This publication is our humble gift to Mayor Thomas M. Menino and to all of the law enforcement and medical personnel who worked so diligently throughout our April vacation week to protect the City of Boston: ourselves, our communities, our families, and our schools.
**Boston Strong**  
Josue De Leon

I am proud to be a Bostonian because Boston is one of the best cities in Massachusetts. Also, Boston is protected by the best police department. I am also proud to be a Bostonian because Boston has very nice schools that give you an excellent education.

I work hard to keep Boston a safe and peaceful place. Being a Bostonian is not about doing bad things. It’s about working hard and helping other people. I work hard in school by coming to school early and finishing my classwork. Also, I complete my homework.

My family is my sister, two brothers, mom, and dad. We make Boston strong by helping out an injured person. We also make Boston strong by helping a person carry their groceries into their homes. My family and I live in Dorchester on Columbia Road.

My community makes Boston strong by keeping our neighborhoods clean. Also, helping other people brings good things to your future. My community makes Boston strong because we help each other out if we need things. My community is clean, and it looks good. People in my community are respectful.

My school makes Boston strong by helping us in anything we need. I go to the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School. At the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, we get an excellent education. My school makes Boston strong because it prepares kids for the future.

In the future, Boston will get even stronger because we are going to be better people, and we will help other people that need our help. In ten years, Boston will be even stronger because we are going to be responsible adults.
Things That Make Boston Strong
Leidhryd Munoz

There are many reasons why I am proud to be a Bostonian. We help one another. Sometimes people say: "Why are there a lot of police?" But now I know that they want to protect us from the bad things that are going on in life. Also, the schools of Boston are better because they give us all of the support we need to be successful in our life. I am joyful to live in the United States because I used to live in D.R., and my parents brought me to Boston, so I can have a better future. So, I thank my family for bringing me here. I make Boston strong by working together with my family, community, and school. I love Boston because when I used to live in New Jersey, my dad lost his job. Now, in Boston, my dad has a good job, and I thank God we live in a house and have food to eat. That is why Boston is strong to me.

I go to school in Dorchester. There are many ways I could express myself. I am a respectful person to everyone around me. Also, I love to help people who need help around my neighborhood and school. Furthermore, I am a smart person. I love learning new things. In the future, I want to be a model or dancer to represent the United States and Dominican Republic. The last thing about me is that I have empathetic feelings if something bad happens to someone around me. This is how I make Boston strong.

My family is everything to me because without them, I wouldn’t have this education that I have in the USA. Also, I used to live in the Dominican Republic with my family. I lived there for about six years. I came to the United States when I was 6 years old in 2005. I lived in New Jersey for 3 and ½ years. Then I moved to Pennsylvania and stayed with my family for one year. Then, I moved to Boston, where I am staying for the rest of my life. I moved with my family seven times. It was a difficult time for me because each school I attended had different teachers who taught differently and that confused me a lot. I used to have a problem learning in my life. My final point is that although moving frequently bothered me, I realize that Boston has the best public schools and colleges.

In the community that I live, Dorchester, MA, on Devon Street, my neighbors are Latino and African-American. My community consists of a grocery store, Dunkin’ Donuts, Rainbow, schools, and other businesses. Every Saturday and Sunday I go to church to prepare for my First Communion. My cousin does the same thing, and the church prepares us for that. The last thing I am going to say about my community is that sometimes people in my community say “Why do we have a lot of police around our community?” But, now, I think it’s good because they are protecting us from bad things.

School helps me in a lot of ways. For example, I go to ASPIRE, a program that helps me complete all homework, and also they give me a lot of support when I need help. Boston gives us a lot of opportunities so that we can have a better life. The school I go to supports me in different things. I attend the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School on Columbia Road. I am in 7th grade in Academy 2. This is my second year going to this school, and, so far, I like it here.
In conclusion, I will make Boston strong because I will have a college degree. We are going to help one another, so we could have peacetime everyday in Boston, so nothing bad happens to us anymore. Furthermore, we are going to have a better community if we have peace always and everywhere I go. Boston is going to be stronger because Boston is not going to give up. What happened at the Boston Marathon will only make Boston stronger, and we will continue to keep doing what we have to do in life. My family, community, and school make Boston strong.
**Boston Strong**  
Diligence Muzanenhamo

How absorbing to be a Bostonian! I am proud to say I am an actual Bostonian without a doubt. I am pleased to be a Bostonian because Boston is a strong and respectful city. People can be heartless – bombing, taking life from others – but Bostonians will still be strong forever.

