

What's New at School?



While searching for a runaway Gingerbread Man (See related story on p. 6.), kindergartners and their teacher, Melissa Fontenot (back row, left), meet Assistant Head of School and Preschool and Elementary Principal Gladys Runnels (back row, center) and Cpl. Jesse Hale, who oversees the staff of sheriff's deputies on duty in our new Gate House.

The morning bell calling students back to class Aug. 12 also signaled the arrival of the 49th anniversary of Runnels School and the countdown to our milestone 50th year.

The 2013-14 school year will be one of transitions at Runnels as Founding Headmaster Dr. L. K. Runnels and Assistant Head of School and Preschool and Elementary Principal Gladys Runnels move toward their retirement in May.

Shifts in leadership have already taken place in the preschool, junior high, and high school, and at the Elementary Open House Aug. 26, Mrs. Runnels announced some changes in the elementary admin-

istration. "It will be with complete confidence and peace," she explained, "that I will pass the torch to Marcia Mackay (who will take over as Elementary Principal) next year. This will be a year of planning and training, so that the transition to new leadership will be a smooth one."

Stepping into Mrs. Mackay's position as Assistant Principal will be 2nd grade Reading teacher Beth Golden.

In announcing the changes, Mrs. Runnels said: "Our dream is that our school will continue to grow and flourish forever, as new leaders -- who share our vision and values -- take our places." She added that other leadership changes will be announced in the future.

Moving into her new role as Admissions Director this year is Sarah Haase, who reports that this school year we welcomed 91 new students to Runnels, including 35 to grades K-6, 34 to the preschool, and 22 to the junior and senior high schools. The elementary school has the highest enrollment, with a total of 321 students, followed by the high school,

(See "What's New" p. 2.)



Amelie Kharey

Perfect Score

Senior Amelie Kharey, earned a perfect composite score of 36 on a recent ACT test, according to Assistant Jr./Sr. High Principal for Student Services Dana Schlotterer. Less than one-tenth of one percent of students who take the exam earn a 36.

Amelie also placed in the 99th percentile on the PSAT.

In addition, she was named a National AP (Advanced Placement) Scholar this year, earning the highest possible score of 5 on nine separate exams, in the subjects of English Language and Composition, Human Geography, U.S. Government and Politics, U.S. History, Calculus AB, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics C - Electricity and Magnetism, and Physics C - Mechanical. She is enrolled in six AP courses this year.

Amelie is a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta and was instrumental in reviving the Environmental Science Club. She is president of the Junior Classical League and a member of the Bowling Team. Amelie also plays the clarinet and was a member of the High School District Honor Band and the High School All-State Symphonic Band last year.

Outside of school, she is a member of the Youth Advisory Board for the Capital

(See "Perfect Score" p. 7.)

Get Your Tickets for "Hello, Dolly!"



One of the great American musicals, *Hello, Dolly!* is coming to the stage of the Runnels Theater for the Performing Arts for three performances in September, with a cast and crew of Runnels alumni, parents, faculty and staff members, and

adult performers from the Greater Baton Rouge community. Some musicians and ensemble members are current Runnels students.

Based on Thornton Wilder's 1955 comedy, *The Matchmaker*, the show revolves around the escapades of the charming and meddlesome widow, Dolly Levi, as she maneuvers to bring romance to several couples, including the curmudgeonly half-millionaire Horace Vandergelder, his niece Ermengarde,

the two hapless clerks who work in Horace's general store, and eventually, herself.

Set in turn-of-the-twentieth century New York, the show, which won 10 Tony Awards on Broadway in 1964, features some of the all-time great show-stoppers, including "Before the Parade Passes By," "It Only Takes a Moment," "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," and the irrepressible "Hello, Dolly!"

Heading the cast as Dolly Levi is Runnels
(See "Hello, Dolly!" p. 6.)

At left: Chorus teacher Johnice Thoms as the lovable matchmaker Dolly Levi in the community-wide production of "Hello, Dolly!" on stage in the Runnels Theater for the Performing Arts Sept. 20-22.

