



Above: Entering the theater for the 2014 high school graduation ceremony are, from left, Jr./Sr. High Principal Conchetta Foshee, keynote speaker Dr. Eddie Furniss, Founding Headmaster Dr. L.K. Runnels, and his successor, Dr. Greg Brandao, who takes over as headmaster July 1.

2014 Graduation Day

son, Lane Kesel, Kourtney Khalid-Abasi, Amelie Kharey, Riggs March, Olivia Neyland, Joe Pusateri, Roz Ruffi-Tabrizi, Lena Sheikha, Carson Szot, Meghana Theegala, Alec Warren, and Stephanie West-Harmon.

Presenting the keynote address was legendary LSU baseball great Dr. Eddie Furniss, whose powerhouse swing on the batter's mound led the Tigers to back-to-back College World Championships in 1996 and '97. He won the Dick Howser Trophy in '98 as college baseball's most outstanding player, has been inducted into three Halls of Fame, and still ranks among the NCAA's all-time leaders in home runs and RBIs. After a short stint in the minors, Dr. Furniss left professional baseball to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor. He now practices family medicine alongside his dad, Dr. Ed Furniss, in his hometown of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Dr. Furniss shared his inspiring story of success as a scholar and an athlete with the graduates and offered tried-and-true advice on how they might achieve success for themselves.

His method, he said, was inspired by LSU Baseball Coach Skip Bertman, who often told his players: "Anything you vividly imagine, ardently desire, firmly believe, and enthusiastically act upon, must, absolutely must, come to pass."

Dr. Furniss advised the graduates to set realistic goals they truly believe in, surround themselves with a "good team" that has purpose and vision, demand excellence of themselves, work through adversity, and make the wisest choices possible every single day, in pursuit of their goals. "Figure out the price of success," he explained, "and pay it."

Another highlight came when Amelie Kharey, the 2014 Valedictorian addressed the class to thank Dr. Runnels, the faculty and staff, and the graduates' families, who "made our ascendance to this point, this commencement, possible." She urged the graduates, who "are bound together by the 'Runnels Experience'" to move forward boldly and embrace new experiences. "Be creative, bold seekers of light," she said. "Take some risks. and don't be afraid to reach for the sun. You have strong roots."

(See Commencement, p. 2.)



Valedictorian Amelie Kharey (left) and Salutatorian Caroline Bonaventure.

The 28th commencement exercises for Runnels High School, held May 15 in the Runnels Theater, recognized and honored the unique accomplishments of the 60 members of the Class of 2014.

After the Opening Prayer, offered by the Rev. Kyle Wassom of The Chapel in the Oaks, our next headmaster, Dr. Greg Brandao, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chorus Director Johnice Thoms sang the National Anthem.

Officiating at the ceremony -- for the last time in his capacity as Founding Headmaster -- was Dr. L.K. Runnels, who retires in July after 50 years of service to our school. "We're graduating, too," he told the seniors and their guests, smiling at his wife, Assistant Head of School and Preschool and Elementary Principal Gladys Runnels, who was sitting in the audience.

In keeping with a long-standing Runnels tradition, the graduates who have been with us since kindergarten or before presented roses to their parents. Assisting them on stage was Jr./Sr. High Principal Conchetta Foshee. Our 22 "lifers" are : Rahliat Animashaun, Caroline Bonaventure, Grey Carruth, Zoe Craig, Erin Dean, Rebecca Fennell, Michael Gallant, Alexandra Hedrick, Bobby Johnson, Jake John-

Saying Our Good-byes

Throughout our school community, students, teachers, staff members, parents, and friends found touching, thoughtful, and meaningful ways to say "good-bye," "thank you," and "we love you" to Dr. and Mrs. Runnels as they chart a steady course into retirement.

The preschool students and faculty said their good-byes with a charming farewell ceremony held on May 9. Dr. and Mrs. Runnels visited each preschool classroom where they were presented with hugs, songs and recitations, and some lovely gifts for their home garden. The 2-year-olds' class gave them wind chimes, the 3-year-olds', a monogrammed garden flag decorated with their fingerprints in the shape of a heart, and the pre-kindergarteners presented

(See Retirement, p. 2.)



At the Sixth-Grade Graduation, Dr. and Mrs. Runnels (far left), Dr. Brandao, and students watch a farewell video capturing precious moments from this year and a few from days gone by.



The 3 year olds say their special good-bye to Dr. and Mrs. Runnels at a ceremony on May 9 and present them with a garden flag featuring their fingerprints in the shape of a heart.

tion and service as headmaster, Dr. Runnels was presented with a commemorative plaque. In addition, to recognize Mrs. Runnels' dedication to the arts and arts education, the Runnels Theater will be renamed in her honor. A new blue-and-white sign reading the "Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre" soon will have a permanent home at the building's entrance.

At the luncheon, everybody enjoyed a variety of salads provided by Ashley Manor and desserts prepared by Amy Monett and Camillia Smith, with cakes donated by Elizabeth Novak of Nothing Bundt Cakes.

In May, at our end-of-the-year award ceremonies and both graduations, Dr. and Mrs. Runnels received even more surprises when students and faculty showed their gratitude, appreciation, and affection with an array of songs, homemade cards, videos, hugs, heartfelt words, a standing ovation, and gifts.

We thank everyone who helped plan, organize and carry out these magnificent tributes to our longtime leaders and beloved friends, with a special salute to luncheon committee members, Marcia Mackay, Conchetta Foshee, Beth Golden, Sarah Haase, Monica Bryan, Dana Schlotterer, and Pamela Babcock, and to Paula Naquin, Debbie Davenport, Rhonda Tucker, and Marsha Curry, for providing the duck-themed table decorations, in honor of Dr. Runnels and his "quacking" cane.

Top right: Preschool and Elementary Secretary Pamela Culp (left) gives Gladys Runnels a quilt decorated with Principal's Choice art.



Right: At the faculty and staff retirement luncheon are, from left, Elementary Assistant Principal and Guidance Counselor Marcia Mackay, Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal Monica Bryan, Gladys Runnels, and Dr. L.K. Runnels. Far right: With the help of kindergarten teacher Sarah Haase, Gladys Runnels opens the surprise gift of a "Rainbow of Friends" T-shirt (in her size) at the Kindergarten Recognition Ceremony May 19.



Stepping forward to be recognized as the Salutatorian was Caroline Bonaventure.



Maddie Winnett

Also honored were the three graduates earning perfect 4.0 grade-point averages in every high school class they took: Erin Dean, Madeline Winnett, and Amelie Kharey.

On stage throughout the ceremony to assist Dr. Runnels with the presentation of awards and diplomas were High School Assistant Principals Monica Bryan and Dana Schlotterer.

The ceremony concluded with a screening of the Senior Memories Video, with each graduate receiving a keepsake copy, and the singing of the "Alma Mater," led by Johnice Thoms and accompanied by musicians John Baird, Dan Cassin, Jennifer Cassin, Shanna Drescher, Gladys Runnels, and Jill Swetnam.

After the ceremony, a gala reception with punch, cakes and huge chocolate covered strawberries was held in the school gym.

