



# Runkle News

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE RUNKLE PTO

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Submissions: [runkleptonews@gmail.com](mailto:runkleptonews@gmail.com) by 12:00pm Wed

**PTO MESSAGE OF THE WEEK:** *Candy House Decorating, Fri, 1:45pm*

## PTO News

Dear **RUNKLE COMMUNITY**.

December is traditionally a month of celebrations, peace, and togetherness. We welcomed this month at Runkle by inviting children, families, parents & teachers to join together in a celebration of peace and tolerance by making Paper Cranes for Peace. With all that is going on at Bookline High School, we want to continue to make Runkle a place where all are welcome and treated equally. Thank you to the faculty and staff who continue to teach our children the values that we are teaching them at home.



The **Peace Cranes Project** is hoping to extend to town wide participation involvement of all 8 elementary schools, Brookline High School, and the local library. When the cranes are finished and strung they will be sent to Washington D.C. as a message for peace and tolerance on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Thanks to Ben Kelly, Valerie Patsky, and their team for organizing this event. Thanks to Charu Deshpande and students for helping to instruct those of us who needed help with making the peace cranes. If you were unable to make it and would like to send

cranes please drop them off in the PTO office or join us again on Fri, Dec 15th in the front lobby for as part of the town-wide event.

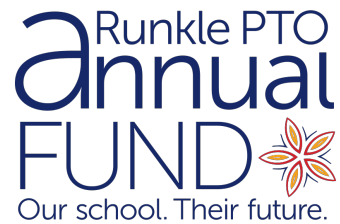
This week we are looking forward to a sweet Friday of building Candy Houses! We know this event fills up quickly, so if you are not able to make it please let [Catherine Burke](#) know so others can join.

Let us know if you have new ideas to share or ways we can continue to grow, educate and build our community.

Have a great week!

[Runkle PTO](#) co-chairs Dorothy Charles, Amy Bacon and Sharon Brockmann

## PTO Annual Fund



**Thank you** to everyone who donated to the **PTO Annual Fund** on #GivingTuesday. With the help of 60 Runkle families, this year's fund has raised \$14,500 so far. If you meant to donate on #GivingTuesday there's still time, please click [here](#)!

**Did you know ... EVERY** student at Runkle participates in PTO Annual Fund activities; the PTO spends up to \$60,000 yearly on student support and programs; we ask **EVERY** family to give what they can, gifts of any size are greatly appreciated; and finally, we raise funds only through this annual appeal. [Please donate now!](#)

### Want to do more for the PTO Annual Fund?

**AmazonSmile** is a great way to raise money for the PTO Annual Fund and our children. Simply click this PTO [AmazonSmile](#) link and you'll be asked to confirm that you would like to support the "PTO Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Runkle PTO." After that whenever you shop online at Amazon, point your browser to [AmazonSmile](#) first and you'll be raising money to help our school.

Kathleen Sim Elasmarr and Megan MacGarvie  
Co-chairs, Runkle PTO Annual Fund

## This Week's Events

**Tues, Dec 5th** - Conference Dismissal K-8, 12:40pm  
**Wed, Dec 6th** - School Council Meeting, 4-6pm, Library  
**Fri, Dec 8th** - Candy House Decorating, 1:45-3:15pm, Cafeteria

## Upcoming Events

**Tues, Dec 12th** - PTO Meeting, 8:05-9:05am, Cafeteria  
**Wed, Dec 13th** - Music in the Morning, 7:40-7:55am, Lobby

## Understanding Our Differences and Similarities

**UNDERSTANDING OUR DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES** is a district-wide program that utilizes a nationally recognized, award-winning curriculum to teach children to "see the person and not the disability." The program is taught by parents to students in Grade 4, and there are guest speakers lined up for each unit. It is a wonderful opportunity to watch children develop an understanding and respect for fellow students and others with physical, sensory or developmental disabilities. The time commitment is minimal, and volunteers are needed to help usher students between rooms, act as time keeper, as well as help teach the curriculum. Each program runs from 8:30-10:30am, and the units and dates are:

- Vision and Blindness - Fri, Dec 15th
- Hearing and Deafness - Fri, Feb 16th
- Physical Disabilities - Wed, April 25th
- Allergies and Asthma - Wed, May 30th

We ask for Grade 4 families to volunteer to help, but families from Grades K-8 are most welcome to attend the talks. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please email [Lynne Chuang](#) or [Kristine Philbin](#).

## 25th Annual Toy Drive



Please consider donating a gift to the **Runkle Annual Toy Drive** until December 14th. These gifts will benefit homes through the [Brookline Housing Authority](#), which include children of all ages. You may donate **NEW**, unwrapped toys and/or gift cards. **Gift cards** are especially appreciated by older

kids. Toy donations may be left in the bin in the main lobby. Gift card donations should be dropped off with Beatrice in the main office. Each year the Brookline Housing Authority tells us how important and special these gifts are to so many kids! Any questions please contact [Leigha Cuniberti](#) or [Josie Petersen](#).