What's New at School (continued from p. 1)

with 247, junior high, with 127, and the preschool, with 81.

In the few weeks since school started, students, parents, and faculty and staff members have been making a smooth adjustment to the new security routines and procedures put in place over the summer.

The new protocols, which were adopted after months of extensive research and consultation with risk assessment specialists, are proactive measures designed to help ensure the safety of our children and staff.

One visible part of the multifaceted security plan is the addition of the Gate House at the entrance to the Harrell's Ferry Rd. campus. A team of sheriff's deputies, supervised by Runnels graduate Jesse Hale ('00), is on duty from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm on school days.

The security enhancements, which affect various aspects of daily campus life, including traffic flow, have been "met with overwhelming support," according to Founding Headmaster Dr. L.K. Runnels and Assistant Head of School and Preschool and Elementary Principal Gladys Runnels.

They thank everyone for their ongoing cooperation as the system evolves over time. "With your help," said Dr. Runnels, "we will continue to have the safe and peaceful environment we all love."

At the preschool, a new sliding, electronic security gate has been installed across the driveway. "It's open for carpool hours and for teachers and staff members changing shifts around midday," said Preschool Co-Director Karen Runnels, but at other times, visitors must call the preschool office from the gate to gain entry.

Also new at the preschool is a covered walkway at the carpool area adjacent to the Molly Hightower Activity Building, she added. "It goes all the way back to the 2-year-olds' classroom."

On the 2's playground, opposite the activ-

ity building, a wooden fort was custom built this summer, with safety steps leading up to very cool and colorful steering wheels for the youngsters to play with.

Coming soon are shuttered doors to screen the 2-year-olds' playground area from the driveway, Karen Runnels added.

Brand new to the 3-year-olds' classroom are sturdy cubbies for storing daily essentials, and the Pre-K students are using the recently installed directional lines of red and blue tile on the floor in their classroom to practice the art of lining up in nice, straight lines.

In addition to the regular round of scrubbing, painting, and polishing that takes place every summer on both campuses, the outdoor garden area at the preschool was cleared to create a blank palette for a new "Science Discovery" area, which will be sponsored by the RPO.

On the Harrell's Ferry Rd. campus, a few of the interior spaces also have a new look. In the lower elementary classroom building, a series of interior doorways was constructed over the summer to connect Rooms 1, 2, and 3.

Now lower elementary students can move between those classrooms and into the Drama Room without going out onto the walkway.

The kindergarten and elementary playgrounds received some tender touches to prepare for the arrival of our youngsters. A brightly colored flower mural was hand painted on the wooden fence between the new vegetable and butterfly gardens (See related stories and photos on pages 6 and 7.) in the kindergarten play area by artists Wendi Hairford and Sydney Szot.

Ms. Hairford was a preschool teacher



The new flower mural in the Kindergarten Garden area makes a happy and colorful backdrop for a kindergarten snapshot.

at Runnels for many years, and her son, Jack Paul Faulkner ('09), was a Runnels "lifer," and Sydney was a member of the Runnels Class of 2010. We sincerely thank them for this charming contribution to the Runnels landscape.

Decorative child-sized benches also were added to this area by Gladys Runnels to create a comfortable, park-like atmosphere for the youngest members of the elementary school.

At the other end of the Harrell's Ferry Rd. campus, the high school has undergone some changes, too. The junior high and high school principals, assistant principals, and secretaries now share the High School Office.

Jr. High Principal Pamela Babcock has moved from Koenig Hall into the office formerly occupied by Jr./Sr. High Princi-



(From left) Morning Office Assistant for Jr./Sr. High Amy Taliaferro, Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal for Student Services Dana Schlotterer, Jr./Sr. High Principal and Guidance Counselor Conchetta Foshee, Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction Monica Bryan, and High School Secretary Marcia Gregg.

pal and Guidance Counselor Conchetta Foshee, who has relocated to the office where Dr. Runnels used to hang his hat. Dr. Runnels now has the office previously occupied by Mrs. Babcock.

