



The Runkle News

Newsletter published weekly by the Runkle PTO

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Donations totaling \$26,000 have come in so far. Thanks to the families of the community who have already donated! We're making progress, so let's keep going. Your participation matters. For more information about the Runkle PTO Annual Fund and how to donate [click here](#).

The Runkle PTO Annual Fund 2011-2012 Campaign

PTO Annual Fund:

Make your donation now to count toward a 2011 tax exemption. Your participation matters.

Be on the lookout for Runkle Annual Fund postcards that will arrive by mail this week to families who have yet to donate. There are only 20 days left to donate and receive a tax receipt for 2011. The PTO Annual Fund is our only fundraiser. It benefits the entire Runkle School.

- We have had participation from 93 out of 339 families so far. That's 27% percent participation; we'd love to see every family participate! A huge THANK YOU to all the families who have donated so far.

We would love to see EVERY family make a contribution to this vital fund, **because your participation really does make a difference!**

Over the last two weeks, the Annual Fund has paid for Runkle School Directories, the ever-popular Gingerbread House decorating, Chinese Ribbon Dancers, and author-illustrator Giles Laroche. This week, the fund will pay Techsploration and starting on Thursday, there will be a 6-week, after-school, drop-in art class for 6th-8th graders.

Please send in a check to be delivered to the front office or give online [here](#).

Thank you for your support!

Valerie Godhwani and Julie Heuberger
Your Annual Fund Co-Chairs

PTO MESSAGE OF THE WEEK:

Consider bringing in a toy for annual Runkle toy drive. Ask your middle-schooler about drop-in art on Thurs. Early Dismissal is on Weds.

From the PTO

Dear Runkle Families,

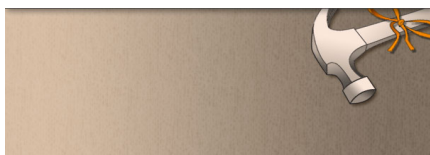
Thanks to parent efforts in cooperation with the school, please note the following upcoming:

- *Middle School Activity:* Drop-in Art class begins for 6-8 graders. This program, free to students, allows them to work on their art under the guidance of Mrs. Ortiz on Thursdays 2:30-3:30.
- *Techsploration for 3, 5, and 6 graders:* Tom Wahle makes learning fun about structures (grade 3), simple machines (grade 5), and electricity (grade 6), reinforcing the curriculum learning.
- Consider bringing in a toy for the Annual Runkle Toy Drive.

and don't forget to start saving your books for the Annual Book Swap in January!

Sincerely,

Sandy Costello
Emily Dolbear
PTO Co-chairs



RUNKLE BUILDING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Attention Runkle Parents:
The next Runkle School Building Committee meeting will be held on December 16 at 8 a.m. at Town Hall, Room 103. The topic is traffic and parking plan around the renovated building.

For more information about the Runkle Building Committee, including schedules, past meeting minutes, and reports, click [here](#).

Annual Runkle Toy Drive Dec. 5 through Dec. 20

Please consider donating a NEW, unwrapped gift for our toy drive. These gifts will be targeted to individual homes through the Brookline Housing Authority. Gifts for infants through teenagers are appreciated. Gift cards and movie passes are especially helpful for the older children. Each year they tell us how important these gifts have been to so many kids. Donations can be left in the bin outside the main office.



Questions? Contact josie.petersen@gmail.com

This Week's Events

Early Dismissal (K-8)

Wed., Dec. 14
12:30 p.m.

Kindergarten Snuggle and Read

Thurs., Dec. 15
8:00 a.m.
Kindergarten Classrooms

Drop-In Art for grades 6-8

Thurs., Dec. 15
2:30-3:30 p.m.
Art Room

School Council Meeting

Thurs., Dec. 15
4-6 p.m.
Runkle Library

Techsploration

Fri., Dec. 16
Runkle Library

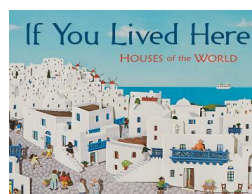
Interim Progress Reports Issued

Fri., Dec. 16



Last Wednesday, Chiao Bin Huang led a Chinese cultural workshop for Runkle first graders including a Chinese Ribbon Dancing performance.

This program, organized by Performing Arts at Runkle (PAAR), was paid for by the Runkle Annual Fund!