We sincerely thank graduation committee members Pamela Babcock, Monica Bryan, Jennifer Carpenter, Kenneth Copsey, Lety Ellsworth, Conchetta Foshee, Marcia Gregg, Pamela Gyan, Lisa Harris, Leah Jordan, Kristen Manning, Amy Monett, Karen Rhinehart, Gladys Runnels, and Dana Schlotterer.

Thanks also go to the National Honor Society and sponsor Pamela Gyan, whose members served as ushers and assisted in many ways at the event.

Winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award, Mackenzie Byrd, and Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal for Student Services Dana Schlotterer.



An Open Letter to Parents, Faculty, and Students from Gladys and Kelly Runnels

Thank you for making the school year just ended a fabulous one in so many ways. Our students received significant recognitions and awards from "external" sources -- in the form of invitations to perform in wonderful programs, acceptance to universities and scholarships, excellent coverage of performances in local media. We swell with pride when we hear talk about Runnels being the "gold standard" in the educational world. Thank you for your constant offers to

help out in so many ways, with your hands and smiles. And also with your dollars -- contributions to our Annual Fund have exceeded \$18,000, the largest amount in many years.

Thank you for your willingness to change and adapt as our school strives to meet the increasing complexities and demands of the modern world. Thank you for welcoming new leaders appointed to steer Runnels into the future. We know they all treasure your support and acceptance.

On a personal note, we are overwhelmed and humbled by the many, many celebrations and recognitions we have received as we transition into retirement. We will have so many special memories to savor into the future. We thank you for your great generosity and good wishes.

May God continue to bless Runnels School.

*Sincerely,
Gladys and Kelly Runnels*

Sixth Graders Move to Junior High

All of our 6th graders received their elementary school diplomas at a graduation ceremony held in the Runnels Theater the evening of May 20.

Guiding the students through the graduation exercises -- for the final time in her long career as Elementary School Principal -- was Gladys Runnels, who is slated to retire in July. Assisting her on stage were Dr. L.K. Runnels and Elementary Assistant Principal and Guidance Counselor Marcia Mackay, who will succeed her as Elementary Principal starting in July. Other dignitaries on hand to congratulate the 6th graders and welcome them to junior high were Dr. Greg Brandao, Conchetta Foshee, and Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal Pamela Babcock.

After welcoming the sixth graders and their guests to the ceremony, Mrs. Runnels pointed out that of the 60 graduates, 28 started at Runnels in preschool, and 15 came on board in kindergarten or first grade. In addition, three -- Sam Haase, Lance Kraft, and Erin Oehrle -- are second-generation Runnels students. She invited these students and their parents on stage for recognition.

Sam's dad, Bren Haase ('89), was a "lifelong" Runnels student. An outstanding varsity athlete, his name is still listed on the Athletic Hall of Fame in the gym. Lance's mom, Stephanie Hightower ('87), started at Runnels at the tender age of two. She has the distinction of being the very first valedictorian of the very first graduating class at Run-



Second generation Runnels students present roses to their parents at the graduation: Lance Kraft and his mom, Stephanie Kraft ('87), Sam Haase and his dad, Bren Haase ('89), and Erin Oehrle and her mom, Lynn Oehrle ('91).

nels High School. Erin's mom, Lynn Oehrle ('91), who started at Runnels in elementary school, finished up as the valedictorian of



Sixth grade "Raider Stars of the Year," (from left) Alexis Sutton, Chloe Sanders, Mitchell Egger, and John Michael Spillane.

arts awards.

Junior Beta Service awards went to Daniel Harris, Sam Haase, Jack Kahn, Phoenix Knowles, Anna Manning, and Ellie Russo. Receiving Junior Beta Outstanding Service awards were Catherine Bonaventure, Cole Latiolais, and Aidan Matthews.

Shakespeare Monologue Competition awards went to Catherine Bonaventure, for winning 1st place, Annie Fink, for coming in 2nd, and Taylor Koontz, for earning 3rd place.

The sixth graders honored as "Raider Stars of the Year" were Alexis Sutton, 6a, Chloe Sanders, 6b, Mitchell Egger, 6c, and John Michael Spillane, 6d.

During the ceremony, the whole class and Mrs. Mackay surprised Dr. and Mrs. Runnels with a farewell presentation. There were presents, a slide show of the 6th graders saying their good-byes, and a special song thanking Dr. and Mrs. Runnels for creating the "Wonderful World" of Runnels School. Conducting the children as they sang "What a Wonderful World" was Chorus Director Johnice Thoms.

Another highlight of the evening was the singing of the "Alma Mater" and the first public viewing of the 6th-Grade Video, copies of which were presented to each graduate to help them recall this important year of their lives at Runnels.

After the ceremony, the graduates and their guests adjourned to the gym for cake and punch.

We sincerely thank music director Johnice Thoms, awards coordinator Wendy Worsham, and reception hosts Debbie Davenport (coordinator), Amy Monett (coordinator), Jennifer and Dan Cassin, Marsha Curry, Diane Davis, Neena Kelfstrom, Brent Lax, Colleen LeBlanc, Mary Camille Maddox, Lee Randall, Tamara Smith, Jill Swetnam, Mrs. Thoms, and Rhonda Tucker.

her high school graduating class. She also served as head varsity cheerleader and was named homecoming queen in her senior year. Mrs. Oehrle now serves as an alternate member on the Runnels Board of Trustees.

Before receiving their diplomas, many of the 6th graders were recognized on stage for service, academic excellence, and for visual and performing

Caught on Campus



Hats Off ... Congratulations to the 1st and 2nd grade drama students for their production of "Hats, the Musical" in the Little Theater May 9. Above are members of the 2a cast, (from left) Kareem Badawi, Hope Oubre, Jayden Kovacs, and Olivia Williams, singing a song from the show. Kristen Manning directed the play.



Science Explorium ... To reveal words written in lemon juice on white paper for the "Invisible Ink" demonstration at the "Science Explorium," in the gym May 8, Nina Woodward, 5a, paints over them with iodine, causing a chemical change that turns the words purple, as kindergartner John Kirby (right) observes.

"R" AWARD WINNERS



Dr. Runnels presents the "R" Award to this year's most outstanding scholar-athletes in the senior class, Kourtney Khalid-Abasi (above left) and Jake Johnson, at the High School Athletic Awards Ceremony held May 4 in the Runnels Theater.



Where Are They Going Next?

This year's graduates will advance to college with more scholarship money to their credit than any previous Runnels class. According to Dana Schlotterer, the High School Assistant Principal for Student Services, the total value of independent or institutional scholarships awarded to our seniors over the next four years of college -- not including TOPS -- will be \$4,788,208!

"That is an average of \$79,803 per Runnels senior," she said, adding that among the 34 students receiving these institutional scholarships, the average was just shy of \$141,000 each.

Of our 60 graduates, Mrs. Schlotterer explained, 52 are projected to qualify for TOPS. She noted that 28 percent should earn the TOPS Honors award and 37 percent should qualify for the TOPS Performance award. "That's 65 percent of our class reaching one of the higher levels of TOPS awards," she said.

The average ACT score of the senior class was a 25, and the average grade-point average was 3.36. Runnels seniors received acceptance letters from 66 different colleges and universities. Here's where they'll be hanging their backpacks next year.

