedell & David Dryer
Susan & Ted Benford
Paul O. & Mary Boghossian,
   Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee
Ivonne Borrero, P’08, ’15
Gary Buseck
Stephen & Candice Carr
Eloisa & Jose Centeio, P’15
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Cathy Claffin
Lirida Colon, P’15
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Loomis - Sayles & Company
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John Cormier & James Bonanno
Margaret Curtis
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Alice DeLana
Tory Dietel Hopps, in honor of John Esty
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Newell Flather
Betty & Davis Fitzgerald Foundation
Shaw’s Supermarkets Charitable Foundation
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Virginia Loeb & Jim Sperling
Julia MacLaughlin
Ellen Sarkisian & John Maher
Karen Masterson & Thomas Wang
Ellen Moot
Richard & Mary Jo Murnane
Network For Good
Tam Thi Truong & Martin Nguyen, P’15
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Nancy Porter & Richard Plumb
The Porter Family, P’15
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Peggy Rosenberry
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Perry C. Smith
Sarah N. Smith
Susan Marsh & Larry Spang
Joshua Speers
Linsday Stradley
Target Corporation
Luis E. Vasco, P’15
Betty Vorenberg
Barbara & Fred Walton
Nancy & Andrew Warren, P’02
Elizabeth Wilson
Special Support

Our students and faculty greatly appreciate the opportunities afforded to them by special programming in the areas of COLLEGE ACCESS, THE ARTS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS and EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING. We thank the following individuals, organizations and corporations that have given generously in support of these programs.

June & Michael Adams
Elizabeth & Andrew Beal
Dick Belin & Rosanne O’Brien
Emmie Chatzimanika
Claudia Chitu
Clinton H. and Wilma T. Shattuck
Charitable Trust
Anne Connolly
Adriana Costache
Michaela Danek
Sally Dias
Sam Donovan
Leaf Elhai
Dottie & Bob Engler
Lora & Chuck Farkas
Jim Fiala
Liberty Mutual Foundation
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Basic Needs Assistance Fund
Jennifer Gausman
Riana Good
Robin Hennessy
Caroline Holland
Shawn Johnson, ’09
Joyce Kazanjian
Peggy S. Kemp
Carol Lazarus & Paul Donovan
Leah Lovgren
Benadette Manning
Bonnie McBride
Julian McNeil, ’03
Sonali Meyer
Pama R. Miller
Ayowale Olaodeji
Donna Payton, P’91,96,97
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The Porter Family
Christie Reed
Anthony Rhodes, ’87
Clayton Rosa, ’04
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Eileen & Paul Shakespear
Jenny & Richard Siegel
Peter Siegel
Diana Ticu
Janet & Henry Vaillant
Betsy & Walter Van Dorn
Kathy & Ralph Verni
Elisa & Troy Van Voorhis
David Walsh, ’03
Emily Walton
Kingsley Weihe
Sophomore Arts Electives

Fenway is grateful to the BPS ARTS EXPANSION INITIATIVE AT EDVESTORS for their continued support. They have provided funding that has sustained important opportunities for Fenway’s sophomores to explore a variety of arts. We are pleased to also recognize our 2014-2015 arts partners:

*Acting and Improv* - Kadahj Bennett from Company One Theater

*Afro-Latin Dance* - Angeline Egea

*Photography* - Robin Hennessy

*Songwriting* - Jesse Winfrey

*Visual Arts* - Jacob Leidolf, ‘07

*Video Arts* - Matthew Feener from Press Pass TV

6 year partnership 522 students served

$98,000 in support 13 arts partners
Our PARTNERS

We are grateful to the community organizations, businesses, and individuals that have opened their doors to us. Our partners allow our students to take college classes, explore potential career fields through internships and job shadows and provide valuable learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: Since 2007, Fenway and Dana Farber Cancer Institute’s Office of Workforce Development have partnered to provide opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning and college and career readiness. Through its Summer Jobs Program, academic year internship program and job shadow day, Dana Farber has opened doors for Fenway students. Currently, six Fenway alumni are on permanent staff at Dana Farber. Over the past nine years, Dana Farber has granted $70,000 in scholarships to Fenway students!

