



The Runkle News

Newsletter published weekly by the Runkle PTO

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March 14, 2011

THE PTO FUND DRIVE ENDS ON APRIL 15th!

We are at \$44,000. Our goal is \$65,000.

The PTO Annual Fund supports teachers and our children, [across all grades](#), with a wide variety of classroom enrichment programs. See www.runkle.org/ptoannualfund for more details.

Donate today to help us retain all of these programs!

Please join the 158 families (46% of the Runkle community) that have already contributed.

There are four easy ways to give:

1. Have your child give your donation to Beatrice in the main office.
2. Mail a donation to the PTO Annual Fund at Runkle.
3. Drop off your donation at the Runkle office front desk.
4. Give securely online at <http://www.runkle.org/ptoannualfund>.

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Thank you,

Sharone Jelden and Valerie Godhwani, Co-chairs PTO Annual Fund

From the Principal

Dear Families,

Bravo! Another incredible Runkle Production...

For the past eight weeks, the cast of eleven eighth graders and their talented director, Ms. Hollander have worked tirelessly on perfecting the production of **Arsenic and Old Lace**. Our dynamic trio -- Ms. Hollander, Ms. Crystal, and Mr. DeMita -- provided the support for our eleven actors to perform at their best. Congratulations to Alexander, "B", Christina, Sarah, Yeolim, Miller, Michael N, Michael S, Govind, Lindsay, and Dillon. Their comedic timing, vocal projection, and character portrayal showed a level of maturity and artistry not commonly found in an eighth grade production. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew!

Transition Survey...

The Term II transition survey results were shared verbally at the PTO meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. After the Council sees the survey results, the results will be available for your perusal online.

Recent sad news...

Our thoughts are with all of our families who have suffered a loss of a loved one this year. While Dr. Moll and Ms. Sneider have met with the students in the classes where a student may be dealing with a loss. It is important to remember that we all have different ways in which to cope and that at times, we may have difficulty. Please know that Dr. Moll and Ms. Sneider are always available if you or your child(ren) need guidance and support.

Spring Tests...

This Week's Events

Bullying Intervention and Prevention Presentation from the Principal
 Thurs., Mar. 17
 7 pm-8 pm
 Runkle Library

Preorder a Yearbook Online

Go here for details and online ordering. When the books come in June they will be delivered to your child's classroom.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 SCHOOL BUDGET MEETINGS

Bill Lupini, Superintendent and Peter Rowe, Deputy Superintendent are hosting a series of open forums to

We have officially begun the season of state testing. In addition to students' assignments from their classes, students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 7 will begin MCAS tests during the week of March 21st. The best way in which students can prepare for the MCAS is to come to school well rested. Having a good breakfast is important as well so that the students are fueled for the day. Just as a reminder, students do have an opportunity to purchase breakfast in the cafeteria each morning.

Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Vanessa C. Beauchaine, Ed.D.

Dear Parents,

MCAS testing will begin later this month, with students in all grades 3 through 8 taking the English Language Arts Test. This test is comprised of two Reading Comprehension sections for all grade levels, as well as a Long Composition section in grades 4 and 7.

Below is the schedule for the Spring 2011 MCAS - English Language Arts test administration at Runkle School:

LONG COMPOSITION (GRADES 4 and 7 only): TUESDAY, MARCH 22
(make-up day: Thursday, March 31)

READING COMPREHENSION:

GRADE 3 - Wednesday, March 23, and Thursday, March 24

GRADE 4 - Monday, March 28, and Tuesday, March 29

GRADE 5 - Wednesday, March 23, and Thursday, March 24

GRADE 6 - Wednesday, March 30, and Friday, April 1

GRADE 7 - Monday, March 28, and Tuesday, March 29

GRADE 8 - Wednesday, March 30, and Friday, April 1

Please make all reasonable efforts to have students in school for the MCAS testing. If you know of a planned absence that coincides with the dates above and that cannot be rescheduled, please let me know as soon as possible. In addition to our daily instruction at Runkle, the best preparation for MCAS is a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast. Please work with us to ensure your child is well-rested and ready to go on the relevant dates listed above. These tests are typically taken shortly after 8:00 each day.