Valedictorian **Amelie Kharey** (*summa cum laude*) will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to study engineering. Salutatorian **Caroline Bonaventure** (*summa cum laude*) will enroll as a freshman at Tulane University in New Orleans, where she has been awarded the Dean's Honors Scholarship as well as a TOPS honors scholarship.

Among the 22 percent of our graduates heading out of state are **Rahliat Animashaun**, on both athletic and academic scholarships to Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, GA, where she will be on the soccer team, **Will Brandenburg**, who is heading to Purdue University in Indiana, on a Global Leadership Scholarship, and **Grey Carruth** (*cum laude*) who makes a sharp turn to the West to study industrial design at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ, as a New American



Joseph Cutrer will stay in town and enroll at Our Lady of the Lake College, and Erin Dean will attend Texas A & M.

University Scholar. **Zoe Craig** will enroll at Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia, on a volleyball athletic scholarship and a merit scholarship.

Erin Dean (*summa cum laude*) will be a student at Texas A & M in College Station, **Rebecca Fennell**

(*magna cum laude*) plans to enroll at Southern Mississippi University in Hattiesburg on an Academic Excellence Scholarship, and **Kourtney Khalid-Abasi** (*cum laude*) will be at Hill College in Hillsboro, TX, on both an athletic scholarship for volleyball and a Presidential Scholarship.

Matt Mitchell (*magna cum laude*) is going to study classics and math at Oklahoma University in Norman, on an OU National Merit package, and **Noelle Morris** will attend the University of Mobile in Alabama, on a basketball scholarship.

Beau Sanders is going to Tennessee to attend the Memphis College of Art on a merit scholarship, **Jordan Tiras** will be at Florida State University in Tallahassee on a merit based scholarship, and **Allison Hirsch** will pack her bags and head for South Carolina to study at the College of Charleston.

A full 40 percent of the class will be exchanging their Runnels blue and white for the purple and gold of LSU. **Ha-leigh Armstrong** (*cum laude*), **Sydney Beard**, **Jadan Deshotels**, **Taft Faust**, **Michael Gallant**, **Lauren Murray**, and **Amanda Sehring** (*magna cum laude*) will enroll as freshmen on TOPS performance scholarships. **Katelyn Bryant** (*magna cum laude*), **Mary Lukinovich** (*cum laude*), **Ryan Sullivan**, and **Carson Sztot** will attend LSU on TOPS performance awards, and **Eric Kleinpeter**, **Alexander Kosick**, **Olivia Neyland**, **Lena Sheikha**, and **Alec Warren** will be there on TOPS opportunity scholarships.

Also on campus will be **Grace Guidroz** (*magna cum laude*), on a TOPS honors scholarship, an Academic Scholars Resident Award, and a Future Leaders research position, **Alexandra Hedrick** (*magna cum laude*), on a TOPS performance scholarship and a College of Agriculture TAF Student Scholarship, and **Sean Ji** and **Jake Johnson** on TOPS honors scholarships and Tiger Excellence Scholar awards.

Aubrey Newman will attend our flagship university on a TOPS honors award, **Leila Shammout** (*summa cum laude*) will be in the Honors College on a TOPS honors scholarship, an Academic Scholars Resident Award, and a Future Leaders Research position, and **Megha Theegala** (*summa cum laude*) will attend on a TOPS honors award,



Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal Dana Schlotterer helps Jadan Deshotels, who will enroll at L.S.U. this fall, with that pesky hat before the graduation.

an Academic Scholars award, and a Chancellor's Student Aid Scholarship.

Madeline Winnett (*summa cum laude*) and **Olivia Zachary** also will be pursuing their degrees at LSU, on Tiger Excellence Scholars awards and TOPS honors awards.

Seven of our graduates are going to Southeastern Louisiana University this fall.

Conley Bourgeois, **Lane Kessel**, and **Stephanie West-Harmon**, will be there on TOPS opportunity scholarships, and **Adele Peer**, will attend on an honors scholarship and a TOPS honors scholarship. Joining them on the Hammond campus will be **Madeline Parker**, **Roz Rafii-Tabrizi**, and **Lauren Todd**.

Attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will be **Hannah Boutwell** (*cum laude*), on an Academic and Freshman housing scholarship, a TOPS honors scholarship, a ULL Symphony Scholarship, and the Friends of Music Scholarship. Also heading to ULL will be **Salmon Essajee**, on a TOPS performance scholarship, and **Sarah Garrett** (*summa cum laude*), on a TOPS Honors scholarship and a ULL scholarship.

Mackenzie Byrd (*summa cum laude*) is going to Natchitoches, where she will enroll at Northwestern State University on a President's Honor Scholarship, an NSU opportunity scholarship, a TOPS performance scholarship, and a musical theater scholarship. Also on campus will be **Dakota Newman**, who has received a Northwestern scholarship and a TOPS performance scholarship.

Louisiana Tech will welcome four Runnels graduates, including **Mary Iseral** (*magna cum laude*), who was awarded a TOPS honors scholarship and an Outstanding Student scholarship, **Parker LeBlanc**, **Riggs March**, on an Outstanding Student scholarship and a TOPS performance award, and **Joseph Pusateri** (*summa cum laude*), on a TOPS honors scholarship.

Bobby Johnson will be on the baseball team at Nicholls State University, where he received a TOPS opportunity scholarship. **Abi Moussa** also will be studying for her degree on the Thibodaux campus, on a TOPS performance award.

Joseph Cutrer is staying in town to attend Our Lady of the Lake College.

Mary Hannah Broussard wants to pursue a modelling career in London, with hopes of attending LSU down the road, and **Gabriella Hogg** is interested in traveling and following her passion for art before settling down at college.

Congratulations to all!



Leila Shammout, winner of the Kiwanis Club's Most Courteous Student Award, will enroll in the Honors College at LSU.

Presidential Scholars Plentiful at Runnels

A grand total of 83 Runnels students in grades 6, 8, and 12 qualified for the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence this year. That translates to 36 percent of the 8th grade, 37 percent of the 6th grade, and 18 percent of the senior class.

The prestigious award is presented to students in “exit grades” (at Runnels, that means the 6th, 8th, and 12th grades) who maintain a 3.5 grade-point average and score at the 85th percentile on standardized tests. Congratulations to the following Presidential Academic Scholars.

Grade 6: Niki Barakhshan, Catherine Bonaventure, Cana Brumfield, Joseph Curtis, Michaela Fennell, Annie Fink, Celia Fishbein, Elizabeth Foley, Benjamin Golden, Sam Haase, Daniel Harris, Ricky Harrison, Eric Ho, Bailey Hyatt, Sara Johnston, Jack



Presidential Scholars As Far as the Eye Can See ... At the Sixth-Grade Graduation, we had so many Presidential Scholars, they nearly spilled off the stage!

Kahn, Arden Kleinpeter, Phoenix Knowles, Lance Kraft, Cole Latiolais, Ryan Ly, Anna Manning, Arianna McNeal, Savannah McNeal, Erin Oehrle, Kyra Reeves, Ellie Russo, Julia Sager, Sophie Sanders, Andrew Schacht, Janie Schlotterer, Ian Shaneyfelt, Michael Smith, Reed Stewart, Natalia Tooraen, and Paris Vercher.