## PTO Sponsored Event - Candy House Decorating



Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with this Runkle tradition. [Registration](#) is full right now. We are keeping a wait list and will contact those on it as soon as a space becomes available. If you have a space for your child(ren) and your plans change or if your child is absent on Friday due to illness, Please email [Catherine Burke](#) as soon as

possible so we may accommodate another child who is waiting to participate.

If you are making icing, please drop off your icing bags in front of the PTO Welcome Center in the Main Lobby by Wed, Dec 6th.

We look forward to seeing you on **Fri, Dec 8th, 1:45-3:15pm** in the cafeteria! Please remember children in Grades K-3 must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver.

## Music in the Morning - Holiday Edition

The holiday edition of Music in the Morning will be held in the Runkle lobby on **Wed, Dec 13th, 7:40-7:55am**. This is a great chance for budding performers to perform in an informal setting, and a wonderful way to start the school day for the audience! Holiday music is particularly encouraged for this performance, but all pieces and members of the Runkle community (including parents and teachers!) are welcome. Please email [Deborah Wexler](mailto:Deborah.Wexler@brookline.k12.ma.us) to sign up.

## Literacy Information Session

In January, our Literacy Leadership Team at Runkle will be sharing information with us about literacy at Runkle. Do you have questions or topics you want to learn more about? We would like to focus our informal presentation on what you are most interested in. Please address questions with the subject "PTO Session" to [Shoshana Jacobs](mailto:Shoshana.Jacobs@brookline.k12.ma.us) and/or [Annie Connors](mailto:Annie.Connors@brookline.k12.ma.us) and we'll look forward to seeing you in January!

## Runkle School Store



### Holiday shopping? Feeling Runkle pride?

Please visit the [Runkle School Store](#). There are t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and more! Enjoy!

## Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)



Monthly meeting on **Fri, Dec 8th, 8:30-9:30am**, Town Hall, 5th floor. Contact [Alessandra Di'Credico](#) for more information.

## From the Brookline School Committee

The Brookline School Committee currently has the Proposed PSB Wellness Policy under review and welcomes your feedback. You can find the draft of the policy [here](#). The next School Committee meetings are on the following dates:

- Wed, Dec 6th, 8:30am, Town Hall – School Policy Review Subcommittee
- Thu, Dec 7th, 6pm, School Committee Meeting, Town Hall ([view docket](#))

# What's Happening in Brookline Schools

Before registration opens for Kindergarten please join the Public Schools of Brookline for a Family Information Session about Kindergarten registration on the following dates:

- **Mon, Dec 4th**, 5pm, Putterham Branch, Brookline Public Library
- **Tues, Dec 5th**, 8:30am, 5th floor, Town Hall
- **Wed, Dec 13th**, 11:30am, 1st floor, Room 103, Town Hall

## Kindergarten Registration Online Application Opens January 3, 2018



We encourage you to stay informed with district-wide activities by visiting the [Public Schools of Brookline](#) website. It contains a wealth of information to help you navigate your way through the many school committees, educational programs and upcoming community meetings. Here are some useful links:

- [Programs](#) (METCO, ECS, ELL, BEEP)
- [High School Expansion](#)
- [9th School progress update](#)
- [Town calendar](#)

## Note from the Principal's Desk

Hello Runkle School Community,

*"When we begin listening to each other, and when we talk about things that matter to us, the world begins to change. Everyone has the capacity to be able to figure out how to make a difference. Listening and talking to one another heals our divisions and makes us brave again."*

**- Margaret Wheatley, Turning to One Another**

This quote was presented at the Brookline Equity Leadership Team Meeting held on November 27th. The goal is to engage school leaders and families this school year to further emphasize Brookline Public Schools Core Values and ensure that 2017-18 School District Goals are cohesive. The focus in this meeting was to educate Brookline Educators how to begin to embark a journey in practicing courageous listening and subsequently using these skills to interrupt possible implicit bias.

Some take-aways from the Building Equity Driven Instructional and Facilitative

Leadership session were:

- Engage in equity conversations that feel productive in order to gain a new level of discourse about issues of oppression and privilege.
- Examine inequity, oppression, and implicit bias as a lens to support reflection and action toward achieving educational equity.
- Practice listening to better diagnose challenges and support people to grow and learn.
- Deepen understanding of how the practice of coaching for educational equity can be utilized by different role groups (ie. principals, district administrators, support providers, teacher leaders, etc.) to impact school change.