In May, students in all grades 3 through 8 will take the Mathematics MCAS; in addition, students in grades 5 and 8 will take the Science MCAS. Each of these tests will be scheduled for two days between May 10 and May 20. The specific dates for these tests will be sent out next month.

If you have any questions about MCAS, feel free to contact me at 617-879-4650.

Thank you, and best wishes.

Jim Stoddard
Vice Principal

From the PTO

CALLING ALL TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND PARENTS: The PTO Grant Committee Is Now Accepting Grant Applications

Parents, teachers, and administrators who have ideas for new programs, equipment, or resources at Runkle are encouraged to apply. Previous grants have included traveling programs from the Museum of Science, reference materials, literacy games, Flip Video cameras, an ELMO Document Camera, and math software for 7th and 8th graders.

If you have a great idea for a project and need funding, please fill out the PTO Grant form.

discuss the FY12 SCHOOL BUDGET. All are welcome to attend.

Tues., Mar. 15 @ 6 p.m. Hunneman Hall, Main Library

Wed., Mar. 16 @ 8:15 a.m. Devotion School Library

Tues., Mar. 22 @ 6:30 p.m. Baker School Library

BIRTHDAY WISHES COLLECTION

The 7th & 8th grade is holding a drive through March to benefit Birthday Wishes, bringing birthday parties to homeless children. Please donate party supplies, goody bag items (no candy), wrapping paper, or juice boxes. Birthday gifts also accepted. Collections boxes are by the main doors and office. Thank you!

K - 2 Parents!

Runkle Extended Day (RED) will be **selling RUNKLE SCHOOL sweatshirts and t-shirts** (in addition to coffee and munchkins!) at the morning K-2 meetings every Friday. Sweatshirts are \$35 and t-shirts are \$15. ALL proceeds benefit RED's Tuition Assistance Program. Thank you!

SEPAC NEWS

SEPAC at Runkle meeting

Wed., Mar. 23, 2011, 7 p.m.

Runkle Library

Babysitters will be provided

Supporting Challenging Kids support group

Fridays starting March 4

10-11:30 a.m.

Brookline Public Safety Building, 350

Washington St.

Meetings are free and registration is

not required. For more information,

contact

rachaelelisabeth1@gmail.com

Transition to College Panel

Discussion Tues., March 29, 7-9

p.m., BHS MLK Room

BHS college counselor Joan Casey

and a group of parents who have

been through the transition to college

(with students on IEPs and 504

plans) will discuss their experiences

and how to help students with

Applications can be completed [online](#) or downloaded at: <http://www.runkle.org/2011/01/apply-for-pto-grant-funding/>

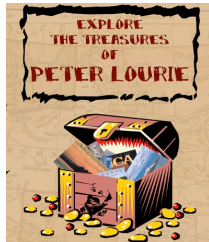
All applications are **due no later than March 18**; complete them on line, email them to AmyHummel@rcn.com, or deliver a hard copy to the PTO mailbox in the main office. If you aren't sure whether or not your idea is something we might be able to fund, please ask!

Did you hear the Taiko Drums at Runkle?

To kick of their study of Japan, all second graders learned about and played a Taiko drum at Runkle last Thursday! If you were standing outside the gymnasium, on Route 9 you could hear the powerful sound of the drums. If you were in the gymnasium with each class, you could see and feel the enthusiasm of the teachers and students.

Taiko Drumming, has been part an integral part of Japanese culture for centuries. The sound was often used to mark the edge of a village; it was played from the center and the farthest points from which the sound could be heard marked the perimeter. It was also in religious ceremonies, harvest and dance festivals, and during times of war to intimidate enemies.

This instructional performance was arranged by PAAR (Performing Arts at Runkle), which is supported entirely by parent donations to the PTO Annual Fund.



Runkle Reads for Grades 4 & 5

An Evening of Adventure and Exploration with Peter Lourie

Monday, April 4th
Presentation: 6:30-7:30pm

Runkle Reads Evening for Grades 4&5 brings together the student, teacher, and parent learning community at Runkle to hear a presentation by a nationally known, outstanding author. This coming April, Peter Lourie, extraordinary adventurer and nonfiction writer, is coming to Brookline Elementary Schools supported by the BEF Saker Committee and the PTO's.