Grade 8: Alexander Acosta, Harrison Bo-

naventure, Ila Bordelon-Walker, Alycia Boucher, Davood Boushehri, Erina Buchholz, Peyton Collett, Elizabeth Daigle, Hannah Fishbein, Allison Garrity, Alden Heck, Catherine Henning, Kaylen Howe, Bruce Huynh, Natalie Justus, Brandon Kelfstrom, Alexander Matthews, Samuel Matthews, Isabelle McCall, Garrett Miller, Carolyn Monett, Sean Parker, Maxwell Peer, Jack Penniman, William Rhinehart, Kaitlyn Roy, Maxwell Sager, Emma Shupe,

Nicholas Smith, Austin Stansbury, Michael Stevenson, Charles Thomasee, Caitlyn Thompson, Jesse Tregre, Ethan Wells, Natalie Wilder, and Stephen Worsham.

Grade 12: Caroline Bonaventure, Hannah Boutwell, Erin Dean, Grace Guidroz, Mary Iseral, Amelie Kharey, Matthew Mitchell, Joseph Pusateri, Leila Shammout, Meghana Theegala, and Lily Winnett.

Elementary Students Make the Honor Roll

Students in grades 2-6 earning top grades were recognized by having their names placed on the Honor Roll. We salute the following students who earned “As” and “Bs” in all subjects, including conduct, with no more than one “B” each quarter. Students in grades 2-5 received their Honor Roll certificates at an End-of-the-Year Award Ceremony held May 22, and 6th graders received theirs at the Sixth-Grade Graduation Ceremony. Both events took place in our Theater.

2nd Grade: Kareem Badawi, Malek Badawi, Katherine Campbell, Cooper Coates, Arthur Donaldson, Talisa Ellsworth, Emma Felton, George Forgey, Madeline Golden, Ben Hader, Rossie Harrison, Lily Hayden, Caleb Johnston, Alaysia Mondujano, Ava McCann, Sean McGee, Reed Miller, Hope Oubre, Poppy Pellissier, Caroline Pousson, Stuart Roark, Samantha Schilling, Emmy Scott, Mikalyn Shay, Addison Watson, Reilly Wilks, Olivia Williams, and Sam Wilson.

3rd Grade: Shelby Anders, Maggie Arce-neaux, Alex Asevedo, Mira Badawi, Lauren Bhat, Ava Boone, Michael Cheng, Emma Collett, Chris Cox, Hannah Edwards, Alex Frederic, Sarah Golda, Ali Guerin, Dralyn Johnston, Binh Kirsch, Thanh Kirsch, Phoebe Koontz, Alan Lam, Hannah Landry, John



A group of 3rd-grade Honor Roll students display their certificates at an awards ceremony in the Runnels Theater May 22.

Latona, Samantha Marino, Paige Odom, Mason Pentec, Lucy Reeves, Madeleine Reonas, Ethan Sanders, Molly Sandifer, Zeena Shammout, Evan Shaneyfelt, Simone Sharp, Anabel Smith, Baron Stevenson, Lucas Thrash, Charlie Tucker, Eddie Tunis, Cassidy Wartelle, Brie Williams, Taylor Woods.

4th Grade: Omar Badawi, Ashley Belcher, Wren Brumfield, Nikolas Carey, Nicholas D’Gerolamo, Emma Fishbein, Michal Gawronski, Blaiklee Guillot, Robby Harrison, Linsey Huynh, Ava Kadi, Reagan Kyle, Avery Matens, Marwan Mikdadi, Serena Noble, Elizabeth Penniman, Dawson Ponjuan, Abigail Robbins, Ryan Roper, Emily Schacht, Drake Tooraen, Farzeen Wahid, Mia Welch, and

Sydney Worsham.

5th Grade: Sophie Arceneaux, Evan Beoubay, Brianna Boucher, Will Buete, Margaret Campbell, Parker Collett, Caroline Collins, Caroline Daigle, Sophie Edwards, Audrey Guess, Joseph Ismail, Thea Knowles, Jenna LaBonne, Madisan Milam, Kate Oehrle, Angie Patton, Marshall Pentec, Connor Porthouse, James Power, Garrett Rhinehart, Emma Schlotterer, Grace Scott, Wesley Stevenson, Chace Williams, and Nina Woodward.

6th Grade: Catherine Bonaventure, Annie Fink, Celia Fishbein, Sam Haase, Daniel Harris, Eric Ho, Sara Johnston, Taylor Koontz, Ryan Ly, Savannah McNeal, Ellie Russo, Julia Sager, Reed Stewart, Natalia Tooraen, and Paris Vercher.



Sixth grader Michael Smith rehearses on stage in the Runnels Theater just before the 6th - 12th Grade Spring Band Concert gets underway on April 16.

Pictures at an Exhibition

Visitors to our 2014 Spring Art Show had the opportunity to view more than 2,000 pieces of original student artwork from all four divisions of our school as they strolled through the gym, that had been transformed into an upscale gallery for the annual event.

Awards were presented in the categories of Students' Choice, Judges' Choice,



Viewing the entries prior to casting their Students' Choice ballots are 7th graders Anna Kadi, Sydney Markham, and Sophie LeBlanc.

Principal's Choice, Assistant Principal's Choice, and Librarian's Choice. Pieces selected as Judges' Choice winners for grades 7-12 will be on exhibit in the foyer of the Runnels Theater for one year, and Principal's Choice and Assistant Principal's Choice winners will be on permanent display in school offices.

We sincerely thank our art teachers, who inspire and challenge our students to create such

amazing masterpieces, for matting, hanging and arranging all of the artwork for the show. They are: Art Department Head Lee Brandt Randall, Pamela Gyan, Trina Carruth, Janine Kharey, Danna Wiese,



"Eragon," by third grader Ethan Ho, won a Students' Choice Award at our Spring Art Show.

Lisa Sanner, Rachel Klein, Milli Johnson, Jennifer Marino, and Lauren Downing. We also thank David Randall and

the Bill Kimbro Trio for providing live music and Molly Hightower and Sandra Hooter for supplying and helping to serve the refreshments.

Congratulations to all of our talented young art students!

STUDENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

Grades 1-3, 2-D: 1st Place, Alex Asevedo, *Waves of Color*; 2nd Place, Ethan Ho, *Eragon*; 3rd Place, Rossie Harrison, *Badger*; Honorable Mentions, Eli Latiolais, *Kaib the Great Ninja*, and Nic Middlebrook, *Twilight Sparkle*.

Grades 4-6, 2-D: 1st Place, Eric Ho, *King*; 2nd Place, Julia Sager, *Boo*; 3rd Place, Nina Woodward, *Majestic*;

Honorable Mentions, Janie Schlotterer, *Dolphin*, and Minna Ismail, *Tiger*.

Grades 4-6, 3-D:

1st Place, Madisan Milam, *Fred the Gnome*; 2nd Place, Ava Kadi, *Mr. Blue*; 3rd Place, Claire Burleigh, *Opposite of the Runt*; Honorable Mentions, Hailey Lester, *Funny Fox*, and Ashley Belcher, *Starburst*.