I am a boy named Diligence Muzanenhamo, age 15. I am not shy to be proud to be a Bostonian because Bostonians are educated and there to be helpful to each other. I like school as much as other Bostonians. When I came here, I didn’t even know how to speak or spell an English word, but now I am a better writer and a reader, and these skills help me to make Boston strong.

My family members are true Bostonians because they are helpful in the community. They are proud to be Bostonian because Boston changed their life. My father used to work at Burger King washing dishes, but now he is a manager at Dana Farber. He wishes he could help people who were injured in the Boston Marathon bombing.

I live in Dorchester. That’s my community, and we all work together as one, which makes my community strong and also so powerful that you can’t even destroy us. Boston is in a free country, but there are some rules we have to follow to make our country and city safe.

My school’s name is the Frederick Pilot Middle School, and it’s located at 270 Columbia Road. My school makes Boston strong by working hard and working together as a community. We work so hard, morning to afternoon, Monday though Friday. We care about Boston because it is our city, and if anyone doesn’t care about it, Boston will be a disaster.

I am a Bostonian and proud to be one. To be Bostonian, you have to be able to be very strong and respectful for the whole city.
**Boston Strong**  
Jonathan Aguirre

I am proud to be a Bostonian because Boston is strong, and Boston never gives up on anything. Boston is the best place I have ever lived in. Boston is prepared for anything that comes their way. Boston will always win in any challenge that it faces. I love Boston because it is a peaceful place to live. When there is a dangerous thing, the police department will take care of it. I work with my family, school, and community to make Boston strong.

My name is Jonathan Aguirre, and I am a student in Dorchester at the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School on Columbia Road. I live in Boston – in Allston. I make Boston strong by going to school and learning new things and becoming better at reading and writing.

My family makes Boston strong because we get a good education, and we go to work and have a lot of fun, too. My family makes Boston strong by obeying the law and not disobeying the law.

My community makes Boston strong because they make sure that everyone is safe. My community cooperated when the Boston Marathon bombing happened, and it was heard on that Friday that the government told us to stay inside our homes. They caught one guy and took him into custody.

My school makes Boston strong because we have our uniforms on every day. We work hard all the time and never give up on our work. We do not have bad teachers. We have good teachers at the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School. We have active students playing sports of all kinds. We do well in tests and work hard on our tests.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong because I do everything that is needed, and I do everything that I have to do as a student. In the future, Boston will have more guards to protect people. Boston will have the military to protect the city and to be safer forever and stop crime that comes to us.
**Boston Strong**

Jesus Arias

I am proud to be a Bostonian because Boston has good people. It has so many opportunities for the many people that visit Boston. Boston is a safe place to be in. I help to make Boston strong by working together with my family, community, and school. We have so many opportunities like having a chance to go back to school and to get a great job in Boston.

I make Boston strong because I work hard in school. I do my best, and I like to help others because people need to be good to each other. I play sports like baseball and football in Boston, so I can represent Boston in all good things I do. I love to eat good things like vegetables, so I can be good and strong just like Boston is strong.

My family makes Boston strong because my family and I respect all of Boston. Boston has so many opportunities for so many people, and Boston gave my family an opportunity for them to come to Boston. My family is really happy to be here. My family came all the way from the Dominican Republic, and my family wants me to go far in life.

My community makes Boston strong because I am a person who loves to help other people be happy. I am a person who helps other students because I want them to be successful. I live in Dorchester, and it is a great neighborhood. The police are good, and the people are good to one another.

My school makes Boston strong because my school has respectful people. My school is the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School. All of the people there do their work, so they can make Boston better.
**Being Strong**  
Vanessa Lucero

I’m proud to be a Bostonian because there are many different citizens from all over the world. It is a good time because you can learn many languages from these people. I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong.

I make Boston strong because I can get my education by going to school. I’m getting smarter everyday. Some people don’t go to school, or they don’t want their education. They are ending up in jail. Some people want to go to school, and they want their education. They have great jobs. I want to be one of these people, so I can help make Boston stronger.

My family makes Boston strong because they work for their children. My family came a long way. Some of my family members have two jobs, just to take care of their kids. Also, half of my family members are immigrants from Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, and they came a long way to come here to Boston to make a better life for themselves, their children, and their family. Half of my family members are immigrants, and sometimes it’s hard for them because coming to Boston, you have to learn a different language.