Elementary teachers Lisa Harris and Amy Taliaferro, who

worked part-time last year as secretaries in the Jr. High Office in Koenig Hall, also have moved to the High School Office. They will work part-time as Office Assistants for Jr./Sr. High in a newly refurbished space near Jr./Sr. High Secretary Marcia Gregg. Mrs. Harris will work there in the afternoons and teach 3rd grade reading, composition, and spelling in the morning, and Mrs. Taliaferro will teach kindergarten science in the afternoons and be in the office in the mornings. Their former office in Koenig Hall is now an extra work room for teachers.

“Raider Stars Are Classy”

This summer, Elementary Assistant Principal and Guidance Counselor Marcia Mackay attended the 2nd annual National Conference on School Discipline in Las Vegas, where she participated in seminars and workshops presented by some of the most respected and acclaimed education experts of our generation, including Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong and Barbara Coloroso.

At the event, Mrs. Mackay was especially inspired by a workshop called “Be Classy,” presented by its creator, Kem Cazier, a longtime school principal from Wyoming.

“Be Classy” is an award-winning anti-bullying and self-esteem-building program that gives students practice in internalizing six positive behaviors for social success: gratitude, optimism, generosity, service, motivation, and self-esteem.

This fall, we will add several practices and strategies from the “Be Classy” program to our “Raider Star” program.

“Be Classy” does a lot of what we

already do in ‘Raider Star,’” Mrs. Mackay explained. “But with ‘Raider Star,’ we reward students extrinsically (by giving out prizes for doing good things), but the ‘Be Classy,’ program turns it around and makes the rewards more intrinsic.”

She noted that “Be Classy” is optimistic, positive, and goal oriented. It teaches students to look for the good in themselves and in others and helps them to believe in themselves, value themselves and others, and set and accomplish goals.

The program takes a long-term approach to social skills and self-esteem building, with the ultimate objective of guiding children toward becoming contributing adult members of a community.

As part of the “Raider Stars Are Classy” program this year, students will



Mrs. Mackay waited in line to meet master educator and author Harry Wong at the Las Vegas conference. He and his wife, Rosemary, “are like the rock stars of education,” she explained.

be writing in “Gratitude Journals” on a daily basis, to help them “look for the good” in themselves and others, Mrs. Mackay explained.

In conjunction with the “Raider Stars Are Classy” program, service projects also will be done more consistently in every grade, probably once per quarter. “Being involved in projects

for the community makes kids proud of themselves,” Mrs. Mackay said. “They are longing for opportunities to serve others.”

From now on, when you consider the word “classy,” think of it as an acronym that stands for the tenets of the new “Raider Stars Are CLASSY” program at Runnels: “C” -- Count your blessings; “L” -- Look for the good; “A” -- Acts of Kindness; “S” -- Service and Selflessness; “S” -- Self-motivation; “Y” -- You are valued!

A Chance to Share with Special Campers

When Runnels eighth grader Max Sager celebrated his Bar Mitzvah last year, he turned the occasion into an opportunity to help others. Through his efforts, he was able to raise \$3,200 in donations for Camp Dream Street, a summer camp program for children with physical disabilities.

Max used two strategies to raise money for the camp. For his Bar Mitzvah, he requested that his family and friends make contributions to the Camp Dream Street Fund rather than give him traditional presents. He also teamed up with local Baton Rouge eatery Bistro Byronz to round up contributions. With Max handling PR, the restaurant held a fundraiser on Feb. 4 and donated 20 percent of food and drink purchases and 10 percent of carry-out orders to the Camp Dream Street Fund.

According to an article about Max’s project published in the July 2013 issue of *Southern Jewish Life*, he chose Camp

Dream Street as a Bar Mitzvah service project, because of his love for sports. “I wanted to help kids with physical disabilities to feel ‘regular’ when it came to sports,” he said.

Camp Dream Street, which has been in operation since 1975, is sponsored by the National Federation of Temple Youth’s Southern region. Approximately 60 children between the ages of 8 and 14

with diagnoses of spina bifida, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, communicative disorders, or other developmental disabilities attend the camp in Utica, MS, free of charge. Most come from Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and West Tennessee.