Junior High, 2-D: 1st Place, Ethan Wells, *Eyece*; 2nd Place, Hayden Armstrong, *Howlers*; 3rd Place, Griffin Kennedy, *Ringo*; Honorable Mentions, Emma Tooraen, *Eye C U*, and Seth Miller, *Curious Cat*.

Junior High, 3-D: 1st Place, McKenna Tregre, *Faberge' Egg*; 2nd Place, Sara Brandenburg, *Click*; 3rd Place, Alexis Rogers, *Skull*; Honorable Mention, Laine Alfonso, *Faberge' Egg*.

High School, 2-D: 1st Place, Beau Sanders, *Cardiactopus*; 2nd Place, Beau Sanders, *Resounding Space*; 3rd Place,



Fifth grader Claire Burleigh with her 3-D Students' Choice winner, "Opposite of the Runt."



Senior Beau Sanders with his mixed media entry, "Cardiactopus," which won a 1st Place Students' Choice award and a Librarian's Choice award. With him is senior Sarah Garrett, who won 1st Place awards in both Students' and Judges' Choice for High School Advanced Placement (AP) Art.

Devyn MacDonald, *Spirit*; Honorable Mentions, Morgan Evans, *Little Morgan* and *Tranquility*.

High School Advanced Placement (AP): 1st Place, Sarah Garrett, *Aries*.

High School Architecture: 1st Place, Nick Saunders, *Mountain Range*; 2nd Place, Emory Monett, *Poptart*; 3rd Place, Emory Monett, *Ralf*; Honorable Mentions, Elle Pickrell, *3D Doodle*, and Nick Saunders, *Stripes*.

High School Graphic Design: 1st Place,



Morgan Evans' self-portrait, "Little Morgan," earned a Students' Choice Honorable Mention and a Judges' Choice award.

Adam Howe, *Gatsby's House*; 2nd Place, Nathan Fairley, *Selfie*; 3rd Place, Madison Page, *Cinderella's Castle*; Honorable Mentions, Grey Carruth, *Volkswagen*, and Robert Law, *N.P.H.'s Business Card*.

High School Photography: 1st Place, Stevie Iseral, *Psychedelic Dream*; 2nd Place, Emily Mack, *Collage of Trust*; 3rd Place,



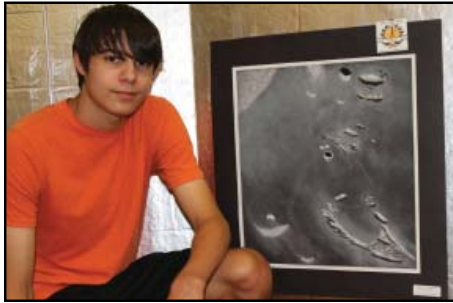
Art teachers (from left) Rachel Klein, Janine Kharey, Lisa Sanner, Lee Brandt Randall (art department head), Trina Carruth, Danna Wiese, and Pamela Gyan. Not pictured: preschool art teachers Milli Johnson, Jennifer Marino, and Lauren Downing.

Spring Art Show Awards

Abi Moussa, *Mannaquin*; Honorable Mentions, CC Carruth, *Waterfall*, and Jake Johnson, *Hipster II*.

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARDS

Junior High, 2-D: 1st Place, Ryan Carrier,



Ryan Carrier, grade 8, with "Crater," his Judges' Choice 1st-Place winner in the Jr. High 2-D category.

Crater; 2nd Place, Ethan Wells, *Stripes*; 3rd Place, Lee Curry, *On the Court*.

Junior High, 3-D: 1st Place, Alexis Rogers, *Skull*; 2nd Place, Sara Brandenburg, *Click*; 3rd Place, McKenna Tregre, *Faberge' Egg*.

High School 2-D: 1st Place, Jasmine Felton, *Self-Portrait*; 2nd Place, Amelia Adams, *Tree*; 3rd Place, Morgan Evans, *Little Morgan*; Honorable Mention, Beau Sanders, *Absences of Heart*.

High School Advanced Placement (AP): 1st Place, Sarah Garrett, *Aries*.

High School Architecture: 1st Place,

Nick Saunders, *Stripes*; 2nd Place, Garrett Deshotels, *McGee*; 3rd Place, Elle Pickrell, *Sliced Box*; Honorable Mention, Mason Warren, *Inside of a Cube*.

High School Graphic Design: 1st Place, Nathan Fairley, *Selfie*; 2nd Place, Grey Carruth, *Volkswagen*; 3rd Place, Taylor Schoen, *Lifesavers*; Honorable Mention, Jake Johnson, *Kanye's Stationary*.

High School Photography: 1st Place, Jake Johnson, *Welcome to Hobo*; 2nd Place, Beau Sanders, *Frog on a Wall*; 3rd Place, Abbey Scarton, *Ornamental Grass*; Honorable Mention, Abi Moussa, *Paused*.

PRINCIPAL'S CHOICE AWARDS

Elementary Principal's Choice: Olivia

Brunner, *Fishy*; Arthur Donaldson, *Amazing Landscape*; Michael Cheng, *Yellow Vase*; Abby Robbins, *A Day in the Reef*;

Ellerie Tregre, *Unicorn*; Eric Ho, *King*.

Elementary Assistant Principal's Choice:

Gabe Wiese, *Wolf*, and Sinclair Wahnschaffe, *Sunflower Art*.

Elementary Librarian's Choice: Michael

Cheng, *Yellow Vase*; Alyssa Oubre, *Flower*



Gabe Wiese with "Wolf," an Assistant Principal's Choice winner.



Michael Cheng, 3b, with his picture "Yellow Vase," which won both Principal's Choice and Librarian's Choice awards.

Vase; Chace Williams, *Flower of Life*; Kissa Nicholas-Whitt, *Seuss Worm*.

Jr. High Principal's Choice: Alexis Rogers, *Canal*; Seth Miller, *Bird*; Sara Brandenburg, *Perspective*.

Jr. High Assistant Principal's Choice: Justin Coniglio, *Monochromatic Turtle*.

High School Principal's Choice: Grace LeBlanc, *Perspective*; Beau Sanders, *Resounding Space*; Sarah Garrett, *Capricorn*; Emily Mack, *Detachment*; Adam Howe, *Gatsby's House*.

High School Assistant Principal's Choice: Olivia Arboneaux, *Elephant*, and Beau Sanders, *Two Worlds Apart*.

High School Librarian's Choice: Beau Sanders, *Cardiactopus*, and Devyn MacDonald, *Spirit*.

"Raider Stars of the Year"



Some grade 2-5 "Raider Stars of the Year."

For consistently exhibiting positive traits, such as kindness, courtesy, and service to others throughout the school year, one student from each section in the elementary grades is chosen by teachers to become a "Raider Star of the Year." Congratulations to: Leyna Huynh, 1a, and Carli Shay, 1b; Cooper Coates, 2a, Lily Hayden, 2b, and Samantha Schilling, 2c; Emma Collett, 3a, Michael Cheng, 3b, and Phoebe Koontz, 3c; Linsey Huynh, 4a, Marwan Mikdadi, 4b, and Sydney Worsham, 4c; and Caleb Reid, 5a, Kate Oehrle, 5b, and Margaret Campbell, 5c. (For grade 6, see p. 3.)