The preparations for this Runkle Reads event for fourth and fifth grade students will include an introduction by teachers and librarian to Peter Lourie's body of work and its curriculum connections. Some copies of his books will be available to check out from the Library. A booklist will be made available to order a copy of a Peter Lourie book at a discount price in advance of his visit. Further details will be send home with fourth and fifth grade students.

At home, families can choose to read and discuss one or more of Peter's books to become familiar with his travels and his writing style. His website is www.peterlourie.com

The Runkle Reads Evening Event from 6:30-8:00pm will focus on Peter's presentation with time for questions and answers and book signing.

UNDERSTANDING DISABILITIES PROGRAM FOR 4th GRADE AT RUNKLE

Understanding Disabilities Program is a town wide program aimed at increasing students' awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by people with disabilities. There are three more units to be held: Blindness, Physical Disabilities and Intellectual Impairments. **Parent participation is essential to this program.** In particular we need about 8 volunteers for each unit; there is training 8-8:30am in the library the morning of the units, and no prior knowledge is needed.

Please let Elvira Perez (elvraperez@hotmail.com) know if you can participate in any of the following units which run 8am - 10:30am each day:

learning disabilities survive and thrive in college. Joan will also talk about alternative paths to college from high school. For more information, contact SEPAC BHS liaison Lisa Guisbond, guisbond@mit.edu.

Assistive Technology Fair/Workshop, Tuesday, April 12, 6-8 p.m., Lawrence School

We'll offer a variety of speakers and demonstrations on various forms of assistive technology, designed to help students with a range of disabilities. There will be demonstrations of apps for smart phones and ipads. Presenters will include All Tech, Easter Seals, and Cambium (maker of the Kurzweil Educational Systems).

SEPAC is looking for volunteers to gather information and opinions and start to develop a guide to local special education providers. Please contact Rachael Wurtman, SEPAC co-chair at brooklinesepac@gmail.com or go to <http://brooklinesepac.org>

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.

HELP WANTED

Runkle parent looking for someone to pick-up child from RED everyday around 5:30 pm and drop back home in Fisher Hill area. If interested, please email sabhas@yahoo.com.

SUMMER TUTOR AVAILABLE

Please contact Deirdre Kelly deirdre_kelly@brookline.k12.ma.us

PRESCHOOL SUMMER

PROGRAM Fun summer program for children ages 2.9 - 5 yrs. Beautiful Chestnut Hill location and flexible schedule. Children may attend from two to seven weeks. Three or four days per week. Teacher with over 30 years of experience. For information or to apply please contact Jude at

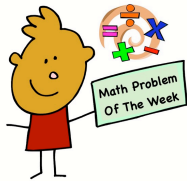
Blindness: Friday, April 15
 Intellectual: Friday, May 6
 Physical: Thursday, May 28

Thanks,

Susanna Stern, Elvira Perez, Tami Petler, Lynn Chuang, and Donna Pertel

617-277-6225
 orjudeb22@hotmail.com.

From 7th/8th Grade Math Teacher



Math Problem of the Week

999 Coins

Starting with a single pile of 999 coins, a person does the following in a series of steps: In step one, he splits the pile into two nonempty piles. Thereafter, at each step, he chooses a pile with 3 or more coins and splits this pile into two piles. What is the largest number of steps that is possible?

Here's the problem and solution to last week's problem:

A Quarter Pounder

A quarter-pound hamburger contains approximately 80 calories per ounce of meat, an average french fry contains about 14 calories, a cola contains about 10 calories per ounce, and a bun contains 200 calories. Suppose you have a quarter-pound hamburger with a bun and six ounces of cola. How many french fries can you eat and still keep your meal below 800 calories?

Solution

15. We have $80h + 14f + 10c + 200 < 800$. Using the information in the problem we can write $80(4) + 14f + 10(6) + 200 < 800$. This implies that $14f < 220$ and $f < 16$. Therefore, you can eat 15 french fries.

From Eric Lass, 7th & 8th grade Math Teacher

From the Community

NEWS FROM B-PEN (BROOKLINE PARENT EDUCATION NETWORK)

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE PARENTS!

