



The Lines community walked in the 2019 October Homecoming Parade.

Lines School Celebrates Its Milestone 50th Anniversary

“LINES SCHOOL IS LIKE one big extended family.” To a person, that is the sentiment offered by those who have spent their careers or raised their families as a part of Arnett C. Lines Elementary School. And this school year, that extended family is throwing itself a year-long milestone anniversary party for its golden 50th anniversary.

The celebration began with a special appearance in October’s Homecoming Parade and will continue throughout the year with 50th anniversary activities centered around the theme “Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence.” The festivities will culminate in a fabulous gala evening on February 7, 2020, which aims to raise \$130,000 for a new state-of-the-art playground that will be built and dedicated in summer 2020 (see sidebar).

To so many Barrington families, Lines School is a revered place where they have come together as a community and together raised their children in a supportive, loving environment. “The wonderful thing about Lines is that we have so many students whose parents were also students here during the



John Snow was Lines principal when it opened in 1969 and served for 19 years. Laura Heath has served at Lines for 35 years as a teacher.



The Gala Committee is preparing for Lines School 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala on Saturday, February 7, 2020.

past 50 years,” says Sarah Giunchedi, a 3rd grade teacher who has taught at Lines for 17 years and is helping organize the celebration. “We are such a family here.”

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Named for the late native Barringtonian and renowned community historian Arnett C. Lines, the school was first opened during the 1969-70 school year, as the areas just east of downtown Barrington had begun to grow rapidly, particularly with the construction of the Fox Point neighborhood. Fox Point is often referred to as a “village within a village” for its close-knit sense of community created by generations of families whose children—and now grandchildren—attend Lines School.

“Lines School is a special place,” says current principal Ken Hyllberg. “The school has a tremendous family feel, not only among the parents and the children, but also among the staff. It permeates every aspect of the school. We are very much about creating authentic relationships with the

kids and creating a home-like environment for them, because we feel that if we are able to provide a safe and supportive environment, they will learn to take risks and become lifelong learners. Our parents are wonderful, and we all feed off each other. When home and school are that collaborative, kids thrive.”

FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER

For long-time teacher Pam Blue, the 50th anniversary celebration is a chance to reflect on the full circle of her life. Blue moved to Barrington in 1974 with her parents and began attending Lines when she was in first grade. Now she teaches first grade at Lines herself, and her daughter attended school there as well. “When I think about Lines school, it just has such a family feel,” she says, repeating a theme that so many of her colleagues put forth. “It always felt like it was home—it was safe and secure. I walked to school every day; I never worried about anything. It was a place where you just always felt comfortable.”

That type of atmosphere always comes from the top down. And according to Pam and many others at Lines, this caring environment started with Lines’s first principal 50 years ago, John Snow. “He set the tone by making the kids feel comfortable and safe and happy,” Pam says. “Our current principal, Ken Hyllberg, continues that tradition today. I think the 50th is so special to me personally because I started there 45 years ago, and it has been wonderful to see the transitions over time but also to know that the family feel has been kept intact.”

FROM STUDENT TO PRINCIPAL

Former principal and Lines School legend John Snow is now 96 years old and served as the school’s first principal for 19 years. On October 5, he was coaxed into participating in the Barrington Homecoming Parade with the Lines 50th Anniversary Celebration float. “I wasn’t sure that anyone would remember me,” he said. “But I was so surprised by the number of my former

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students, now adults, who came up to me during the parade. My greatest pride was seeing Steve McWilliams, who was my student and is now the principal of Barrington High School!"

Mr. Snow credits the parents of Lines School children for much of the school's success and family-centered nature over the years. "Our parents were just outstanding," he says. "My main goal was to create a warm, accepting environment for the children, because I knew they would prosper that way. And because of our close partnership with the parents, they did. We really had very few discipline problems over the years."

"Mr. Snow is just a gem—he always knew every single child's name, and they all knew he loved them," says Laura Heath, a 5th grade teacher who has been at the school for 35 years. "Our current principal, Mr. Hyllberg, has followed in John Snow's footsteps. He reads to each classroom in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades every week. Our school has always been kid-centered first, and I'm so proud of that."

As Lines School celebrates its milestone anniversary this year, we all offer our congratulations to Lines School on 50 Years of Celebrating Excellence in Barrington. Here's to another 50 more! 🍷

SAVE THE DATE for the Lines School 50th Anniversary
Celebration Gala

Saturday, February 7, 2020
Concorde Banquets, Kildeer
6:30–11:30 p.m.

Fundraising Goal: \$130,000 for a New Playground at Lines School.

To date, over \$80,000 has already been raised by the PTO and Lines parents.

For more information, go to barrington220.org/lines.