Jr. High Course Medals Presented

Academic medals are presented each year to junior high students earning the highest grade-point average in each class and subject. The names of the medal winners were announced at the Jr. High Academic Awards Assembly held in the Runnels Theater May 7.

Art – *Jr. High Art, 7th Grade*, Emma Tooraen; *Jr. High Art Honors, 7th Grade*, Madison Sutton; *Jr. High Art Honors, 8th Grade*, Ila Bordelon-Walker.

Ballet – *Jr. High Ballet*, Grace Asevedo.

Band – *7th Grade Band*, Elise Cox; *8th Grade Band*, Erina Buchholz.

Computer Applications – Emma Milneck.

Foreign Language – *Jr. High French*, Kaitlyn Roy; *French I*, Natalie Justus; *French III*, Kaylen Howe; *Jr. High Latin*, Nicholas Smith; *Jr. High Spanish*, Thomas Worsham; *Spanish I*, Erina Buchholz.

Harp – *Intermediate Harp*, Aubrey Adams.

Health & P.E. – *7th Grade Girls P.E. and Health*, Alyssa Stevison; *8th Grade*

Boys P.E. and Health, Jason Guillot and Michael Stevenson; *8th Grade Girls P.E. and Health*, Jordyn Miller.

Jr. High Speech and Drama – Anna Kadi.

Language Arts – *English 7*, Eric Hughes; *English 7 Honors*, Kayla Evans; *English 8*, Sean Parker; *English 8 Honors*, Erina Buchholz.

Math – *Algebra I*, Anna Kadi; *Algebra I Part I*, Jourdan Milton; *Pre-Algebra*, Daniel Mayeaux and Madison Sutton; **Geometry**, Erina Buchholz.

Piano – *Piano I*, Emma Tooraen; *Piano II*, Daniel Mayeaux; *Piano-Independent Study*, Sean Parker.

Science – *Life Science*, Hannah Bienvenu; *Life Science Honors*, Kayla Evans; **Earth Science**, Kaitlyn Roy; *Physical Science*, Erina Buchholz.

Strings – *Advanced Strings*, Erina Buchholz.

Social Studies – *American History*, Kayla Evans; *Louisiana Studies*, Erina Buchholz.

Young Musicians

Students in grades 4-6 received awards for their contributions to the Band, Strings, and Harp programs from Band Directors Shanna Drescher, (Fourth- and Fifth-Grade Bands) and Jill Swetnam (Sixth-Grade Band), String Orchestra Director Jennifer Cassin, and Harp Choir Director Rebecca Todaro at our end-of-the-year ceremonies in May. Congratulations to these young musicians:

Fourth-Grade Band: *Most Improved*, Nick D'Geralomo; *Extra Mile*, Emily Reid; *Outstanding Member*, Reagan Kyle. **Fifth-Grade Band:** *Most Improved*, Sophie Arce-neaux and Rachel Middlebrook; *Extra Mile*, Amelia Day and Caroline Daigle; *Outstanding Member*, Evan Beoubay. **Sixth-Grade**



Fifth-Grade Band Medalists: front row, Evan Beoubay and Caroline Daigle; back row, Rachel Middlebrook, Amelia Day, and Sophie Arceneaux.

Band: *Most Improved*, Grayson Gulley; *Extra Mile*, Sam Haase and Michaela Fennell; *Outstanding Members*, Daniel Harris and Aidan Matthews.

Beginning String Orchestra: *Most Improved*, Connor Porthouse; *Extra Mile*, Elizabeth Penniman; *Outstanding Player*, Sydney Worsham. **Intermediate String Orchestra:** *Most Improved*, James Power; *Extra Mile*, Ally Sutton and Abigayle Crissman; *Outstanding Player*, Sophie Edwards. **Advanced String Orchestra:** *Extra Mile*, Andrew Schacht; *Outstanding Players*, Catherine Bonaventure and Annie Fink.

Beginning Harp Choir: *Most Improved*, Katie Carpenter. *Extra Mile*, Emily Reid; *Outstanding Player*, Lilly Tullos. **Intermediate Harp Choir:** *Most Improved*, Emma Schlotterer; *Extra Mile*, Angie Patton; *Outstanding Player*, Caroline Collins. **Advanced Harp Choir:** *Most Improved*, Niki Barakhshan; *Extra Mile*, Eli Todaro; *Outstanding Players*, Anna Manning and Natalia Tooraen; *Most Valuable Team Player*, Cole Latiolais.

Transforming Urban Eyesores Into Art

Runnels senior Grey Carruth recently donated his time and talent to help revitalize a mid-city eyesore. As a volunteer artist with the Baton Rouge Walls Project, he worked with a mural team during the weekend of April 10 to beautify the exterior of the abandoned Bonfanti Marine warehouse in the mid-city area.

The Baton Rouge Walls Project, launched in 2012, takes a collaborative approach to urban beautification, bringing together artists, local businesses, and community volunteers to turn the facades of derelict buildings into canvases for large-scale public art.

Grey said that painting the murals on the Bonfanti Marine building the weekend of April 10 was a group effort. Three professional artists, Raina Wirta, Alexis Stephenson, and Charles Barbier, designed the mural on one of the long sides of the building. "They were the head artists," said Grey. "They did the background and the sky."

The foreground of the mural, he explained, was mainly done by 60 volunteers, ranging in age from 9 to 18 years old, who came from a local church youth group. "The kids were from the Star Hill Church Youth and Blight Clean-up Team," Grey said. "On the mural, they did silhouettes of their friends and filled them in with anything they wanted, like sports stuff or flowers. I was there as an artist," he added, "to help teach them how to do it." Also on hand from Runnels to help with the painting were senior Sean Ji and sophomore Michael Connelly.

Grey, who will study Industrial Design at the University of Arizona in the fall, said he also designed and painted, mostly with acrylic spray paint, a brightly colored mural on the side of the Bonfanti Marine building (*above photo*). "It says 'Mid-City Baton Rouge' in primary colors," he added.

A staunch supporter of the Community Art movement, Grey said that working on the Baton Rouge Walls Project was "awesome."



Grey Carruth works on his "Mid-City Baton Rouge" mural on the exterior of an abandoned mid-city warehouse.

Millionaire Champs ... The Million Dollar Winners in our 2nd grade's end-of-the-year review game show, "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?" are: Kareem Badawi, Addison Watson, Arthur Donaldson, Reilly Wilks, Andrew Smith, Rossie Harrison, Sam Wilson, Megan Shaneyfelt, Andrew Page, Jasmine Townsend, Talisa Ellsworth, George Forgey, Caroline Pousson, Alysia Mandujano, Sean McGee, Emma Felton, Emma Dornier, and Emmy Scott.

"Jeopardy!" ... Congratulations to our 3rd grade "Academic Jeopardy!" winners: (*below, from left*) 3rd runner up, Charlie Tucker, 2nd runner up, Eddie Tunis; 1st runner up, Evan Shaneyfelt; and Grand Champion, Chris Cox.