Amphibious Achievers
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston Bikes
Boston Partners in Education
Boston Private Industry Council
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Scholar Athlete Program
BU School of Education
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Emmanuel College
Facing History and Ourselves
Fisher College
Mission Hill Youth Collaborative
Museum of Science Boston
New England Baptist Hospital
Passport to College
Peer Health Exchange
Project Bread
Red Sox Foundation
Sociedad Latina
Tufts University Department of Education
uAspire
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Wheelock College
The SENIOR INTERNSHIP program is one of the hallmarks of a Fenway education - every year, all seniors complete a six-week internship in a field of their choice. The class of 2015 explored a diverse range of career options with our community partners. Four students interned at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute: Mirschille Valmond explored genetic research and psychology; Laura Escolero worked in palliative psychiatry; Lorena Escolero helped in a research lab; and Joel Melo worked with the facilities department. Kayleen Gomez gained experience working with customers while also learning how a business works behind the scenes at Yale Appliance and Lighting. Giselle Colon and Gabrielle Favis explored the growing field of nursing at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, while Deja Casiano worked in the IT department at Boston Consulting Group. Amani Sutton assisted the pharmaceutical account team at the ad agency, Hill Holliday. Other students found internships with community organizations - Vanesa Guevara completed her internship at Sociedad Latina, while Jonah Jones built houses with Habitat for Humanity. We are grateful to the many companies, institutions, and organizations that are giving our students unique opportunities to learn about potential careers.
Every spring the junior Ventures class participates in The Pitch. Students spend the spring term working in small groups to create a hypothetical business. They then present their business plans to a panel of volunteer judges from the Greater Boston community. This year saw businesses ranging from thermal heat powered phone chargers to a multicultural restaurant. We extend a special thanks to New England Baptist Hospital for hosting this two day event and to all our volunteers.

**PITCH JUDGES**

Lisa Badeau  
Angela Castelluci  
Ester Chewning  
Dean Conway  
Daniel Davis  
Kevin Freeman

Don Flynn  
Anita Handy, P’09  
Ilyse Greeberg  
Margaret McGovern  
Betsy Van Dorn

**FENWAY VENTURES FUND SUPPORTERS**

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation  
Horizon Beverage Company  
Ralph & Kathleen Verni
With generous multi-year support from the LIBERTY MUTUAL FOUNDATION, we have been able to expand our college advising program to offer post secondary support to recent alumni and increase meaningful communication with the colleges and universities which our students attend in order to ensure that Fenway graduates complete their college education.
Ensuring College Success!

With a two-year grant from the Liberty Mutual Foundation, Fenway implemented a program to improve the college completion rate of Fenway graduates, 85% of whom are first generation college students. The numbers are sobering. Nationally, the six-year college completion rate for low income students is 24% and for low income, first generation students it is 11%. Fenway’s number at 40% is substantially higher but still well below the level we aspire to achieve.

Ensuring College Success! Provided funding for Fenway’s college counselor to:

- Visit 20 college campuses and meet with admissions counselors to inform them about Fenway’s unique academic program.
- Meet with alumni (including many members of the classes of 2013 and 2014) and become better informed of the college experience and challenges for Fenway students.
- Create 15 reports for colleges where there are several alumni. These reports included special programs, contact information for alumni on campus and comments and recommendations from our alumni. These reports are available to seniors in the college counseling office.

