Outstanding MCAS Scores Highlight Significant Academic Gains

The results from our Middle School Academy (MSA) students’ MCAS scores for the previous school year are in, and they are impressive! In English Language Arts test results, Tenacity Middle School Academy students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are outperforming their classmates both in our five Boston Public Schools (BPS) partner schools as well as across the City.

Tenacity Middle School Academy is our core, intensive after-school or integrated school-day program (depending on the partner school) that combines literacy, life-skills, tennis instruction, fitness, and family engagement. Our partner schools are the Dever-McCormack, the Jackson-Mann, the Washington Irving, the Lilla G. Frederick, and the Mario Umana.

MSA is critical to enabling students to acquire (MCAS Continued on page 5)

*Student Growth Percentile (SGP) is a measure of student progress that compares changes in a student’s MCAS scores to changes in MCAS scores of other students with very similar MCAS results in prior years. SGP indicates student improvement relative to their peers. If a student’s SGP is 50 points in 2012, then that student made greater MCAS score gains in 2011 than 50% of his/her peers with a similar MCAS score in 2011, and lesser MCAS score gains than 50% of his/her peers with a similar MCAS score in 2011.

8th Grade
Tenacity students’ Student Growth Profile grew significantly by 13 points to 59, as compared to 50 points among our partner schools and 49 points among the school district.

More on MCAS and Tenacity’s outstanding results on page 5.

JUNE 1, 2013
Tenacity Spring Gala
A Magical Evening
Weston Waterfront Hotel

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

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Summer Tennis and Reading Program

Summer 2012 Highlights

Boston
* Served 4,623 unique students at 24 sites across Boston with three hours of daily tennis, reading and fitness stations, mornings and afternoons.
* QuickStart Tennis and off-court fitness stations to improve the tennis skills and fitness levels.
* Improved student-teacher ratios to increase the quality of tennis and reading.
* Expanded team tennis and travel team with over 175 kids participating at 16 sites.
* Increased student knowledge of wellness/nutrition with an entire week of reading/tennis modules dedicated to nutrition.
* 40+ Partner Programs participated, 220 staff, 40 volunteers.

Worcester
* Served 430 unique students at three locations.
* Launched first-ever Reading Curriculum, QuickStart Tennis and new fitness curriculums.
* Outstanding student survey results – Average 4.5 out of 1-5 scale.

Summer Survey Results
Let Us Hear from our Kids
* Kids surveyed rated Tenacity STRP with a 4.5 out of 5 on overall program of tennis and literacy combined.
* The same kids gave the literacy component a 3.9 rating. Pretty high for summer reading—and something to strive to improve upon next summer!
* 66% of kids playing QuickStart Tennis said their game improved a lot.
* 90% said they really like tennis.
* 61% said they want to continue with tennis after the summer.

Mayor’s Cup Recap

Over 145 students across Boston participated in the Mayor’s Cup, which was run by Tenacity.

Congratulations to the success of many Tenacity Pathway students: Sonny Huang, who won the Boys 16 & Under doubles with his partner Gerr Ambroise; Genesis Perez and Gabriella Cruz, who were finalists in the Girls 16 & Under Doubles; and Ming Lao, who won the Boys 18 & Under Doubles!

Thank You

Boston Pro Tennis League

Tenacity is the official charity of the Boston Pro Tennis League—where the finest pro-tennis players in New England compete in team summertime tennis competition. A special thanks for their generous donation and to Karl Gregor and Matt Porter for building awareness of Tenacity at every match.

A huge thank you to Ted Hoehn and the senior staff at Windridge Tennis & Sports Camps who again granted eight (8) scholarships to our Middle School Academy kids for two weeks of summer camp in August. Campers enjoyed rigorous tennis instruction, swimming, hiking and more! This generous offering serves as a major inspiration for Tenacity students—to get excited about tennis and experience living away from home with kids from all backgrounds throughout New England. It is an invaluable, life enhancing experience for them!

A debt of gratitude to our Board Member Ralph James, Richard Wallace, and Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead for hosting Tenacity students at a tennis and dinner event on July 14. For several years, Ralph has hosted a fundraiser that brings several Tenacity students to Marblehead for a day of tennis and swimming and concludes with a festive summer dinner where our kids get to mingle with club members.
Thank You Summer Volunteers

Over 40 volunteers generously donated their time and effort to help serve over 5,000 students this summer in Boston and Worcester.

Tenacity would not be able to adequately serve the needs of Boston’s youth without the enormous support of our volunteer base.


Tenacity Students Compete and Win!