Stellar Spellers ... We salute the champion spellers in the 4th grade's "States and Capitals Spelling Bee." They are: (*above, from left*) 1st Place, Ashley Belcher; 2nd Place, Dawson Ponjuan; and 3rd Place, Ryan Roper'. Spellers who qualified for the final round were: Farzeen Wahid, Niko Carey, Sydney Worsham, Ava Kadi, Robby Harrison, Reagan Kyle, Linsey Huynh, Wren Brumfield, Ellie Hader, Marwan Mikdadi, and Emily Schacht.

High School Course Medalists Named

Students in grades 9-12 earning top grades in specific subjects at the High School Awards Assembly and the High School Graduation ceremony in May.

Architecture – *Architecture I*, Emory Monett; *Architecture II*, Sean LeBleu.

Art – *Art I*, Samantha Sieberth; *Art I Honors*, Eve Axelrod;

Art II, Anna Matherne; *Art II Honors*, Beau Sanders; *Art III*, Lukas Acosta; *Art III Honors*, Kara Peneguy; *Fine Arts Survey*, Brad Sherman; *AP Studio Art*, Sarah Garrett; *Beginning Painting*, Olivia Arboneaux; *Intermediate Painting*, Morgan Evans; *Media Arts*, Robert Law.

Ballet – Kim Lam.

Clerical Practice – Conley Bourgeois.

College & Career Choices – Alyssa Campbell.

Computer – *Computer Science*, Lane Kessel; *Webmastering*, Ammar Essajee.

Drama – *Technical Theatre*, Michael Connelly; *Technical Theatre Teaching Assistant*, Taft Faust.

Foreign Languages – *French I*, Shannon French; *French II*, Nicole Gardana; *French III*, Abigail Scarton; *Greek I*, Mackenzie Byrd; *Greek II*, Emily Britt; *Latin I*, Heath Moser; *Latin II*, Grace LeBlanc; *Latin II Honors*, Luc Kharey; *Latin III*, Nabil Essajee; *Latin III Honors*, Andrew Mitchell; *Spanish I*, Ammar Essajee; *Spanish II*, Irene Lewis; *Spanish III*, Shannon French; *Spanish*



Displaying their medals and certificates are some of the high school award winners in the category of Science.

III Honors, Nicholas Saunders; *Spanish IV*, John Howe.

Home Economics – Amanda Sehring.

Music – *Advanced Band*, Alex Stansbury; *Advanced Harp*, Rachel Yura; *Advanced Strings*, Caroline Bonaventure; *Chorus* – Mary Hannah Broussard; *Music Theory*, Amelie Kharey; *Piano I*, Nicole Gardana; *Piano II*, Irene Lewis; *Piano, Independent Study*, Regan Dean.

Language Arts – *English I*, Emily Britt; *English I Honors*, Regan Dean; *English II*, Lee Parker; *English II Honors*, Kim Lam; *English III*, Thomas Myers; *English III Honors*, Andrew Mackay; *English IV*, Mary Iseral; *English IV Literature and Composition AP*, Grace Guidroz; *American Studies English*, Nicole Gardana; *English Language and Composition AP*, Olivia Arboneaux; *Shakespeare*, Everett Hibner.

Library Aide – Ryan Sullivan.

Math – *Algebra I Part II*, Kassandra Crissman; *Algebra II*, Regan Dean; *Advanced Math Functions and Statistics*, Dakota

Newman; *Advanced Math PreCalculus*, Andrew Mitchell; *AP Statistics*, Caroline Bonaventure; *Calculus AP AB*, Connor Matthews; *Calculus AP BC*, Erin Dean; *Geometry*, Stephen Watson and Olivia Arcemont.

Photography – *Photography I*, Emily Mack; *Photography II*, Abigail Moussa; *Photography III*, Jake Johnson.

Physical Education – Henry Forgey, Jasmine Felton, Grant Fink, Kim Lam, and Irene Lewis; *Athletic P.E.*, Bobby Johnson; *Conditioning*,

Morgan Evans.

Psychology – Matthew Gallant; *Psychology AP*, Meghana Theegala.

Science – *Biology*, Kelsey Mayes and Lee Parker; *Biology AP*, Connor Matthews; *Biology Honors*, Stephen Watson; *Biology II*, Alexandra Hedrick; *Chemistry*, Morgan Evans; *Chemistry AP*, Olivia Arboneaux; *Chemistry Honors*, Kim Lam; *Earth Science*, Jadan Deshotels; *Environmental Science AP*, Amelie Kharey; *Physical Science*, Jena Bordelon; *Physics*, Olivia Arboneaux; *Zoology*, Andrew Mackay.

Social Studies – *American History*, Kara Peneguy and Lukas Acosta; *American Studies, History*, Ryan Baird; *AP Human Geography*, Regan Dean; *AP United States History*, Anna Morgan; *Civics*, Grace Guidroz; *U.S. Government*, Hannah Boutwell; *World Geography*, Jena Bordelon; *World History*, William Lurker; *World History AP*, Amelie Kharey.

Sports Medicine – Sadie Kraft.

Special Jr./Sr. High Awards Presented



High School Special Medalists: (from left) freshman Scholarship, Regan Dean; sophomore Scholarship, Lee Parker; junior Raider Spirit, Lauren Kahn; junior Scholarship, Connor Matthews; sophomore Raider Spirit, Irene Lewis; and freshman Raider Spirit, Dean Campbell. Not pictured: Winner of the Scholarship and Spirit awards for the senior class, Erin Dean (See p. 10.)

Junior High Special Medalists: (from left) 7th Grade Citizenship, Eric Huygues; 7th Grade Raider Spirit, Claire Alfonso; 8th Grade Raider Spirit, Jesse Tregre; 8th Grade Citizenship, JP Guillot; 8th Grade Scholarship, Austin Stansbury; and 7th Grade Scholarship, Sophie LeBlanc.



High School Citizenship Medalist ... Winner of the 2014 Raider Citizenship Medal, senior Alexandra Hedrick with her parents, Joel and Susan Hedrick, at the commencement exercises May 15. Only one student in the entire high school is chosen to receive this honor.

Make That Two for Carnegie Hall

We recently learned that 8th grader Alex Acosta was selected to play viola in the 2014 Middle School Honors Performance Orchestra in Carnegie Hall on June 28. Last month, we reported that Sean Parker, also in 8th grade, was the only Runnels student to receive that honor. Just weeks ago, Alex, who has been in our strings program for five years, was informed that he had been picked as a Junior Finalist and would be making the trip, too. Alex, the son of Jay and Laura Acosta, has been a member of the Louisiana Junior Youth Orchestra since 2011. Congratulations to Alex and his family.

Alex Acosta (left) and Sean Parker will perform in Carnegie Hall June 28.



Jr./Sr. High Honor Roll Recipients Commended

Junior and senior high students earning a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher for the first three quarters of the school year are named to the Honor Roll. Congratulations to Honor Roll students:

7th Grade – Grace Asevedo, Hannah Bienvenu, Fain Buete, Elise Cox, Lee Curry, Kayla Evans, Kalyee Freiberger, Caroline Henning, Eric Huygues, Amelia Jennings, Anna Kadi, Ryan Lam, Daniel Mayeaux, Mason Mayes, Kameron McKnight, Zoe Patton, Anna Claire Pousson, Micah Roper*, Madison Sutton, Emma Tooraen, and Thomas Worsham.