At the four-day, overnight camp, youngsters participate in typical summer camp activities like athletics, fishing, canoeing, horseback riding, exploring the outdoors, arts and crafts, and singing. The mission of the camp, according to its website, is to make it a place “where children with physical disabilities are given the chance

to be children – not ‘special’ children, not children with disabilities, but just children.”

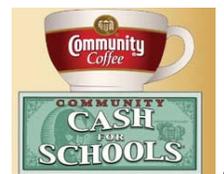
This summer, Max and his family visited the camp. “When we arrived,” Max said, “it was time for what they called the sports showcase, and some of the kids were playing basketball with the items I had purchased with the money my friends, family and I donated. While there, I also watched kids swing on the zip line and have free swim. We had lunch with some of the staff and campers and watched the song session. It was an amazing feeling to see those kids benefit from the new equipment and see all of the things those kids can do.”



Max Sager and his mom, Ellen Sager at Camp Dream Street.

Keep Those Labels Coming

Please remember to clip and bring in your General Mills Box Top Coupons, Community Coffee UPCs, and Campbell’s UPCs. Labels can be dropped off in the Elementary Library.



Students Explore College and Career Options

Some Runnels students took advantage of the summer vacation to broaden their academic horizons by attending specialized programs and conferences held at various universities around the nation.

Senior Caroline Bonaventure participated in Vanderbilt University's PAVE program, designed to expose high school students to courses of study in the areas of biology, health care, and technology. The six-week program also emphasized skills that are crucial for college success, such as time management and independent living. Caroline said she enjoyed the program, adding that it helped her to narrow down her choice of college majors because it offered so many "different subjects and labs in a short amount of time."



At the National Youth Leadership Conference in Houston this summer, sophomore Michael Reeves (right) learns to use an electrothermal surgical blade.

Exploring his interest in the field of medicine this summer was sophomore Michael Reeves, who attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Houston, Texas. The 10-day program introduced students to concepts and practices in health care, medical ethics and research. Michael visited Methodist Hospital and the University of Texas Health Science Center, where he observed surgeries and learned to use equipment like the DaVinci robot and the electro-thermal surgical blade. A highlight of the experience was participating in a simulation where participants were asked to diagnose and treat fictional patients.

Grey Carruth, a Runnels senior, went all the way to California to attend a National Student Leadership Conference on Medicine and Health Care at the University of California at Berkeley. The 10-day seminar saw Grey performing clinical rounds, learning surgical techniques, and exploring today's health care challenges. He said he plans to study biomedical engineering, and possibly strive toward a

degree in medicine in the future.

Erin Dean, also a senior, traveled to the University of Alabama in June to participate in its Early College program. She took college courses in the Life Span of Human Development and Microeconomics and earned grades of A+ in both. The program, which is open to students in grades 10-12, offers college-level classes on campus during the summer and over the internet during the school year. Erin was also invited to be a University of Alabama Early College Ambassador to share her experience and enthusiasm for the program with other interested high schoolers.

Senior Amelie Kharey attended the Summer Science Program at Tulane. The session, which she described as jam-packed, consisted of two weeks of lectures and labs in disciplines ranging from superconductivity to nanoparticle construction and bioengineering. Amelie said she received one hour of college credit for her efforts.

Robotics enthusiast Caitlyn Moore, a junior at Runnels, went to Georgia Tech over the summer to spend nine days attending the National Student Leadership Conference on Engineering and Robotics. One of only two students from Louisiana at the seminar, Caitlyn learned about designing and creating wind turbines, robots, and filtration devices from common household items. Caitlyn, who said she enjoyed the conference and felt as though she had made lifelong friends during her stay, plans to study computer science or electrical engineering when she goes to college.

New Camps Debut at Runnels This Summer

Runnels held its first week-long Tennis Camp at Forest Park this summer. Coach Kathrin Sieberth reports that participants had "great fun while learning stroke production, scoring, and strategy." Participants were sophomores Michael Connelly, George Penniman, and Samantha Sieberth, freshman Jeehan Mikdadi, and 8th grader Jack Penniman.