8th grade SADD (*Students Against Destructive Decisions*) continues on **Wednesday, March 16, 2011**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Room 385A at Brookline High School. This special meeting is the annual **SADD Scavenger Hunt**, which sends teams of students all around BHS to complete a set of tasks. This is the liveliest SADD meeting of the year and an excellent way to get students familiar with the ins and outs of the high school they'll be a part of next year. Pizza will be served, and they'll get to meet kids from other schools as well as current BHS students who are making good decisions, all while earning extra credit in their health classes. Please encourage your 8th grader to attend. If you have questions about 8th Grade SADD, please contact Hope Schroy, LICSW at hope_schroy@brookline.k12.ma.us or 617-713-5149.

AND MARK THE DATE - APRIL 5 IS "WELCOME TO TEEN LIFE" FOR 8TH GRADE PARENTS

B-PEN (Brookline Parent Education Network) invites parents and guardians of current 8th graders to "WELCOME TO TEEN LIFE: Parenting Strategies for Entering the High School Years" Tuesday, April 5@ 7 pm in Brookline High School's Martin Luther King Room. This presentation by adolescent development specialist Joani Geltman uses humor, insight, psychology and storytelling to help parents understand the unique physical, social/emotional and cognitive changes that occur as young teens prepare to enter high school.

ATTENTION 6TH-7TH GRADE PARENTS

The Secret Lives of Young Adolescents ~ An Evening for 6th & 7th Grade Parents

March 30, 7-8:30

BHS Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

On March 30, B-PEN (Brookline Parent Education Network) offers a special program for parents of Brookline 6th-7th graders, "The Secret Lives of Young Adolescents: Why NOW is the time to discuss

substance use, healthy relationships and internet behavior with your 6th or 7th grader." This event features a panel of Brookline High School Peer Leaders, social workers, health teachers and AWARE educators discussing some of the issues today's middle school kids are dealing with - alcohol experimentation, marijuana and tobacco, sex, and internet use and cyber bullying. The goal is to encourage parents to talk to their middle schoolers and send them home with some effective conversation starters and talking points for making a meaningful connection. To RSVP or for more information, contact coordinators June Harris (jharris@brooklinema.gov 617-909-6935) or Karen Campbell (kcampbell@brooklinema.gov).

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

B-PEN's Parent Advisory Committee helps identify some of the chronic teen issues in Brookline and brainstorms ways in which to address them. Last month's meeting raised a number of important issues of concern regarding Brookline teens and 'tweens, including how the decriminalization of marijuana has made smoking pot seem less risky with fewer consequences. The consensus is that for most kids, marijuana is more readily available than alcohol.

The biggest topic of conversation was how the digital revolution has made it difficult for parents to keep up with what their kids are doing online and with their phones. Kids are getting access to this technology earlier and earlier (one parent cited her first grader talking with friends about all their "apps"), well before they are fully able to understand the possible consequences. This illustrates the need for better, more expansive education of both children and parents as responsible usage. Two important issues were targeted. The first is conflict resolution, and the tendency now of kids to air grievances electronically, often publicly (emails, Facebook) rather than work things out face to face. This promotes quick, knee-jerk reactions that can be generated widely and brutally with devastating consequences. Ethical use of technology and conflict on and offline needs to be discussed often at home and at school.

The second issue is that of the permanence of online material, the "digital tattoo" that can follow a child's internet entries from the first initial forays to job applications. One persuasive deterrent for students may be teaching them about the prevalence of internet tracking (they don't like to be manipulated) and the general accessibility of material (embarrassing photos, inappropriate posts, etc.) they may mistakenly believe is private. The need for clear, ethical social media guidelines was stressed. Parents need to be aware that blocking and monitoring are less effective than fully understanding the ins and outs of the digital world in which our children are "natives." The PAC is exploring a variety of educational avenues and forums.

JOIN US...

Comprised of a wide range of BHS and middle school parents, the Parent Advisory Committee always welcomes participants and/or suggestions and ideas. Drop in anytime. This month's meeting is **March 14, 7-8:30 p.m.** in the BHS Staff Lounge next to the Martin Luther King Room. For more information on B-PEN, contact June Harris (June_harris@brookline.k12.ma.us) or Karen Campbell (Karen_campbell@brookline.k12.ma.us)

Corner Co-op Nursery School's Spring Fun Fair with Music Sensation Wayne Potash

Sat., Mar. 19, 10 am-2pm

All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline

Come join a day of games and crafts for kids 2-7+, entertainment, raffles, silent auction, baked goods, international food, and much more! \$10/child or \$25/family. For more information, please call 617-738-4631.