Friday, third graders heard from and worked with author and illustrator Giles Laroche. Giles spoke about the process of writing and illustrating and



Gingerbread House Making: Candy Facts and Thank You's!

Thanks to all of the icing makers and holiday helpers who made this free art activity a huge success!

A big thank you to Naomi

Shimasaki, Marva Tomer, Melissa Foley, Vicki Klein, Kate Leness, Susan Richardson, Julie Heuberger, Trish Blais, Sandy Costello, and Christina Suh for all of their work! *Special thanks to Amy Hummel for organizing the event and to her family for all of their behind-the-scenes prep work.*

The 66 children who signed up for the project used 66 packages of graham crackers, 66 packs of pretzels, 700 licorice sticks, 15 lbs. of chocolate, 6 lbs. of Swedish fish, 8 lbs. of Skittles, 50 packages of Mentos, and a whopping 56 pounds of confectioners sugar to construct their masterpieces!

This free, community building event was made possible by parent contributions to the PTO Annual Fund. Thank you!

From the Principal

Dear Families,

Daily Life at Runkle Updates...

We had another wonderful week full of parent conferences. Having the time for parents and teachers to meet together to communicate how students are progressing is so important and I have appreciated being able to join some of you during conferences as well.

In addition to conferences, there were a number of special activities organized and funded by the Runkle PTO, including the Chinese Ribbon Dancing for first grade, and the award winning author Giles Laroche. Mr. Laroche not only shared his intricate paper cutting creations of structural landscapes and his newest book highlighting the types of homes around the world, but he sat with the third graders and Mrs. Ortiz in the art room as they assisted the third graders in creating their own versions of structures by using various paper cutting techniques.

While the Art Room was occupied, the 7th graders had a grade-level kickball game outside. While it was brisk yesterday, it was a great time for the grade to come together. We do not often have an opportunity for the 7th graders to be together as a class on their own and everyone appreciate the opportunity.



introduced students to the technique of paper relief.

This visit, organized by Teresa Gallo-Toth and the third grade teachers, was paid for by the PTO Annual Fund and the Runkle After School Program.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thurs., Dec. 15, 6:00 - 7:50 PM
James F. Walsh School Committee Room, 5th floor, Town Hall

The public is invited to attend. For more information (including docket) click [here](#)

8th Grade Pie Sale: A Big Success!!

Congratulations to the 8th grade for selling 413 pies and raising over \$1900.00 for their NYC class trip.

PICK UP DAY is Friday, Dec. 16. A freezer van from the Ever So Humble Pie Company will be at the school from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

All 8th graders who sold pies will have to pick up their pies and bring them home that afternoon. If you bought a pie from an 8th grader, please make sure they know the best way to get your pie to you on Dec. 16. Any questions? Please email Karen Kepler at kjkepler@aol.com or Jill Altshuler at jillaltshuler@rcn.com

Brookline Parent Education Network (B-PEN) Meeting for 6th Grade Parents

Thurs., Dec. 15, 8:15-9:30 a.m.

Rebecca Sneider, LICSW, Guidance Counselor Grades 3-8 will discuss the Empower Program. We hope that you can join us. Contact Donna Pertel at donna.pertel@gmail.com for details.

From SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council):

If anyone has any special education or IEP questions, email the SEPAC liaison, Jemelle O'Neill at gogogo010600@jemelle.com.

Runkle Gear Has Arrived!

We ended the week with a magical event...the PTO-sponsored Gingerbread Houses! Eager students and their families entered to find the houses waiting to be decorated with graham crackers, frosting, and lots of candy! It was a festive time for everyone and a wonderful way to end the week!

Runkle Building Committee Update...

The Runkle Building Committee met on Friday, December 9, 2011 to review the prospective costs associated with designing a plan for the two options to address the concerns about the quantity, height, and placement of the mechanical structures on the roof. Both options 2A and 8 would mitigate the impact to the abutters on Dean Road.

Option "2A" would reposition one unit closer to the middle of the building and could possibly reduce the amount of screening needed. Option "8" would reposition units to the Druce Street side, which may require additional steel support and may result in higher screening on the front side of the building. There was a motion to recommend the investigation of both options at a negotiated price with the caveat that any changes would need to result in an on-time opening for Runkle.