Demonstrating her backhand at Runnels Tennis Camp is sophomore Samantha Sieberth.

Later in June, Runnels partnered with Parkview Baptist coaches and students for a second week of Tennis Camp at Forest Park. Runnels participants were Michael Connelly, 7th grader Eric Huygues, junior Brad Sherman, and Samantha Sieberth.

Runnels also held its first Drama Camp for students in grades 2-8 in June. Neena Kelfstrom, our K-12 Theater Program Chair, said 30 students participated and the camp was a great success. Instructors included Jorge and Cristin Ponjuan and Everett Hibner ('12).

Personal Parking



Paula Naquin has her new parking sign but hasn't yet decided where on campus to park it.

Kindergarten Director Paula Naquin became the second faculty member at Runnels to receive her own permanent parking place for completing 30 years of service to our school.

At the All-School Faculty Meeting held in the auditorium Aug. 6, Dr. Runnels and Gladys Runnels presented her with a blue and white parking sign to make it official. As we go to press, Mrs. Naquin still hasn't quite decided which parking spot to claim as her own.

Last year, Preschool and Elementary secretary Pamela Culp was awarded a parking spot for completing her third decade at Runnels, and Dr. and Mrs. Runnels have been at our school for more than half a century.

Staff members recognized for completing more than 21 years of service were K-12 Math Department Head Elizabeth Novak, Administrative Assistant for Academic Resources Wendy Worsham, and kindergarten art teacher Lisa Sanner. Each received lifetime passes (two free tickets) to all productions in the Runnels Theater for the Performing Arts and the Little Theater (Drama Room).

In addition, preschool teacher Millie Johnson and high school math teacher Mark Landry are celebrating 20 years at Runnels this year, and Administrative Assistant for Graphic Design Penny Bridges and P.E. Department Head Mary Camille Maddox have been with us for more than 25 years. Congratulations to all.

Runnels Families Join Together To Serve Others



Fifth graders Wesley Stevenson (left) and Garrett Rhinehart bag lunchtime sandwiches for inner city kids.

Several Runnels families helped provide nourishing lunches to needy children receiving free swimming lessons at Crawfish Aquatics this summer. Elementary teacher Julie Stevenson said that the families shopped, assembled, and delivered 200 brown bag lunches to the pool as part of the “Brown Bag Offering” program, sponsored by members of church communities across the Baton Rouge area. More than 10,000 lunches were provided for inner city children participating in summer athletic and Vacation Bible School programs in our area. Runnels participants were the Stevenson (Michael, grade 8, Wesley, grade 5, and Baron, grade 3), Rhinehart (Parker, grade 8, and Garrett, grade 5), D’Gerolamo (Nikolas, grade 4), Bourque (Braeden, grade 5, and Briley, K, and Asevedo (Grace, grade 6, and Alex, grade 3) families.

Admit One, with EBR Parish Library Card



Your EBR Parish Library card (EBRPL) is the price of admission to our very first “Car Show” sponsored by the Jr./Sr. High Library (Andy Mack Library) in September. Lined up for the viewing pleasure of students in grades 7-12 and faculty and staff members -- holding current EBRPL cards -- will be a 1961 MGA, a ‘32 Roadster, a Viper, and several Corvettes. The event will take place in the parking area in front of Novak Hall (“Porter Park”) during activity period Sept. 30.

September is “EBRPL Library Card Sign-up Month,” said Jr./Sr. High Librarian Charlotte Lockhart. “The car show is a reward

and incentive to encourage all Runnels students in grades 7-12 to get their cards,” she added.

Jr./Sr. High Librarian Kristen Manning explained that having an EBRPL card gives students access to more online resources. Students can log on to the EBR Parish Library website -- at school or at home -- and tap into a multitude of online resources. The EBRPL’s digital online service is called “Overdrive”!

If you live in another parish and are not eligible to apply for an EBRPL card in the usual way, take your parish library card to an EBR Parish Library and pick up a “Letter of Good Standing.” You can take the letter to an EBR Parish Library and get an EBRPL card.

