

BOOK DRIVE

Contribute to Breakthrough's **Book Drive** with a donation of \$11 or more. Proceeds from our book drive will be used to purchase copies of "Ghost" by Jason Reynolds, which will be read by Breakthrough students and faculty this summer. We invite you to **read along with us!** Email Kristie Loftus at kloftus@btgbmail.org to receive key questions and activities BTGB will be exploring while reading the book!

We congratulate the 25th Anniversary Spirit Awardees one more time!



SUMMER VISITS



The best way to get to know Breakthrough is to visit us! We welcome you to make an appointment to tour our Summer Program between July 11th and August 3rd. Your visit will include time to observe classrooms, meet the students and teachers, and attend Community Meeting.

RSVP for a summer visit at
www.breakthroughgreaterboston.org/visit-breakthrough-greater-boston

JOIN US

Summer Celebration

See what our students and teachers have achieved at this summer's culminating event.

Boston Campus Celebration

Thursday, August 10, 2017
 Northeastern University
 6:00PM to 7:00PM - Indoor Quad
 7:00PM to 8:30PM - Blackman Auditorium
 360 Huntington Ave | Boston, MA 02115

Cambridge Campus Celebration

Sunday, August 13, 2017
 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM - Kresge Auditorium
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 48 Massachusetts Ave | Cambridge, MA 02139

For more information, visit:
breakthroughgreaterboston.org/events

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News for BTGB Supporters Summer 2017



The Breakthrough Bulletin

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Breakthrough Announces Expansion to Somerville at 25th Anniversary Gala



Left to right: Jason Behrens, Somerville Public Schools; Laura Pitone, Somerville School Committee Chair; Peter Skipper; Mary Skipper, Somerville School District Superintendent; Elissa Spelman, Executive Director of Breakthrough Greater Boston; and Carrie Normand, Somerville School Committee

At its 25th Anniversary Gala on April 27th, Breakthrough Greater Boston celebrated its past, present and bright future. We were overjoyed to recognize four outstanding individuals who personify Breakthrough spirit and live our values: Elizabeth Asefa, Nancy Klemm Friedman, Edwin Johnson and Ameer Naik. At the event, Breakthrough made an exciting announcement: in partnership with Somerville Public Schools, Breakthrough will open a new site in Somerville, MA in summer 2018.

The addition of a third site will allow Breakthrough to grow to serve as many as 900 students and 150 teachers per year. Members of the Somerville community eagerly anticipate the opening of the new site. Mayor Curtatone shared, "High-quality out-of-school-time programming is essential to the development of the whole child and to the overall educational experience. Through this expansion to Somerville, BTGB will positively impact the academic trajectories of students in the districts and help pave the path to their success."

Thanks to the support of more than 500 community members in attendance, and to the leadership of event co-chairs Christine Gilman and Elizabeth Hodder, BTGB raised a record-breaking \$620,000.



A special thank you to EverPresent, for donating their services to digitize and organize 25 years worth of Breakthrough history for the Gala.

STUDENT NEWS

Class of 2017 Graduation

Breakthrough is so proud of the Class of 2017 and excited about the amazing opportunities each student has in store for them. 91% of Breakthrough's class of 2017 will be headed to college this fall, to schools including Barnard College, Cornell University, George Washington University, College of the Holy Cross, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Suffolk University, Tufts University, UMass Amherst, Williams College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and more. *Many thanks to Sanofi Genzyme for generously hosting our graduation celebration on June 6th!*



Breakthrough Class of 2017 at Graduation

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Novel Initiative Continues

Last summer, Breakthrough launched a new Community Novel initiative designed to foster a love of literature while increasing students' reading skills and strengthening the BTGB community. Themes from the book were integrated into program activities and events to generate discussion and learning experiences for students. The book that was chosen for the second summer is *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds, a finalist for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Ghost tells the story of Castle "Ghost" Cranshaw, an eleven-year-old African American boy who discovers his natural talent for running can lead to a bright future with the mentorship of an elite track team coach, along with the growing bonds of friendship with his teammates. Even as he continues to struggle with trauma in his family's past, he knows he has the power to decide what kind of man he wants to be.

Reynolds is a New York Times bestselling author who has received many awards and honors including Kirkus, Walter Dean Myers, NAACP Image, and Coretta Scott King. He is on faculty at Lesley University, teaching courses on writing for young people, realistic fiction, and creative writing. We hope you'll read along with us this summer!



TEACHER AND STAFF NEWS

2017 Faculty Is Diverse & Experienced

Each year, BTGB recruits and trains diverse, high-achieving college students to serve as Teaching Fellows and near-peer role models to BTGB students. Our 2017 faculty will be the most diverse in the last four years, with 67% teachers of color as compared to 18% nationwide. Because research confirms that students of color achieve more when they have at least one teacher of color, there is an urgent need to diversify the teaching field. With three-quarters of our teaching fellows continuing in the field of education, BTGB is an effective pipeline to fill this need.

Our 2017 faculty is strengthened by the inaugural class of 11th grade Breakthrough students in Boston, who became eligible to teach their younger peers in the roles of Junior Teachers this year. Eight of this year's faculty are Breakthrough alumni and 25% are teaching fellows who have returned for a second year of service, serving as excellent leaders and advisors to the team. "Returning teachers impact the community significantly," said Program Director Shoko Fox. "They bring institutional knowledge, leadership within the faculty and ability to provide consistency for students." *We thank Lawrence Academy and Massachusetts Institute of Technology for hosting Breakthrough's Teacher Training!*



Breakthrough's 2017 Teaching Fellows at Orientation