



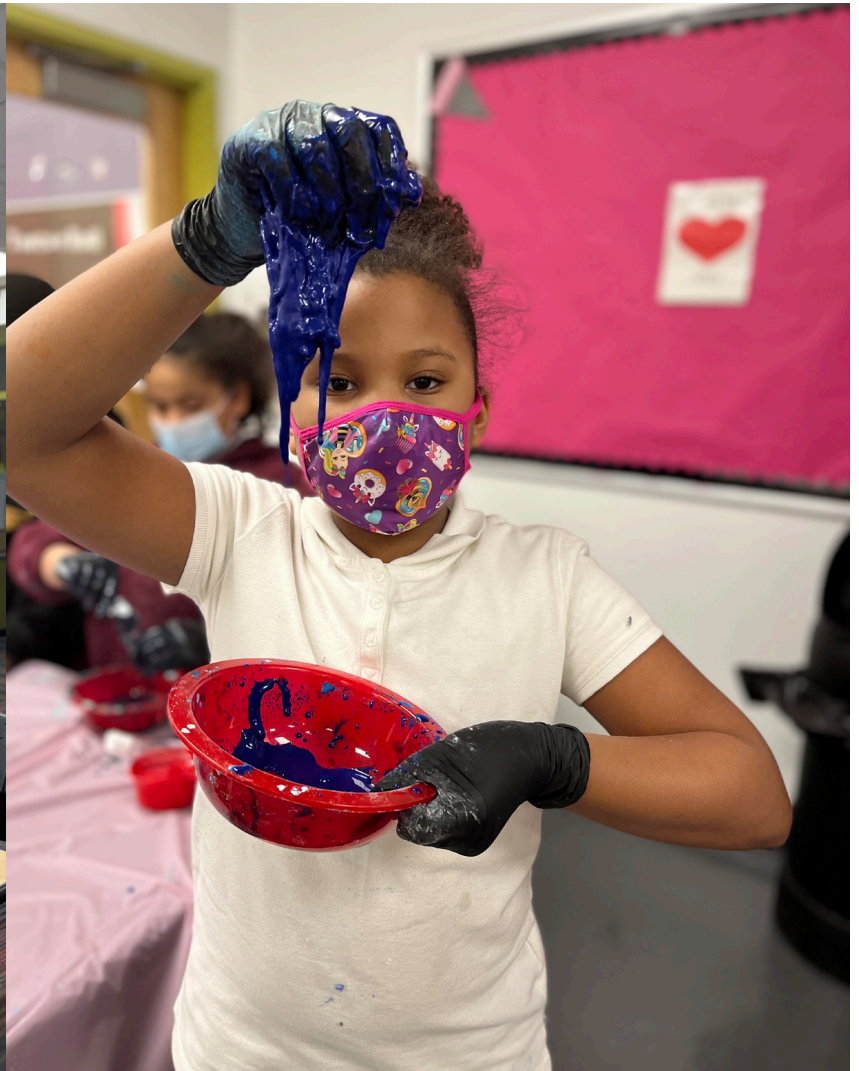


**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF LAWRENCE**

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SPRING 2022

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# CLUB NEWS

## New Program! *Mind Your Business*

'Mind Your Business' is a new four-session program that teaches our 4th and 5th-grade members about entrepreneurship and business management. Led by Patty B., the Executive Director of the Mind Your Business non-profit and product strategy consultant, the first session introduced business concepts, as well as examples of successful companies and how they got started. Separating the members into two teams, she challenged them to create their own drone business. Each team received a binder containing step-by-step information for creating their company's names, logos, business cards and team roles.

The following sessions showed members how to grow their company. They learned how to generate profit, market their products, work together as a team, and how a successful company conducts itself. In addition to nurturing a business mindset, the program promotes confidence and critical thinking, and introduces the fundamental steps to becoming future successful professionals. "I've always dreamed of starting my own business someday. I loved this class because it made me think about how to do it," Enger, 9, said.



## Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In addition to some of the great Club happenings you'll read about in this newsletter, we have relaunched a trades workshop for 7th and 8th graders; hired a social worker; added more swim lessons; and included 8th graders in our Planning for the Future program – all on top of a successful basketball season.

Many people already know about our hallmark programs, but these initiatives show we constantly tune in to our kids to understand their needs. We observe and listen. As always, thank you for your support.

Gratefully,  
Markus Fischer

### **For questions or comments, contact:**

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## Gaming For Charity

Every year, CEA – Corporate Esports Association – organizes a gaming tournament in which the top three teams select a charity to receive a donation. This year, the Tewksbury Raytheon office participated and came in first place, winning a donation for the Club!

