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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo Caption: Marc Gilbertson, former Olympian, speaks to Laraway students

Let the Laralympics Begin

Local educator Marc Gilbertson competed in the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan, as a member of the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team. Gilbertson came to Laraway School this week to inaugurate the school's week-long celebration of the Olympics.

It's been far colder in Johnson than Sochi, Russia, host of the 2014 Winter Olympics. Laraway's athletes were undeterred as they participated in relay races, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and even curling events. Outdoor activities were complimented by classroom learning about the history, geography and culture of nations participating in the Olympics. Laraway's cafeteria is in on the Laralympic fun, serving internationally inspired meals representing Russian, Chinese, Norwegian and German cuisine. Borscht, anyone?

Gilbertson inspired Laraway students with three rules for living: "follow your bliss, no regrets and take the first step." He reminded them that success is within reach, despite struggles which may arise.

Laraway responds to the needs of at-risk kids and their families by offering innovative, strength-based services through alternative education, therapeutic foster care, and public school based support programs. For more information, please visit www.laraway.org.

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Empowering Youth, Strengthening Families, Building Community

Laraway Youth and Family Services is a 501(c)(3) organization