The next step is for this recommendation to be brought before the Building Commission on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. If Options 2A and 8 are investigated further, a plan would be designed and would include the costs for installing the units according to the new design. The contractor would then be asked to determine what the ultimate costs would be to do the additional work without causing a further delay to the project. Additional costs may include overtime pay or recuperation of the incurred costs expended on materials and labor from the implementation of the original design. This process, if it moves forward, is expected to take approximately eight weeks. In the meantime, the work on the site will continue.

The next Runkle Building Committee meeting will be on December 16th at 8:00 a.m. At this meeting, the focus will be on communicating the process for determining the Traffic and Parking Plan.

Sincerely,

Vanessa C. Beauchaine, Ed.D.
Principal

From the Classroom

7th and 8th Grade Math Problem of the Week

Workshop

Toni makes stools and tables in her workshop. At the end of a long day, she has made 35 legs. If each stool has 3 legs and each table has 4 legs, and the legs are all identical, how many stools and tables can she now assemble?

Note: This problem is from Eric Lass, 7th/8th grade Math Teacher, and is different from Michelle Schweiger's Runkle Math Challenge for grades K-2 and 3-6, which offers challenges twice a month. See <http://www.runkleschool.com>



Buy sweatshirts, hats, water bottles, and bags at the Friday assembly or through RED. All proceeds benefit the RED tuition assistance program.

Two Ways to Honor a Teacher and Support the Brookline Education Foundation!

The Magic Beans in Coolidge Corner

Wed., Dec. 14. 6-9 p.m.

Just in Time for the Holidays-The Magic Beans Store in Coolidge Corner is sponsoring a night of shopping for BEF supporters, with 10% of the proceeds of all sales going to the Brookline Education Foundation (BEF)!

This is a great opportunity to support a local business and the work the BEF does to drive innovative and creative education in the Brookline Public Schools. So collect your children's wish lists, grab a friend and head on over to Magic Beans for a fun night of shopping that includes free refreshments and free gift wrapping

Give a Gift in Honor

During this time of end-of-the year giving what better way is there to honor a teacher than with a donation to the Brookline Education Foundation. Let your child(ren)'s teacher(s) know that you recognize their efforts by giving to the organization that seeks out and supports innovation and leadership among teachers and administrators from preschool through grade 12. Your gift enables us to provide educators with opportunities for continued professional and personal development and touches the teachers you honor in a very special way. In the words of a Runkle School teacher:

"The BEF has helped me and other recipients (specialists and regular education teachers) of the EmPOWER writing grant to provide explicit writing instruction based on executive functioning skills. I love providing small group and full class lessons in grades 4-8th and seeing how the teachers carry over these strategies across the curriculum."

<http://www.iassmatn.com> for other problems.

From the Community

The 2nd Annual Craft Fair at the New Holiday Marketplace

Sat., Dec. 10. 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Pierce School, 50 School Street Brookline. Free Admission

Enter to Win Raffle Prizes! Shop local ~ Shop for a cause.

Proceeds to benefit Pierce School

Artbarn Community Theater Presents *Bye Bye Birdie*

Rafters Co. (7th and 8th Grades)

Sat., Dec. 17 at 7 p.m., Sun., Dec. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

The Maliotis Cultural Center at Hellenic College, 50 Goddard Ave.

Tickets: \$10 at the door. www.artbarn.org

Brookline High School Winter Concert

Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium.

Tickets \$5. FREE TO ALL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS.

Accredited Gan Israel Chanukah Winter Camp

December 26-30 (Mon. - Fri.) For Children 5-12 years old.

This winter break give your child a truly magical experience in the ACA (American Camp Association). Your child will enjoy riveting activities such as robotics, fencing, and gymnastics, and participate in a trip to ice skating, bowling, laser tag, and Balladium. Our staff is chosen for their boundless energy, their love of children, and their Jewish knowledge. More Information: www.CGIBoston.org or (617)787-2200.

strategies across the curriculum.

Please visit www.brooklineeducation.org to honor a teacher today!

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.

PIANO FOR SALE

Mahogany 5' apartment size grand Stieff piano. Good condition. Ivory keys. Three pedals, including sostenuto. Sturdy matching bench. Recently tuned. Nice tone. Fine finish. Low price for quick sale. \$1750. Call Phyllis at 781-239-0500.

PIANO INSTRUCTION

Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 30 years teaching experience has several openings in studio. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, upbeat, and caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: piano566@comcast.net.



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