My community makes Boston strong because we help each other. I live in Dorchester. There is a small part of Dorchester where I live. It’s Norfolk. Norfolk is a tiny place that has a hospital, a school (Codman Academy), and a library (Codman Square). It is really helpful to have a hospital, school, and library because if you have to study, you can go to the library. If you are hurt, you can go to the hospital, and that is nearby the school and the library.

My school makes Boston strong because we are getting more education. My school is called the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, and it is on Columbia Road. The Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School changed my education because I’m learning new things every day.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong by getting my education and making my family proud of me and having neighbors who are there for me. In the future, Boston will be even stronger because I’m getting older and will have a great job – not like half my family who has to work in houses cleaning them to get paid. No! I want to be someone.
Boston Strong!
Clayton Rodrigues

I am proud to be a Bostonian because we have the Boston police and firefighters to keep Boston safe. Boston is the safest city in Massachusetts because we have men and women that give up their lives just to save us. I think that’s really special. The army fights in wars every day to keep us safe. I really appreciate that. Thank you to the men and women of the law enforcement. Boston Strong!

I make Boston strong because I lead other kids to do the right thing. I encourage my friends to play sports with me and stay off the street because it’s really not safe. I play a variety of sports. I play soccer, and I also do wrestling. Kids at my school didn’t like wrestling. I changed that. I got a lot of kids into wrestling because I felt that this year, my school’s wrestling team had to be successful. Guess what? My school’s wrestling team was the Sectional Champion. I was the captain, so I lead the team to be successful. I’m proud to say that I’m a Panther Wrestler. My name is Clayton Rodrigues. I am 12 years old, and in the 7th grade. I attend the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School. Go, Panthers!

My family makes Boston strong because we do the best we can to make Boston a better place in the future. My family came from Cape Verde, a small island in Africa. My family members came to the United States as adults, so they couldn’t attend school. I came to the United States young, so my family told me I have a lot of opportunity to study and attend school. Some of my family members didn’t have a choice. I do, so I want to take advantage of that. My family is the reason why I wake up early in the morning every day and do my best when I come to school.

My community makes Boston strong because my school has the best teachers. They don’t play. When it’s time to joke around, we joke around, but when it’s time to work, they mean it. Teachers make sure you have a proper uniform. They make sure we have our pants up and look professional and ready to learn. The Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School doesn’t have kids smoking and doing things that they should not be doing outside the school. LGF students have inner focus and are ready to learn. The Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School is located on Columbia Road.

In conclusion, I work with my family and community to make Boston strong because we want to make Boston a better place in the future. In the future, Boston will be even stronger because it will have more educated students and teachers. We are the future of Boston, so we have to work very hard now, so we can make Boston a better place. In the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, teachers work hard to prepare the students to make Boston better than it is now. Boston Strong!
The Community in Boston
Y.M.

I am proud to be a Bostonian because I help to make Boston even stronger by working together with my family, community, and school. I can study more and get a job more easily. I will read more, so I can be smarter. I will do my homework every day.

I make Boston strong because I give people advice so they can change their lives now rather than having a bad life forever. I’m telling my friends because when we grow up, we have to do all these hard things such as stay away from dangerous street things. And if people can stay out of danger, I will help with that. I baby-sit my sister, so I can help my mom out when she comes home. I am a great friend that gives advice to make myself do the right thing, so I can be another positive part of Boston. I am nice and help my mom a lot. I am a great friend to have because I help people to solve their problems.

My family makes Boston strong because the people in my family started to get into a gang but didn’t do it. My family is committed to staying out of a gang. It is bad of you to start to be a bully to others, drink, smoke and even have problems to keep drugs out of your system. That can change your whole life. People in gangs don’t care about no one.

My community is strong because we learn so much. In the future, we are going to pass high school. We can have choices to have a great life or a bad life. I go to school in Dorchester. This is how people help each other.

I attend the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School. I’m in 7th grade, working hard. I take my homework home and try to finish everything. We learn so much, and we are starting to realize things. I thank the teachers for helping us learn more.

In the future, I will help make Boston successful by helping those who are older and younger than me, so they can do the right thing. I will work hard to pass the 7th grade and make grown-up decisions. I plan to go on to high school, then college, then get a diploma and master’s degrees. This Bostonian will be successful by helping others with homework and class work to make sure we get smarter. I would study with a friend to help me, so I can remember what to do when I come from school. I will study more in school to get smarter, so I can learn more about life. I have learned that I can be a little bit better than I was before.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong because I know that it can change. It will now be perfect and cleaner. My teachers and family members agree to work as one community. They can help us make choices for ourselves. I am sure that we are safe, and our dreams will really increase.
**Boston Strong**  
Kevin Gonzalez

I am proud to be a Bostonian because it makes you feel safe, and there are great schools that make Boston strong. Also, when you are in trouble, some people will help you. I’m proud to be a Bostonian because there are special people who help you, like police, firefighters, doctors, vets, and teachers.

