

July 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

3rd Grade News



Blast Off into 3rd Grade!

Welcome to 3rd grade at Runkle School!!! We are very excited about the coming year. We are sending this newsletter to share some important information about us and about 3rd grade at Runkle.

Here are some basic facts about 3rd grade here at Runkle. The three teachers are:

- Sarah Halter
- Susan Harmon
- and Sarah Jeon.

We work closely together as a team.

All three 3rd grade classrooms are on the main floor at Runkle School, so it is easy to find our rooms.

In 3rd grade we try to combine challenging academics with *fun*. At the same time, students learn to take more responsibility for their own work and for their own behavior.

Third grade is traditionally seen as the year when students shift from learning to read to reading to learn. Of course, this is an ongoing process throughout the school years, but it is a pronounced change in 3rd grade. It also the year where we begin to emphasize the development of study skills and good habits for completing classwork and homework.

Getting Ready for the Fall: A, B, C

The third grade team is preparing for the year by doing a variety of summer curriculum projects and summer work.

A. We are gearing up for the implementation of **ThinkMath!**, the program that we are using throughout Brookline in grades K-5

to support our Learning Expectations. (The Learning Expectations can be found online at: <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/TEACHING+AND+LEARNING/Learning+Expectations/Learning+Expectations+by+Curriculum+Area.htm>)

B. We are also planning together so we can open the year with **Responsive Classroom** routines

ready to go. The main thing to know about Responsive Classroom is that it is a way of making each classroom into a safe learning community. We start the year by helping the children "discover" how our classes are organized and how our routines and expectations work.

(continued p. 3)

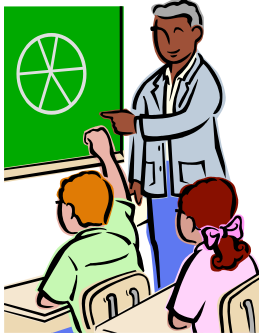
Special Things You Should Know:

- **Rebecca Sneider** is the guidance counselor for grade 3. Her phone number is: 617-879-4242.
- Link to the 3rd grade **Summer Math Calendar**:
<http://www.runkle.org/Classrooms/Gr3Calendar.pdf>
(hard copy is included in this mailing)
- Link to the 3rd grade **Reading Lists**:
<http://www.runkle.org/Classrooms/learnexp/read-3.htm>

Features:

Classroom Support	2
Getting a Head	
Start: Supplies	2
Parent Volunteers	
Visiting Day!	3

Specialist Support in 3rd Grade



We are fortunate to have a super team of skilled staff members to help us and help the children with specialized support.

Who's Who?

Debbie Mercer is the *Enrichment and Challenge Support* specialist. She works closely with the

teachers to help us develop activities to stretch and challenge all learners. Debbie also teaches model lessons in our classrooms, works with groups and individual students, and provides resources to parents.

Tracy Paradise is Runkle's full time

Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA). As the behavioral specialist Tracy consults with teachers, observes children, meets with parents, and helps develop individual behavioral plans when appropriate.

(continued p. 3)

"Childhood is a journey, not a race."

Parent Volunteers in Grade 3

We encourage parents to volunteer to help out in 3rd grade in a variety of ways. (Please be sure you have an up-to-date CORI form on file so you can volunteer in school this year.)

We need class parents (contact the PTO if you are interested). Our classroom parents help organize and support many different activities during the year.

It is great when parents can join us on field trips, like our annual fall trip to the Prudential Tower Skywalk and the annual spring trip to Brookline's Department of Public Works.

We are planning to train a team of parent volunteers to assist us during language arts time, especially during writer's workshop. The

training will happen in the early fall so that this special support can be put in place by mid-October. Debbie Mercer, our Enrichment and Challenge Support teacher, will train these parent volunteers and help schedule the classroom sessions.

Getting A Head Start on Supplies

In case you want to get an early start, here is the list of what children will need in 3rd grade. (Please note: if purchasing the materials is a hardship for you, please let us know and we

will arrange to provide materials on this list.)
1. large and small post-its
2. box of large zip lock baggies
3. box of #2 pencils
4. box of 24 colored pencils

5. box of tissues
6. box of Clorox wipes
7. large glue stick
8. white eraser
9. pencil sharpener that collects shavings
10. box of 10 thin markers

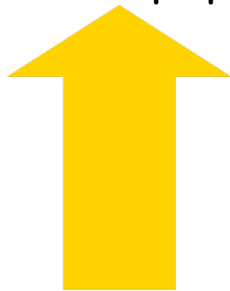
Getting Ready for the Fall (cont. from p. 1)

C. As mentioned on page 2, the 3rd grade team works closely with **Debbie Mercer** - the **Enrichment and Challenge Support** specialist. We are meeting with Debbie this summer to develop lessons and add strategies to help us provide appropriate challenge for all learners.

Our summer workshop addresses the need to differentiate and create challenging material to stretch learners in 3rd grade. This is a grade where we often have learners who are ready to surge ahead. We will consider strategies to challenge and engage

these learners, and we will develop materials to use during in the school year.

Third Grade is a Step Up!



The move up to 3rd grade echoes the symbolic move from the ground floor to the main floor at Runkle School. The academic expectations are greater and the students learn to be

more independent. It is an exciting transition and we are here to help your children succeed and have fun!

Preview Day!!

We are planning a special 3rd grade preview day during the last week in August for you and your children so you can drop in to meet the teacher and see the classroom. Please note that this is only a brief visit (10-15 minutes), since we will still be busy preparing for the first day of school. (We will let you know the exact date and time for Preview Day.)



Blast off into 3rd grade!

Specialists ... (cont. from p. 2)

Michelle Bernstein is our full time Math Specialist. She will be very active in the third grade as we move forward with the implementation of the ThinkMath! program. She also provides in-class support to students, teaches model lessons, and coaches us on improving math instruction.

Kristin Battaglia is Runkle's full time

Reading Specialist. Like our math specialist, she provides in-class support to students, teaches model lessons, and coaches us on improving reading instruction. She may also "pull-out" students for extra reading support from time to time.

COMMUNICATION:

Look for the brand new 3rd grade web page, coming online at the end

of the summer/early fall. The teachers are working with **Jenny Murphy**, our Educational Technology Specialist, to develop a user-friendly page to keep 3rd grade parents and students "in the loop" about our curriculum and activities.

You will be able to reach the web page through a link from our school page at: www.Runkle.org