CEA is an independent organization run by engineers from big tech companies who play virtual online games that culminate into a final competition. This season, the teams played League of Legends, a strategic battle game where two teams of five play together to take over their opponent's base.

David W., a local Raytheon employee, and his teammates wanted to give back to a local charity. "It's so exciting that we won, but we're even more happy to be helping children in the Lawrence community," David said.

# VIRTUAL STEM EVENT

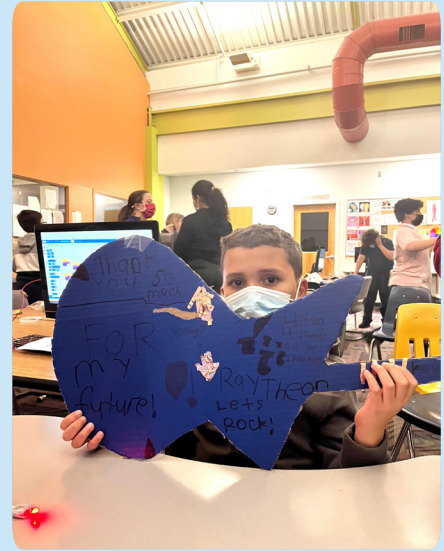
## National STEM Day!

To celebrate National STEM Day, the BGCL chose to participate in a virtual STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) event, led by the Boys and Girls Club of America and Raytheon Technologies.

The one-hour event featured four different clubs nationwide and 40 of our own members. Speakers Jaylen Ware, a BGC alum studying civil engineering, and Raytheon employee Lisa Bates shared their stories and answered questions about their careers. Jaylen and Lisa then led the students to build their own light-up wands using copper tape, a battery, popsicle stick and LED lightbulb!

Prior to the event, members received 'Makey - Makey' Invention kits to build their own projects. Learning about conductors, two members' creations included a homemade operation game and a keyboard made with apples. With each Club selecting a representative invention, Emmanuel R. was chosen to present his cardboard guitar made using aluminum foil and clips.

"It was fun making this guitar and connecting it to the computer. I like science and learning new things," Emmanuel said.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



With minimal full-time staff, we are forever thankful for our volunteers who help us fulfill our mission. The relationships volunteers have with our kids are irreplaceable, and the bonds they form can be witnessed every day. Our kids often ask to work with their favorite volunteer and notice when that person is not at the Club.

Volunteers, who include alum, students and working professionals, tutor in the homework room, lead programs, spend time playing games, and most importantly, listen to our children. Some volunteers form close, mentoring relationships with members for many years!

However, our kids aren't the only ones benefiting from these connections. Sam B., a recurring volunteer, said, "I love volunteering. Being around these kids is the best feeling, especially when having a bad day. They warm my heart. They're so sweet, kind and funny. It's wonderful watching them grow and knowing that you are a part of it."

## Not So Nutcracker

The Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence Dance Academy put on a virtual holiday recital, showcasing their spin on “The Nutcracker” called “The So Not Nutcracker”. Live-streamed and recorded, the show boasted five dances, a Christmas story and holiday melodies!

Members danced to popular Christmas songs, such as “It’s The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” and “Mr. Grinch,” and performed their rendition of the mice battle in “The Nutcracker”.

Dancing allows our youth to express themselves. The Boys and Girls Club of America reported 77% of girls communicated their thoughts and feelings through art.

With donors’ help, our dancers have amazing costumes and a space to learn different dance styles. Most importantly, dance provides yet another opportunity for our members to become the best versions of themselves.



## COLLEGE PANEL

### Preparing Our Members for College

Finalizing your decision about college can be tough, especially for first-generation American teens. To help ease the stress, we coordinated a virtual college panel where current Club seniors could speak to Club alums and volunteers about their college experiences. Our panelists included everyone from those still in college to a professional with more than 30 years’ experience.

Amy Brown, our Assistant Director of Education, helped lead the discussion among the seven panelists with questions about how to choose a major/minor; freshman year tips; and time management. Students followed up with their own questions, including what panelists would do differently their freshman year and whether graduate school is necessary.

Panelists also talked about the importance of maintaining physical and mental health while in college; not being afraid to be oneself in classrooms; and the importance of selecting a school that will have the best fit financially, academically and personally.

Fernando, age 16 said, “I’m grateful to hear from others about their perspective on college. The sessions were very interactive, and I found everything the panelists said useful – especially about studying abroad and making sure you experience everything you can in college.”