I make Boston strong with my kindness because I help people when they need it. I also help make Boston strong because I’m smart. In the future, I will use my knowledge to make Boston the best place to be. Also, with caring, I can care about people who are hurt or need help.

My family makes Boston strong because they are helpful because when a neighbor needs help, we help. Also, we can be respectful to other people in the community. My family is smart and can use our knowledge to help us to be on track to do good things.

My community makes Boston strong because everybody is respectful to one another. They care about each other. They are helpful. They will help you when you need it.

My school makes Boston strong because the students and teachers care about one another. My teachers can use their knowledge to make a better future. Also, my school is safe. My school is called the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong because all of us want to make a better place, so Boston can be safe, smart, helpful, respectful, and more. Also, all of us should come together and make Boston awesome. No matter what happens, Boston will never give up.
Boston Strong!!!
Angel Agramonte

I am proud to be a Bostonian because this is a wonderful city where there are a lot of great people. I like Boston because we are a city that never gives up on crime or anything tough. Also, I like Boston because we have a lot of history and sports championships. For example, the Celtics have 17 championships, the most in the NBA. I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong!

My name is Angel Agramonte. I make Boston strong because of my education. If I have my education, then in the future, I can be someone really important for Boston and make Boston even better than it is right now. I also make Boston strong by getting a better percentage on our school benchmark exams. I used to get a 30% on the benchmark exams, but now I get a 70% or higher on benchmarks, so that makes Boston’s testing increase.

My family makes Boston strong because every time I have a meeting in my school, my family comes to the meeting. That means my family makes Boston strong by caring about my education. So, by them caring about my education, that means I will be one more person who goes to college with help from my parents.

I live in Jamaica Plain. My community makes Boston strong because some people who like to be neat like to clean the streets or plant cool flowers. Also, my community makes Boston strong by not doing violence. For example, no arguing, or no gangs or weapons on the streets. This is how my community makes Boston strong.

I go to the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School in Dorchester. My school makes Boston strong because all the teachers are there to educate students, so they can have a good life. Also, my school makes Boston strong because one of these days, some of the kids in my school can be president, mayor, police, or many other jobs that help Boston to be strong.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong. Ten years from now, Boston will be an even better city because of all the education that we kids have today. We will take over the world and make it better. Also, I am going to be a baseball player, so anytime Boston needs help, I will give money, so Boston can rise up again!
**Boston Strong**  
Hericles Depina

I am proud to be a Bostonian because Boston is a capital city that is strong, brave, and heroic. Boston shows love to everybody around the world. People should be happy to be Bostonians because Boston gives you love and pride. I love Boston because we support each other and make each other overcome our fears.

I make Boston strong because I help the one who needs help. I help make Boston strong because I read, write, and help.

My family makes Boston strong because they look out for each other, and they help the ones who need help. They give food to people who are homeless. They give clothes to people who need them.

My community makes Boston strong because they keep the streets clean. They help old people cross the streets. They say hello when you walk by. They keep the streets safe by taking rocks, cans, and sticks off the roads. My community is Roxbury, and we are a good community. That’s why our community makes Boston strong.

My school makes Boston strong because they make sure the students are fine. They keep the students away from drugs and alcohol. They make you feel special, and they make you successful in life. Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School is my school. We respect people and make our students follow the right path in life.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong because we want kids to follow the right path in life and not make kids start drugs or alcohol and for them not to be the reason that makes Boston fail. In the future, Boston will be even stronger because almost every kid is in school, and someday they can become what they dream to become. I believe someday we will help life and help with the charity to make Boston strong!
Boston Community
Agustin Mejia

I am proud to be a Bostonian because I can talk to people who speak different languages and have different colors. I love Boston because this is where everything happens. Before I came to Boston, I lived in DR with my mom since I was a kid. Then, four years later, I came to Boston, and I started doing everything different because of my language. I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong.

I make Boston strong because I am a part of Boston, being a student at the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School. I have the opportunity to show how I can make Boston strong through my personality – being friends with people or helping with things I am interested in doing, like spending time with my family.

My relatives make Boston strong. I lived in the Dominican Republic. Then, I came with my brothers to Boston. Then, four years later, my mom came to Boston, and I followed in their footsteps by helping to make Boston strong. My dad works at Boston University and does his job as a janitor to help make Boston strong.