Runner in Residence

Elementary teacher and dedicated runner Mary Winnett put a lot of miles on her Nikes this summer by participating in an ambitious schedule of running challenges ranging from the “June Bride’s Run” around City Park (She wore a bridesmaid’s dress from her wedding 23 years ago.) to the Rocketchix Duathlon at LSU (She finished 2nd overall in the “fat tire division” and 1st in her age group).



Mrs. Winnett and her daughter Lilly (‘10) also ran in the “Wounded Warrior” half marathon in Dallas. Mrs. Winnett said, “It was quite something to be surrounded and supported by so many of our country’s finest service men and women at the event.”

Runner Mary Winnett roared into action at the Greater Baton Rouge Zoo Run in August to finish 1st in her age and gender category.

Todaro Emcees International Harp Competition

One important summer destination for Runnels Harp Choir Director and harp instructor Rebecca Todaro was the campus of Indiana University, where she had a gig as the on-stage announcer for the 9th USA International Harp Competition (USAIHC),

one of the largest and most prestigious in the world.

The contest, held over a two-week period at the Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana, attracted more than 60 applicants from 22 different nations. Only 45 were chosen to participate in the event. “It’s a huge compliment to be accepted to compete,” said Mrs. Todaro.



Rebecca Todaro teaches a class of elementary students in the Harp studio at Runnels.

This year’s winner, a young harpist from The Netherlands, was awarded a gold medal and a custom made gold concert grand harp designed by Lyon & Healy and valued at \$55,000. The competition, which was founded in 1989, is held every three years at Indiana University, which has the largest harp department in the world.

Mrs. Todaro, who now serves on the USAIHC Board of Directors, was herself a contestant in the competition 18 years ago. She said she enjoyed being back for this year’s event: “It was a thrill to sit on stage for each performance and facilitate the competition. I also got to see lots of friends, many whom I began friendships with when we were competing in the USAIHC in 1995, now serving as judges, board members, teachers and ... as announcer!”

The next USAIHC, Mrs. Todaro said, will be in 2016. “Start practicing!” she added. The competition is open to harpists between the ages of 16 and 32 anywhere in the world.



In the Library ... Third grader Emma Collett takes an Accelerated Reader quiz in the Elementary Library during the first week of school.

Cheer Squads Ramp Up Skills at UCA Camp

Members of the Runnels varsity and junior high cheer squads spent four days at LSU this July expanding their repertoire of jumps, dances, lifts, and routines along with hundreds of other cheerleaders from around our state at a Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) summer camp.

Cheer coach and sponsor Holly Wilder said that our teams did well in the camp competitions. “The



UCA All-American Mackenzie Byrd

varsity cheerleaders came in first in the dance competition and third in the cheer contest for small varsity teams. Our junior high cheerleaders had a strong showing in the dance competition, also.

They won a blue ribbon on evaluation night.”

Senior Mackenzie Byrd, captain of the varsity squad, was named a UCA All-American cheerleader for the third time. She won a special medallion and became eligible to participate in a holiday parade

in one of several locations, including London, Orlando, and New York. Mackenzie picked New York City and will join 600 other UCA All-Americans from around the nation to perform cheer routines at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in November.

Mackenzie also was one of only two cheerleaders at UCA camp to receive the Leadership Award.

Junior high cheerleaders participating in the camp were co-captains Kaitlyn Roy and Natalie Wilder, grade 8, and 6th graders Taylor Koontz, Sophie Grace Sanders, Eli Todaro, Paris Vercher, and Kissa Nicholas-Whitt. Varsity cheerleaders, in addition to Mackenzie, were junior Karli Blair, sophomore Irene Lewis, freshmen Riley Stewart and Blair LeBleu, and 8th graders Jourdan Milton and McKenna Tregre. (Natalie Wilder and Kaitlyn Roy serve concurrently on the junior high and varsity squads.)

Coach Wilder and the cheerleaders sincerely thank all of the parents who helped make cheer camp a great success, including Glenda FeeFee, Kim Blair, Maura

Lewis, Chris Wilder, Vicki LeBleu, MC Stewart, Krista Roy, and Jodi Koontz.