The 2012 New England Clay Court Championships proved to be the right stage for Michael Fedorouk and Carl Reid, two former Tenacity Summer Tennis & Reading participants, to team up for the first time in a doubles tournament. They won the 18 and under championship held in July at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club!

Michael also won the 18 and under singles title without losing a single set in the entire tournament.

According to Andy Crane, former program director at Tenacity, “It was a huge breakthrough for Michael who had suffered an injury and a health scare last year. These two young men are the best players to ever come out of our Summer Tennis & Reading Program.”

Michael and Carl met in our STRP and later became instructors for Tenacity. “It was a big week for two kids who grew up in the Tenacity summer program,” concluded Andy.

Congratulations Michael and Carl!

QuickStart Tennis got our kids playing on the first day they arrived at Summer Tennis & Reading Program.

Summer Learning Project

The Summer Learning Project is a collaboration between Boston Public Schools (BPS), Boston After School and Beyond, and Tenacity designed to prevent summer learning loss in rising 4th graders. The five week English Language Arts, Mathematics and fitness enrichment program served 80 BPS students this past summer.

The program, which ran five days a week, six hours per day, was held at four BPS schools. Two locations are our partner schools, the Dever/McCormack Lower School and Donald McKay School, and therefore served as a feeder program for Tenacity’s Elementary School Program which teaches tennis and fitness to 4th and 5th graders. The other two locations were the Guild School and the Otis School.

Each day combined three hours of academics with three hours of tennis and fitness. During the classroom hours, students practiced math, read books, and wrote and published their own books. The readings focused eating well and the positive impact of exercise and tennis. During the physical fitness hours, students enjoyed tennis lessons and games. Parents, principals and teachers attended a final celebration where the students presented the books they had created during their five week program.

Tenacity partnered with Haley House in Roxbury where students got hands on experience in the kitchen making health snacks and easy meals. They created their own cookbooks with recipes they had learned during the cooking classes.

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The Directors of Tenacity welcome Jim Baldwin to the Board and express our deep appreciation to Jim, Mike Rogan, and everyone at Baldwin Clancy Rogan Advertising in Needham for their countless hours working with us on new designs for all of our print and electronic materials—pro bono. The spring gala materials will be coming soon.
Tenacity Adds Two New Elementary Schools for 2012-2013

Tenacity has added two additional elementary schools for the 2012-13 tennis pathway, more than doubling the total number of students to be served from 180 to over 520, and in the process, greatly expanding the potential recruitment pool for Tenacity’s Middle School Academy.

New Schools: The McKay Elementary in East Boston and the Jackson-Mann which is one of our Middle School Academy sites.

Existing Schools: The Umana K-8 Academy in East Boston and the Dever-McCormack K-8 School in Dorchester.

What we do:
We teach QuickStart Tennis to 4th and 5th grade students during their gym classes. This specialized form of tennis, designed for younger children, gets kids successful at hitting the ball over the net in their first lesson. The net is lower, the racquet is smaller and the foam balls are larger making them easier to hit and slower in the air. The kids are playing games in the first week.

Our goal:
Introduce the students and families to our Pathway programs so when they enter the 6th grade, they will be familiar with and eager to join our Middle School Academy.

Courier & Sampras Host Clinic at Mario Umama K-8 Academy

18 Grand Slam Titles Between Them

Jim Courier and Pete Sampras shared an afternoon with Tenacity Elementary and Middle School Pathway students at the Mario Umama K-8 Academy in East Boston.

Tenacity was honored to host two former ATP world # 1’s; Jim Courier and Pete Sampras, for an hour of tennis clinics and fun at our partner school, the Mario Umama K-8 Academy, in East Boston.

This special event was part of The Champions Cup Tour which had a stop in Boston at the TD Garden on October 19. Over 70 Tenacity Pathway students participated including kids from our elementary program, middle school, high school, post secondary and summer programs.

For the seventh straight year, Tenacity served as the lead charity of the Champions Cup event. During the Courier-Sampras clinic, Tenacity President & Founder, Ned Eames, was presented with a $3,000 donation from Staples, Inc., the official sponsor of the Champions Cup event in Boston.

“We were honored to have Jim Courier and Pete Sampras spend time with our Tenacity students,” commented Ned. “We have enjoyed a long-standing, valuable relationship with Jim and the Champions Cup and look forward to our continued partnership in the future.”

The event was covered by Fox News and the Boston Globe. Tenacity thanks Jim and Pete for their generosity, patience, and graciousness. It was an exciting day for our Tenacity students and staff.

