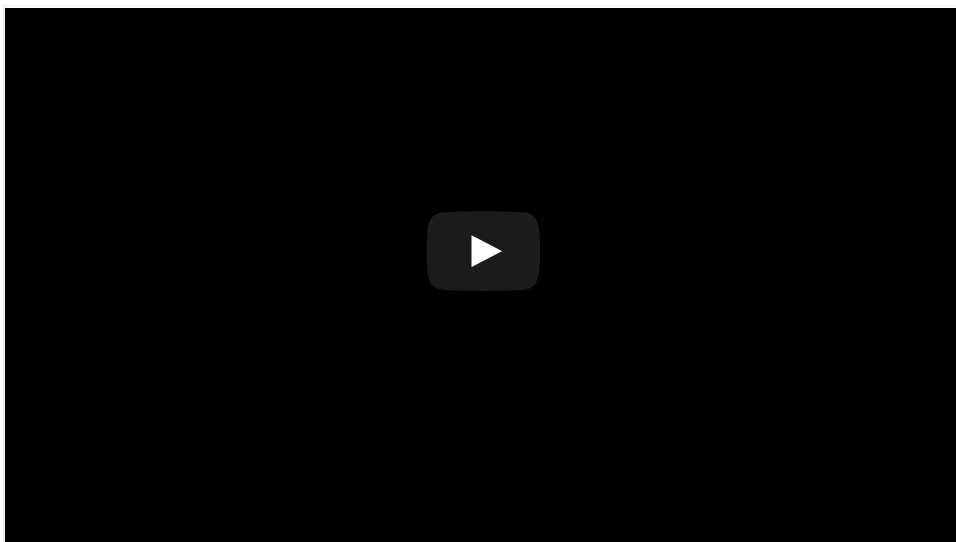


Community celebrates JP educational center



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Tuesday, June 17, 2014

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By: Robert Greim

Kids were awed and some parents had tears in their eyes as Mayor Martin J. Walsh opened up a \$17 million education lab in Jamaica Plain yesterday designed to help youngsters fall in love with learning.

The Nurtury Learning Lab, located at the Boston Housing Authority's Bromley-Heath public housing development, will help 175 children throughout the day, including infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and offers after-school programs as well.

"This center will be a positive development for everyone in our community, from children and teens to parents and grandparents," said Latoya Taramino, a parent and Bromley-Heath resident.

"One mother came up to me and said, 'I can't believe we got the kids out of the basement.' The old basement had pipes hanging down," said state Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez.

The lab has 20,000 square feet of classroom space, including an art studio, science-based classes, multi-purpose community room and 14,000 square feet of outdoor learning and play areas.

It also offers programs designed for adults, including parenting workshops, adult education courses and family nutritional cooking classes.

Funding for the school includes a \$5 million federal grant and state money, along with some private donations.

Wayne Ysaguire, Nurtury president and CEO, said: "We had parents crying because they understood that the creation of this place spoke to them that your kids are valuable and important."

Andrew Blom contributed to this report.

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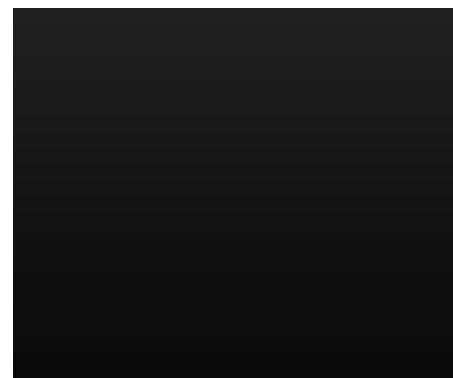
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