All of Brookline Public Schools will be working on courageous listening to interrupt bias. At Runkle, our educators want to begin meetings to have more conversations on how to support students who may be directly affected by possible bias in hope to increase positive experiences for the entire student community. We have discovered that our students have a lot to share about their experiences. As a result, our school teams are preparing to develop the necessary skills and strategies to support our students and to address the need for equitable practices, challenging biases, and creating an inclusive Runkle school environment for all. We need the continued partnership of our families to support this effort. I will work with our PTO and School Site Council Members to create the space for us to work together in this particular area. Until then, here are 3 resources from thousands of resources out there.

[The New Playbook for Anti-Racism Parenting](#)

[Teaching Tolerance: Family and Community Engagement](#)

[Supporting Vulnerable Students in Stressful Times: Tips for Parents](#)

In Unity,

Your Principal Genteen Jean-Michel

## Breakfast and Lunch Menus

The December Breakfast and Lunch menus can be found [here](#).

## From the Community

### UPCOMING

#### **ART CLASSES & WORKSHOPS AT THE BAC**

December classes meet 2-3 times. Two highlights are **Adventures in Clay** for ages 5-7 and **Characters & Comics** for ages 8-12. For more information on all classes and to register visit the [BAC website](#).

#### **BROOKLINE SMARTPROGRAMS**

Brookline SmartPrograms are offering winter classes at BHS, including a week of winter wonderland activities during the holiday break. For more information visit their

[website](#).

### **AN EVENING WITH STEPHEN KINZER**

Mon, Dec 4th, 7pm, Hunneman Hall, Main Library. Award-winning foreign correspondent Stephen Kinzer will give a talk on his new book titled The True Flag, taking the audience back to Twain's and Roosevelt's time to show how the power of the press and "fake news" shaped the past as it does the present. The Brookline Booksmith will be on hand to sell books. The event, sponsored by the Trustees of the Brookline Library, is free and open to the public.

### **DRESS FOR SUCCESS WOMEN'S WINTER COAT DRIVE**

Fri, Dec 8th, 8am-6pm and Sat, Dec 9th, 8-11am, Brookline Public Safety Headquarters, Community Room, 350 Washington Street. The Brookline Commission for Women will be holding its 13th annual Dress for Success Boston Women's Winter Coat Drive. This is **NOT** a general clothing drive so please limit donations to winter coats. Nonperishable food donations for the Brookline Food Pantry will be happily accepted. Please contact [Jennifer Goldsmith](#) with questions.

### **NEW! PUPPET LAB AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30pm, starting in January, Puppet Showplace Theater, 32 Station Street. Puppet Lab is a new after school program for kids age 8-11 with a focus on the materials, engineering, and design side of puppetry arts. Kids will learn by doing, gain confidence in their abilities, and discover new strategies for solving interdisciplinary problems. To learn more and register click [here](#) or contact Artistic Director [Roxie Myhrum](#).

### **ONGOING**

#### **BROOKLINE WINTER FARMERS' MARKET**

Sundays, 11am-3pm, Coolidge Corner Arcade, 318 Harvard Street. Offers local produce, meat and goods from hard workers and farmers across New England, including a wide array of products such as vegetables from Silverbrook Farm, baked goods, cupcakes, knife sharpening, fresh pasta, local honey and much more! Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

## **Classifieds**

Please note: The Runkle News and PTO have not researched and are not responsible for the services, products, and/or requests made in these ads.

### **TUTORING**

Runkle parent seeking tutor for creative writing skills. Please contact [Sumeet Sabharwal](#).

### **LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION**

**Spanish Instruction for Motivated Adults** - Offers individualized classes for

adults seeking to learn Spanish in a conversational yet focused, interesting style; 20+ years language teaching experience; patience and understanding. Call Sibyl Senters 617-905-5091 to meet.

### **FOR RENT**

**Winter Sublet** - Dec 14th - Feb 2nd. Two bedroom apartment near Brookline village, 1000 sq. feet, sunny, very quiet, in dead-end street facing Clark playground. 5 min walk to Brookline Hills T stop. Photos on request. \$2200 a month, all utilities included. Contact [Anne-Marie Codur](#) or call 617-938-8190.

### **MUSIC INSTRUCTION**

**Piano - Gloria Jasinski** - Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory and sight reading. Have a successful learning experience. [Email](#) Gloria or call 617-566-9704.

## **Managing the Runkle News**

School Office: 617-879-4650

School Website: [www.runkle.org](http://www.runkle.org)

Absence Line: 617-879-4249. If your child will not be in school for any day(s), call the absence line before 8am to report the information. You can leave a message for multiple days if needed.

Runkle News Editors: Karin Breuer, Sharon Brockmann and Lonna Steinberg

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