Here is a sampling of alumni impressions about college:

- “You will learn so much about yourself from being in an environment so different than what you are used to.”
- “The classes are pretty small, it’s another Fenway.”
- “The campus is fairly white (but it depends on your major...)
- “Your best resource is other Fenway alums.”
- “The distance is hard if you are close to/dependent on your family.”
- “The beginning was hard, I felt alone and out of place, but then I became involved in the community and now I love it
- Most Professors are accessible”
- “Students sometimes don’t graduate on time because it is hard to register for classes and required classes can fill up quickly”

and recommendations for Fenway students:

- “Stay on top of your work.”
- Realize that “you are not in high school anymore...you can’t get in the game late and catch up...you will slip through the cracks”
- Be open-minded and get involved.
One of the highlights of the year is PROJECT WEEK. Students and faculty divide into small groups and spend the week exploring a topic of common interest. This year groups such as, THE MISSION HILL TRAILBLAZERS explored our new Mission Hill neighborhood, THE LUNCH BUNCH explored school food at other schools across the city, and WATER SPORTS spent the week in and around Boston Harbor. We extend a big thank you to all of the organizations who donated their time and resources to host us for visits!

Artists for Humanity
Automotive Solutions
b.good, Legacy Place Dedham
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Boston Bikes
Brookline High School Cafeteria
BU Belly Dancing Society
Cambridge Rindge & Latin School Cafeteria
Cambridge School of Culinary Arts
City Councilor Joshua Zakim
Corbu Salon
Cristo Rey High School
Crossfit Fenway
Diablo Glass Blowing
Eastern Standard Kitchen & Drinks
Eastside Motoring
Emmanuel College
Empire Beauty School
The Epiphany School Cafeteria
The Food Project
Franklin Park Zoo
Garment District
Chef Stephen, Green Street Café
Harry Parker Boat House
Huntington YMCA
Hyde Square Task Force
Islamic Center
Jacob Leidolf, ’07
Menino Community Center
Mission Church
Mission Main Street
Museum of Fine Art
Museum of Science
New England Baptist Hospital
Nookie Postal, Commonwealth Market
North Shore Animal League America
Northeastern University
Open Call Modeling Agency
Reggie Lewis Center
Rue La La
Xavier Rivera, ’13
School of Fashion Design
Somerville Artist Studio
Sportsman’s Tennis Club
Squashbusters
Steven Hamilton, ’05
Swann Lodge
Sweet Cheeks Q
Taza Chocolate
Tobin Community Center
Vito’s Auto Shop
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West End Boys & Girls Club
Whole Foods, Dedham
Opening Day of Project week was held at THE REGGIE LEWIS CENTER. Students came together for breakfast and to participate in a MISSION HILL SCAVENGER HUNT. Students and faculty were sent on a mission to learn about the Mission Hill neighborhood!!
Volunteer Support

So many dedicated volunteers devote their time and energy to helping our students succeed. Volunteers bring their enthusiasm and knowledge to Fenway, helping students with their college essays and providing subject specific academic tutoring and mentoring after school. We also have a wonderful group of people who assist the development office with fundraising and help Fenway connect with new partners and friends.

ACADEMIC MENTORING AND COLLEGE COACHING

- Ilya Andreev
- Martha Bedell
- Brianna Brooks
- Monica Chavez
- Valerie Cherbero
- Katie Claiborn
- Dean Conway
- Paige Cordero
- Tom Craig
- Danielle Dee
- Annie Dinh
- Tsion Fikre
- Chase Gibson
- Lizzie Green
- Amanda Greenridge
- Collin Griebling
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- Steve McHugh
- James Miller
- James Moran
- JP Neisewander
- Laura O’Shea
- Yaa Obeng
- Atra Oshana
- Amy Pacitto
- Marissa Paliotti
- Emily Pan
- Stephanie Pan
- Jane Parris
- Erica Pascoale
- Miranda Quast
- Emma Rodrigues
- Emma Ryan
- Cat Senoyuit
- Nicole Sherman
- Haley Shewfelt
- Amelie Trieu
- Michael Tutein, ’14
- Amber Walsh
- Curtis Wang
- Haley Weiner

FOOD AND NUTRITION COMMITTEE

This committee helped brainstorm ideas about how to get more fresh, nutritious and healthy food served in Fenway’s new cafeteria.

- Ellen diBonaventura
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