Mindful Parenting Workshop

March 20, 3-5pm, All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon St., Brookline, MA

With busy schedules and scattered commitments, parents and children can become easily overwhelmed and stressed, leading to exhaustion, frustration, and even despair. This workshop will offer parents some practical ways to transform difficult emotions, introduce a more measured pace into family life, and connect in meaningful ways with their children. The workshop facilitator, Michael Ciborski began his training in mindfulness with Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh in Plum Village, France, in 1994 where he became a Buddhist monk. To pre-register for the workshop, please go to www.mindfulparenting.eventbrite.com. Pre-registration admission is \$10.

Admission at the door is \$20.

PALS Children's Chorus

You are invited to join them as they celebrate the indigenous cultures & call for their preservation: VOIVES 2011: THE EDGE OF THE WORLD CONCERT. *Featuring Two World Premiere pieces.*
Saturday March 26, 2011 at 7:30 PM
First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden Street Cambridge
Adults \$25, Students & Seniors \$15
 To buy tickets go to www.palschildrenschorus.org

Stressed? Need someone to talk to?

Parents Helping Parents runs a 24 hour help line for any parent or caregiver to call regarding any issue involving a child under 18 years of age. Free, confidential, anonymous. Call 1-800-632-8188

Spring Baseball Registration Open for Brookline Youth Baseball

Boys and girls from grades 1 through 10 (through age 16) are invited to register online at www.brooklineyouthbaseball.org where full instructions, guidelines, rules, league definitions, and schedule information can be found. We also need volunteer coaches and assistants. Baseball expertise is not necessary -- there are many ways to help. Players are placed on teams on a first-come, first-served basis, with the number of available slots determined by playing field availability and especially by the number of volunteer coaches. Fees will be refunded (less any processing fees paid by BYB) to players not placed on teams because of space limitations. Sign up early! We look forward to a great season.

Brookline Community Foundation

The Brookline Community Foundation recently began an exciting new program called the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, which seeks to team our Foundation with a group of around 12-15 students in grades 8-12. We will educate them on the field of philanthropy and grantmaking, and the program will culminate with participants making a recommendation of up to \$10,000 in grants to the community. Applications should be submitted by Thursday (March 17th). Contact Tommy Good at 617-566-4442 or tgood@brooklinecommunity.org

Bountiful Brookline's Spring into Gardening

Sun., Mar. 27, 10 am-4pm
Pierce School, 50 School Street, Brookline Village
 Workshops, demonstrations, children's activities, resources & gatherings with new and seasoned gardeners in Brookline. \$10/per person or \$20/family. Register at www.bountifulbrookline.org

Artbarn's Duck Soup Troupe Presents STREGA NONA

Sat., Mar. 19 @ 7pm and Sun., Mar 20 @ 4.30pm. The Malotis Cultural Center, Hellenic College, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline. Tickets: \$10 at the door. 617-975-0050 or info@artbarn.org for more information.

Forum on Long-Term Financial Issues Facing Brookline

Mar. 30. Refreshments: 6:30 pm., Panel: 7 pm to 9 pm.
Selectmen's Hearing Room, Brookline Town Hall.
 Communities across the nation are facing serious budget shortfalls and drastic cuts in spending. What issues will the Town of Brookline be facing? Panelists: Betsy DeWitt, Chair, Board of Selectmen; Sean Cronin, Deputy Town Administrator; Harry Bohrs, Chair, Advisory Committee. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Brookline. For more information go to www.lwvbrookline.org or call 617-566-3238.

Stage Soup: Theater for Kids and Teens in Brookline Village

Attend a FREE CLASS to get your first taste of the Soup:
Tues., Mar. 29: 3-4:20pm (ages 8-12) or 4:30-5:50pm (ages 13-17)
Thur., Mar. 31: 3-4:20 (ages 8-12) or 4:30-5:50 (ages 13-17)
The Korean Church of Boston, 32 Harvard St. Brookline.
 Contact Ryan@stagesoup.com or call 617-735-5664 for more info.



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