Fun Fact
Tenacity 5th graders at the McKay Elementary School in East Boston wore pedometers during their 50 min. tennis program one day in October. Steps counted measured over 2,800 for each student. How far? 1.25 miles of power walking and short sprinting.
Pathway Students MCAS Scores Show Significant Increase

(MCAS Continued from page 1)

the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary for ongoing academic success in high school and college. Tenacity’s impact in middle school ultimately demonstrates success in enabling students to proceed along the Pathway to Post-Secondary Success. During our 13+ years offering the program, we have continually improved upon the curriculum we offer to our kids by establishing closer relationships with the principals, faculty, and the families at each partner school, resulting in a more relevant and effective program.

The current MCAS results show a strong student growth percentile* of Tenacity program kids in all grade levels. (Student growth percentile is defined on cover page.)

Tenacity Middle School Academy student outcome highlights based on spring 2012 English Language Arts MCAS results:

* 35% greater student proficiency as compared to their peers by 8th grade,
* 20% greater student growth as compared to their peers by 8th grade,
* Tenacity 8th graders saw a 40% improvement on ELA proficiency scoring from 7th grade as compared to a 17% improvement among their peers in the district as a whole,
* Tenacity 8th graders saw a 28% greater ELA growth from 7th grade as compared to a 4% growth among their peers in the district as a whole.

We anticipate continued impressive results.

Tenacity MSA Partner Schools

* Lila G. Frederick Pilot Middle School
* Jackson-Mann K-8 School
* Washington Irving Middle School
* Dever-McCormack K-8 School
* Mario Umana K-8 Academy

(EXPANDING Continued from back cover)

Family Engagement - We have increased our family engagement coordinator staff from three to five, affording us ample opportunities for parent forums and more home visits to each family. We are starting a Parent Council at each of our sites this year.

Middle School Academy

Team Tennis League

Tenacity MSA has six middle school tennis teams that compete every Friday afternoon from 3-6 pm during school year.

Tennis staff and volunteers assist on-court with coaching, encouragement, and teaching proper tennis etiquette.

Come cheer for our teams at Boston Athletic Club. See your generous donations in action.

Are you GREEN? We are! Please visit us at www.tenacity.org to add/update your email address.
Pathway Student Gives Back

Remember the 2008 Gala and the speech by Luis Sanchez, then a high school senior on his way to Boston College with a full scholarship? Luis’s pathway was not an easy one, but with significant help and mentoring from Andy Crane, our former Program Director, and the Pathway Programs offered through Tenacity, the recent BC graduate now holds a BA in Communications. That’s not all… Today Luis Sanchez is a member of Tenacity Corps, a group of part-time and full-time volunteers giving a year of service to Tenacity. “Tenacity played a vital role in my life during my high school years,” expressed Luis. “After graduating from Boston College last spring, I decided to come back to help those students who lack a mentor, lack the support at home, or even just need a friend who listens.” Luis’s primary focus is working with Tenacity students at East Boston High School where he spends three days a week at the Tenacity office inside the school. “I know what these kids have ahead of them,” he continued, “and what they are capable of. My goal is to make sure they know their potential and reach it!”

Oh, and there’s more… Luis also works for Boston College in the broadcasting booth doing the play-by-play analysis for the Varsity Women’s Basketball Team. At BC, Luis found the campus radio station WZBC 90.3FM where he did his first broadcast at a women’s soccer match against University of Miami. “I fell in love [with broadcasting, and] from there, I broadcasted games for the National Championship Hockey teams in 2010 and 2012, the 2011 BC Football game at the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl at AT&T Park in San Francisco, and many basketball and soccer games home and away.” Luis’s excitement can hardly be contained as he shares his experiences. By senior year, he was named as Co-Sports Director for the Sports Department and hosted his own BC Sports Show on Saturdays. “I loved my time at BC, and this was a key part to my success,” he concluded.

A busy pathway… Luis intends to pursue both a career in mentoring at-risk urban youth as well as a career in sports broadcasting.

Family Engagement

Family engagement has always been an important part of Tenacity’s commitment to the kids in our school-year programs. From our beginning, we have paid family visits when signing up students in MSA. The results of establishing communication with the parents/guardians, of seeing the home, understanding the environment, even the language spoken are invaluable for delivering a program that addresses varying needs across the population we serve.

The positive impact is so great, in fact, that we now staff Family Engagement Coordinators at all MSA sites and offer a host of events for parents/guardians.

Events include: Tenacity Family Night, Interactive Family Workshops where topics such as goal setting; at-home routines, study skills, and positive identity are discussed.