Above: Jr. High cheerleaders (from left) Taylor Koontz, Kissa Nicholas-Whitt, Eli Todaro, Sophie Grace Sanders, and Paris Vercher.

We Sincerely Thank...

... Christian and Cathaleen Caillouet, parents of Christian (grade 1) and Kaylee (grade 5), for donating an activity table to the preschool.

... Runnels Athletic Trainer Marcella Babcock, and Ray Castle, PhD, ATC, LAT, for conducting the optional concussion baseline computerized assessments for Runnels junior and senior high athletes this summer.

... Greg and Amy Taliaferro, parents of Meredith (grade 3), and Aaron and Justin (grade 7), for building the butterfly garden in the kindergarten playground.

... The members of third-grade Brownie Girl Scout troop 10164: Maggie Arce-neaux, Samantha Marino, Paige Odom, Cassidy Wartelle, Meredith Taliaferro, Ali Guerin, and Lauren Bhat, for donating soil and mulch, plants, and hard work to set up the butterfly garden in the kindergarten playground. The donation was funded by a portion of the proceeds from their cookie sale. We also thank troop leaders Jennifer Marino, mother of Samantha (grade 3), Meredith Wartelle, mother of Cassidy (grade 3) and Lilah (grade 1), and Tammy Bhat, mother of Lauren (grade 3).

“Hello, Dolly,” continued from p. 1 ... Chorus Director Johnice Thoms, with Runnels Theater stage veteran John Runnels portraying the target of her amorous intentions, Horace Vandergelder.

Ann Dalrymple directs the production, with Johnice Thoms overseeing vocal direction, and Runnels 6th-12th Grade Band Director Jill Swetnam conducting the *Hello, Dolly!* Orchestra. Musicians are: grade 8 - Erina Buchholz, violin, Garrett Miller, clarinet, and Ashley Stansbury, alto saxophone; grade 9 - Rebekah Burns and Marisa Russo, flute, Michael Martinez, trumpet, Andrew Mitchell, percussion, Ross Stephens, coronet, and John Wiese, tenor saxophone; grade 10 - Alex Stansbury, piano; grade 12 - Hannah Boutwell, cello, and Amelie Kharey, clarinet and alto saxophone; adult musicians - John Baird, bass, Bon Cameron, tuba, Emily Cotten, violin, and Gwen Thompson, piano.

Performances are Sept. 20 and 21 at 7 pm and Sept. 22 at 2 pm. Advance tickets are \$12 for students and \$15 for adults; and \$20 for all at the door. Call the Runnels High School Office at 751-2192 for tickets today!

Gingerbread Man Spotted in Kindergarten... On the first day of school, the kindergartners set out on a quest to track down the Gingerbread Man, who had reportedly escaped from the classroom. After hearing that he had been “seen” in the Computer Lab, Elementary Library, new Gate House, Admissions Building, and on the playground, the children were in hot pursuit. While trailing this illusive character, they also had a chance to visit some of the people and places on campus they will be seeing on a day-to-day basis.

While out searching, kindergartner Nico Morgan spotted Sheriff’s Deputy Jesse Hale, and he knew that help was at hand. “Have you seen the Gingerbread Man?” he asked. Cpl. Hale, one of the security guards on duty in the Gate House, earnestly reported that he was pretty positive, well..., almost sure, that he really had seen the Gingerbread Man.

Everyone the kindergartners met had a great time spinning tall tales and “helping” them find their quarry. It was a great first-day adventure and “getting to know you” activity for the youngsters.



Third-grade Brownie Girl Scouts in Troop 10164 display some of the greenery they purchased and planted for the kindergarten’s new “Butterfly Garden.”

Eagle Scout Projects Serve School and Community

Preston Poirier and Stephen Watson, both freshman at Runnels, recently completed the requirements for becoming Eagle Scouts, the highest rank attainable in American Boy Scouting. Fewer than five percent of all Boy Scouts achieve this honor. Each devised, organized, and finished important service projects that will benefit our school and community.