My community makes Boston strong because my neighbors make sure I am safe. When the explosion happened at the Marathon, my neighbors from Intervale Street came and asked if we were okay. Then, I saw the news with my family about how people tried to help people who got injured in the explosion.

My school, the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School on Columbia Road, helps make Boston strong because they help me learn new things. The teachers are always serious, especially when we have a test. Teachers take responsibility to help us study before the test comes, so we are prepared for an MCAS.

I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston powerful. Everything I learned from my family, community, and school will help me at one time in my life. If someone is hurt, I know what to do, and I can help them. In the future, Boston will be even stronger because I will be a grown up and get a job to help make Boston strong in a way. I will do things like help people in need who can help our community to be better so their children and my children can help or give assistance. We will follow these steps to help make Boston strong and always help those who are in need.
Boston “B” Strong
Isidro Vega

I am proud to be a Bostonian because I love Boston and Boston loves me. Boston has some good schools. Boston police and firefighters keep us safe most of the time. I love Boston, and I am proud to be a Bostonian.

I live in Dorchester, and I make Boston strong by helping others, like my friends. I help my friends by helping them with their work. I also help my family by moving things in my house. Lastly, I help my school by doing all of the work that they give me.

My family helps make Boston strong because we help others who need our help. We take care of each other. My family is strong because they work hard to put me in school. They work hard to take care of me, too.

My community makes Boston strong because we help others. When people are in trouble, we call 911, or we look for help. My community also takes care of each other. We look out for each other, and we take care of the Earth and go green.

My school makes Boston strong because we all help each other, and we end bullying in our school. The school is called the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School. The teachers help us when we need help on our classwork.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong. In the future, Boston will be even stronger because we take care of Boston, and we help Boston to be a better place. We make Boston safe.
Boston Weak? Nah – Strong!!!!

Tino Vicente

I am proud to be a Bostonian because Boston is a great place to live. I am a proud
Bostonian because Boston is a strong city, and Boston has great community and schools.
This is why I am proud to be a Bostonian. Boston has great history also and Boston is a
well-known city.

I make Boston strong because I am a student at the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot
Middle School. My school helps me make Boston strong because my school educates me.
I make Boston strong because I am educated and also I am an athlete. I make Boston
strong also because I help my friends and family and my neighbors when they need help.
I respect other people and listen to older wiser people. This is how I make Boston strong.

My family makes Boston strong because we are hard workers. My family makes
Boston strong because we are educated, and we follow the laws. My family makes
Boston strong because my family doesn’t do drugs. My family makes Boston strong also
because my family is kind. Some of my family came from Cape Verde like me, but they
are still hard-working, smart people. This is why my family makes Boston strong.

My community makes Boston strong because we work together. My community
has a good library. My community has police officers that do a good job to make the
streets safe for us. This is why my community makes Boston strong.

My school makes Boston strong because my school is a great school. My school
makes Boston strong because my school has great students and a safe environment. My
school makes Boston strong also because my school has great teachers who teach the
students to the highest level, and the teachers always expect the best from their students.
This is why my school makes Boston strong.

In the future, Boston will be even stronger because of the young students of today.
Boston will be stronger in the future because now Boston is strong. Imagine Boston in the
future with new adults who have been making Boston strong since they were young.
Boston will be stronger in the future because Boston will have new teachers, new police,
new scientists, new everything, but those new teachers, police, etc. will be even better
than the ones we have now.
**Boston Never Gives Up!**

Miguel Colon

I am proud to be a Bostonian because this city has different cultures. People come here with their own customs and beliefs. They work hard to support their family and everyone is educated. Boston is the best city because no one likes to get hurt, and it’s a quiet city. We like to be safe. In Boston, people do not like to play around.

I make Boston strong because I am educated because my family came to this country to get me a better education. I make Boston strong because when I get older, I can make a difference by being a professional. I make Boston strong because I live in J.P., where everybody helps each other.

My community makes Boston strong because they help each other. The neighbors are always alert. When they see something wrong, they immediately call the police or the fire department if there is a fire. Also, they keep the city clean by throwing trash in the trash can.

My school makes Boston strong because they teach me to be a good student, to be responsible, to respect each other, and to respect our country. My school has a good police officer who protects us all the time, and we feel safe. We have well-educated teachers in each classroom.

In conclusion, I work with my family, community, and school to make Boston strong because I want to have a good life, not a bad life, and being good can get you a good life. In the future, Boston will be even stronger because I will be a professional who makes Boston stronger.