



A PROGRAM OF JCRC

Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy

Brockton Reflections: Kennedy School

Sue Fishman, Team Leader

I used to look forward to seeing Brian Rogan, the principal of the Kennedy School in Brockton, when I came into the office on Tuesday mornings to sign in before tutoring. He always greeted me with a smile and asked how I was doing. While I was in the office, I saw how he prepared the students who were participating in the morning announcements that day. He would help them practice what they were going to say and would give them a lot of praise afterwards.

I witnessed him being so good with all of the students with whom he dealt, even those that had misbehaved. He stayed calm and never raised his voice.

He was very supportive of our tutoring program and would go out of his way to assist us if any issue arose.

He really appreciated the book donation to his school from GBJCL. In addition, he and the reading specialist, Kelly Naumenko, held a lovely Thanksgiving Breakfast in honor of our tutors this past November. Both the teachers and the students whom we tutored attended it, as well.

Brian Rogan was a warm, caring man who was a terrific principal. I will miss him, and his smile, very much.

Myra Adelman, Team Leader

Dr. Jay Schwab has been an enthusiastic member of the Temple Israel of Sharon Literacy Team for over ten years. Before that time, he was dedicated to the practice of pediatric dentistry. When he retired, his caring and concern for children led him to the GBJCL. As a member of our team, Dr. Schwab volunteered at the Kennedy School with first grade students in the English Language Learner class. When he first started, he had no experience tutoring students, let alone those who spoke limited English. He took to the challenge quickly and every year since has asked to tutor in the same class. We could always count on Dr. Schwab to continue his service to the students. The teacher he worked with can say it more eloquently than I can:

"For the past several years, I had the privilege of having Dr. Schwab as a JCL tutor in my class to work with struggling students to improve their reading skills. Dr. Schwab is a compassionate, humble, caring individual, not to mention humorous. He often uses his

humor to captivate students' attention and to provide a sense of comfort to them during the tutorial session.

On the days Dr. Schwab is scheduled to tutor the students in need of such support, they immediately demonstrate enthusiasm upon his arrival and gather materials needed with excitement to begin the lesson. After each session, he usually has a brief meeting with me to inform me of their success. Dr. Schwab believes that all students can learn at their own pace, and he has instilled self-confidence in them. All the students who have been fortunate to work with Dr. Schwab have developed a love for reading. Dr. Schwab has been an essential resource for the ELL (English Language Learner) students.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Schwab for his dedication to helping those students become independent readers."

It was a pleasure working with Dr. Schwab over the years. We will miss him and wish him the best as he moves on.