Preston, a member of Troop 184, oversaw the construction of two planters to serve as part of our "Kindergarten Garden" at Runnels, and Stephen, who is the Senior Patrol Leader in Troop 888, planned and coordinated a fundraiser and supply drive for a local children's shelter that resulted



Preston Poirier surveys the results of his Eagle Scout project: two newly built planters for the kindergarten playground.

in a donation of \$3,000 and much needed food items and supplies.

Preston, with fellow Scouts and volunteers wielding hammers, saws, and shovels, supervised the building and installation of two raised planter boxes on our kindergarten playground this July. He said he raised money for the project by organizing a bake sale at a local Wal-Mart (with baked goods supplied by kindergarten parents), passing out fliers, and knocking on doors in his community to ask for donations.

He said the planter boxes were built out of treated pine planks that his mom, Suzi Brown, transported from Home Depot. The Scouts and volunteers filled the planters with soil and mulch they bought at a discount from Harb's Oasis.

"In doing the project," Preston said, "I was exercising what I learned as a Scout: leadership, how to work in a team, and communication skills."

Kindergarten science teacher Amy Taliaferro said that one of the planters will be a pumpkin garden, and the other will be a "Garden for Giving," with vegetables to share with others.

For his Eagle Scout project, Stephen decided to

organize a fundraiser and supply drive for the Youth Oasis Children's Shelter in Baton Rouge. The shelter, located on Acadian Thruway, provides emergency shelter and support services to abandoned, homeless, and runaway kids between the ages of 10 and 21.

The shelter also helps kids who are 18 and coming out of the foster care system transition into the community in a positive way. "I don't know what I would do if I were in their place," Stephen said. "I just felt like something had to be done."



Boy Scout Stephen Watson delivers supplies and donations he collected through his Eagle Scout Project to the Youth Oasis Children's Shelter.

To gather donations for the charity, Stephen decided on a two-pronged approach. He led fellow Scouts and volunteers in holding an afternoon fundraiser at the Hi-Nabor on Jones Creek Rd. in late June, and he set up an on-line donation site on Razoo and another social media website. He raised nearly \$2,000. In addition, Alarm Center Security, owned by Stephen's dad, Brian Watson, who also was an Eagle Scout, matched the contributions once they reached \$1,000.

The Hi-Nabor event also yielded contributions of canned and packaged food items, clothes, and other supplies for the charity. Many donations for the project also were made at NapMat.com on Jones Creek Rd., which is owned by Stephen's mom, Adaina Watson.

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Perfect Score

continued from page 1

Area United Way, works part-time at a local movie theater, and enjoys hiking.

Amelie is the daughter of Janine and Alok Kharey.

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Family Directories

Be sure to stock up on 2013-14 Runnels Family Directories. They are available at our Open Houses and in all school offices for \$5.00 each. Get enough for your home, offices, cars, and kids! Any proceeds will be used for classroom enhancements.



Get Involved with the RPO

Get to know other parents at our school. Lend a hand and volunteer. Be a part of fundraising. Join the RPO at our fall planning meeting on Oct. 9 at 7 pm in the elementary Drama Room. We'll discuss upcoming events, volunteer opportunities such as assisting in the libraries, teacher appreciation projects and fundraising.

If you are interested in volunteering, be sure to complete and return our volunteer form located on the RPO microsite at www.runnelsrpo.org, as well as a current list of officers, coordinators, calendar of events, and much more.

Email RPO president Nicole Duet Latiolais, rpo@runnels.org, if you are interested in participating, or have any questions. We'll see you at the next meeting.

-- Nicole Duet Latiolais



Open Houses Coming Up

- Preschool 2s, Tuesday, September 10, at 7 pm
- Preschool 3s, Wednesday, September 11, at 7 pm
- Pre-Kindergartners, Thursday, September 12, at 7 pm
- Kindergarten, Friday, September 13, at 8:30 am
(This one Open House is for both parents and children.)

RUNNELS

PRESCHOOL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
17255 South Harrell's Ferry Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816
www.runnels.org

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