Look for more updates on Tenacity’s Facebook page.
Tenacity Named an Official Charity in Boston Marathon®

The Boston Marathon® Official Charity Program has accepted Tenacity into its very successful, non-profit fundraising program for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 Boston Marathons®. This is a fabulous opportunity for Tenacity to raise money for our programs by allowing us to recruit a team of runners who will train, fundraise, and run the marathon wearing the Tenacity Marathon Team singlet. There are corporate sponsorship opportunities as well.

The program is managed by the Boston Athletic Association which grants us 15 official marathon entries for each year we are in the program. “For marathoners, official entries into Boston are like gold,” expresses George Doherty, 13-time Boston qualifier and volunteer-coach of Tenacity’s team. “And running for Tenacity brings a motivation to the training that will get us all to the finish line with great pride in knowing we are helping at-risk Boston students,” he shares.

Board Member Caroline Lane is our volunteer-manager of the program for Tenacity. “I was so thrilled to get the call from the BAA that we’d been accepted that we started recruiting right away. We have a great mix of beginner to experienced runners joining the team, and the fundraising campaign is underway,” she states. “We have set a goal of raising $100,000 by May 1, 2013 through the BAA’s program.”

There are a handful of official entries still available as well as sponsorship opportunities from Tenacity. If you are motivated to support Tenacity students on the Pathway to Post Secondary Success via the Boston Marathon®, please visit us at www.tenacity.org/Boston Marathon or scan the QR code on the back cover.

Tenacity President Included in the 2013 Class of Inductees at the New England Tennis Hall of Fame

Ned Eames will be inducted into the New England Tennis Hall of Fame in June 2013. Ned is being recognized for his joint efforts with Tenacity’s Board of Directors, Mayor Menino’s team, and all the generous individuals in the local tennis community who have made it possible to provide a citywide pathway to college-completion and a summer reading and tennis program to 5,000 at-risk Boston youth each summer.

“I am humbled by the nomination,” expressed Ned. “And we are especially grateful for how this will help advance the cause of Tenacity for the thousands of kids we are serving between Boston and Worcester.”

Congratulations to Ned, President & Founder of Tenacity, longtime tennis player and advocate for the game and the vital role it can play in the lives of many at-risk youth.

Jim Rickman
AmeriCorps Vista

Jim Rickman is not your typical AmeriCorps Vista. Most of our volunteers join us after completing their undergraduate or graduate degree and offer their energy and time before seeking out a career. With Jim, we have a Vista who took a break between year-one and today to work, raise a family and pursue a PhD in music. Jim’s first AmeriCorps effort was in 1970 when he volunteered on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana.

Tenacity is lucky to be Jim’s choice for year-two. After three decades as a computer engineer, he has made us the beneficiary of his highly skilled work - updating our Access database of student and school records. Reports generated from this data help us earn funding from the public and private sectors.

New Tennis Site Leaders at Three Partner Schools

Lauren MacKay is the new tennis site leader at the Frederick and Jackson Mann Schools. Lauren graduated from UMass Amherst in 2009 as an Academic All-American with ITA All-Academic honors with a degree in Kinesiology. She then interned at Stanford University as an Olympic Strength and Conditioning Coach. Lauren earned a Masters of Education in Athletic Administration from Endicott College where she was the head tennis coach and brought Endicott’s Division III women to a conference championship and a bid into the NCAA Tournament.

Lindsey Herchel is the new tennis site leader at the McCormack School. Lindsey graduated from Stonehill College in 2011 with a BS in Psychology. She was a three-year tennis team captain and helped Stonehill secure three NCAA bids including a conference title and an NCAA Sweet Sixteen National Tournament berth. She was an All-Conference player, an All-Championship team member and after graduation was the assistant tennis coach at Curry College. She joined Tenacity last summer as an AmeriCorps Member and joined our staff this fall as the site leader at the McCormack.
While we continue to sustain a 95% or higher annual high school graduation rate among our school year students, we have raised the bar from high school graduation as an expectation of our kids to now including successful completion of college and other approved post-secondary programs.

Our Middle School Academy is seeing an increase in size from serving 210 kids to 250 kids.

MSA went from being a part of only a single Extended Learning Time School to now being a part of three ELT schools.

In several of our schools we are now doing, in addition to our program hours, strategic pull-outs of high need students to give them more literacy support, during the school day.

Our Elementary School Program has added two additional schools and is anticipating 500 students in the program by FY’13.

EXPANDING (Continued on page 5)