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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

## Gardner Pilot Academy in Allston to celebrate plans to expand to become K-8

Posted by Matt Rocheleau June 8, 2012 01:30 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The Gardner Pilot Academy in Allston will hold an event on Friday to celebrate the school's plans to expand from a K-5 school to become a K-8 school by 2013-2014.

The "Friendship Feast" from 4 to 7:30 p.m. will also celebrate students' learning over the past school year and will serve as a fund-raiser for Playworks, a health and wellness program at the school, organizers said.

Hosted by the school's parent council and friends group, the gathering will feature music, entertainment, games and other activities for children, food, a raffle that will include an iPad 3 and laptop, and a silent auction that will include gift baskets, gift certificates, art work, sports tickets and summer camp session, according to organizers. A list of more than the 50 auction items can be found [here](#).

Free parking will be available from 2:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Saint Anthony

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Free parking will be available from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Friday at the Saint Anthony of Padua Parish near the school.

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino is scheduled to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony, alongside a group of fifth graders from the school, starting at 5:30 p.m. The ceremonial cutting will mark the start of the school's expansion effort that will begin in September when it welcomes its first sixth grade class.

One of around 20 pilot schools in the Boston public school district, Gardner Pilot Academy plans to later add grades 7 and 8 and [become a K-8 school](#) in the 2013-2014 school year, administrators have said.

Current students at the school are guaranteed middle school seats. A limited number of additional seats are available to other families living in Allston, Brighton and other neighborhoods in the North Zone of Boston Public Schools.

In Nov. 2011, Boston's school committee approved a recommendation from city schools Superintendent Carol R. Johnson to expand the school.

Located on Athol Street in Allston, the school serves nearly 350 students with regular school hours between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.gardnerpilotacademy.org](http://www.gardnerpilotacademy.org).

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