8th Grade – Alexander Acosta, Lainee Alfonso, Alycia Boucher, Erina Buchholz, Elizabeth Daigle, Hannah Fishbein, Allison Garrity, JP Guillot, Catherine Henning, Kaylen Howe, Bruce Huynh, Natalie Justus, Alexander Matthews, Samuel Matthews, Isabelle McCall, Garrett Miller, Emma Milneck, Jourdan Milton, Sean Parker, Rosie Pham,



Honor Roll recipients (from left), sophomore Drake Fromenthal, freshman Matthew Gallant, sophomore Kim Lam, and junior Nicole Gardana.

Haley Raines, Hannah Rains, William Rhinehart, Kaitlyn Roy, Nicholas Smith, Ashley Stansbury, Austin Stansbury, Michael Stevenson, Natalie Wilder, and Stephen Worsham.

9th Grade – Jena Bordelon, Emily Britt, Micah Danos, Regan Dean, Henry Forgey, Matthew Gallant, John Howe, Luc Kharey, Robert Law, Andrew Mitchell, Heath Moser,

Julia Sanders, Savannah Sanders, Abigail Scarton, John Tooraen, Stephen Watson, John Wiese, and Rachel Yura.

10th Grade – Olivia Arcemont, Drake Fromenthal, Clay Harned, Kim Lam, Irene Lewis, William Lurker, Anna Morgan, Lee Parker, George Penniman, and Julia Power.

11th Grade – Olivia Arboneaux, Anna Arceneaux, Ryan Baird, Hana Derzi, Nabil Essajee, Morgan Evans, Shannon French, Nicole Gardana, Brent Hoeprich, Sadie Kraft, Connor Matthews, Thomas Myers, Kara Peneguy, Benjamin Sehring, Tazkia Shah, Brad Sherman, and Grant Welch.

12th Grade – Catherine Bonaventure, Hannah Boutwell, Katelyn Bryant, Mackenzie Byrd, Erin Dean, Salman Essajee, Sarah Garrett, Grace Guidroz, Mary Iseral, Courtney Khalid-Abasi, Amelie Kharey, Dakota Newman, Amanda Sehring, Leila Shammout, Ryan Sullivan, Meghana Theegala, and Madeline Winnett.



Rebecca Todaro

On Leaving Runnels, by Harp Teacher Rebecca Todaro

... In 2009, Rebecca Todaro started a "little harp program" at Runnels. The next year, student enrollment in the program doubled; the following year, it soared -- to the point that we had to enlarge the harp studio. The harp program, so tenderly nurtured by Mrs. Todaro and school administrators, has become a fixed cornerstone of our performing arts curriculum. We recently learned that Mrs. Todaro and her family will be moving to New Orleans to take on a larger role in the family business and will be leaving Runnels. We will miss them enormously and wish them well. Fortunately, however, Dr. Gabriela Werries, an adjunct professor of harp at L.S.U., and Melissa Stockstill Wiggins, a long-time friend of our harp program and former student at the Royal Academy of Music in London, have agreed to join our faculty and continue to build the harp program at Runnels. In the letter below, which was mailed to all of our harp students, Mrs. Todaro reflects on her time at Runnels, explains why her family must move on, and more fully introduces her successors.

“ It is with both sadness and joy that I write to you of our family’s move to New Orleans. The Runnels School captured our hearts when our first son Theodore began his school years as a two year old at the preschool on Jefferson Highway. At that time the “big school” was a faraway destination for “big kids” and the preschool was the center of our world. As Teddy grew, our second son Eli came along and with confidence we shared the same experience with him.

From time to time I would bring a harp to the preschool, and eventually the “big” school campus, playing short programs to demonstrate the instrument to my children’s classmates. What started as a small investment of my time, fit in between symphony work, teaching privately and at L.S.U., slowly evolved into a full-time teaching position of the only embedded daily harp curriculum in the country for elementary through high school age students. Although my professional career has been classical music performance, I decided early on that my philosophy of teaching would focus on the whole student. While music is our common ground, it was important to me that students taking harp were able to make their studies relevant in all parts of their life. By listening with kindness, by sharing their gifts without reservation, by including one another in their interests regardless of all the things which make

us different from one another, the harp program truly blossomed.

I cannot take much credit for the program’s success, in my opinion. The vision and philosophy of Gladys and Dr. Runnels provided the rich soil for their ideals to grow into a very real environment that fosters innovation in all ways. I just happened to be a busy mom who loved to hang out with her kids at school and took advantage of a captive audience. Of course, my husband Gene, the ultimate patron of the arts, has patiently supported all of my efforts to share the harp with others. We found this special school together, and chose it to help shape our own children with a thirst for knowledge.

My husband has been a partner in his family’s business, the Marcello’s wine shops and restaurants, for many years. When his mother passed away last fall, we knew a move would probably be required of us to shoulder more responsibility in the family business. We are moving to New Orleans this summer so we can all be together as Gene oversees the management of our restaurant, Marcello’s, at 715 St. Charles Avenue. This means new school families for our children, new everything. We are excited about our world opening up with this new chapter.

Most importantly, I am excited to share two very dear colleagues with you. After much consideration, these two professional harpists will be teaching the harp classes at Runnels School.

Dr. Gabriela Werries, adjunct professor of harp at L.S.U., will be teaching the elementary morning harp classes. Gabriela Werries, from Romania originally, came to Baton Rouge for graduate studies in harp, and now teaches at LSU. She has taught all ages of students from elementary through university level. “Gabi,” as her friends call her, is knowledgeable, sweet, has a lovely smile, and has a thorough knowledge of music.

Melissa Stockstill Wiggins will be teaching the junior high and high school afternoon harp classes. Melissa came into my life when she was four years old and starting harp lessons with my teacher at L.S.U. Later on she studied with me at L.S.U., eventually going on to further study with renowned harpist Skaila Kanga at the Royal College of Music in London. Melissa dearly loves my harp students as her own, and has filled in for me as a substitute from the very beginning at Runnels. I have no doubt that these two teachers will be strong mentors for the next harp classes.

I am sharing with them all of my curriculum from the past five years as well as my plans for bringing greater gifts than I to the little harp program that grew. It is an honor to have served for the past five years, as harp teacher at Runnels School. Parents, thank you for sharing your children and friendship with me!

*Blessings,
Rebecca Todaro*



Kudos To

... (At right) **Brennan Grady**, **Eric Huygues**, and **Trent King**, for rounding up awards at the K-8 Scholastic Chess Tournament held May 3 at Woodlawn Middle School and sponsored by the EBR School Foundation. Eric took 1st Place, and Brennan, and Trent earned medals for winning rounds in the K-8 category. The Chess Club at Runnels is sponsored by **Rita Hunt**.



... **Preston Kyle** and **Caroline Daigle**, grade 5, for winning the "5th-Grade Mock Election" and becoming the new president and vice president, respectively, of the rising 6th grade. They were sworn into office by Dr. and Mrs. Runnels at an Inauguration Ceremony and Reception in the gym on May 16. Many thanks to the



Advanced String Orchestra and its director, **Jennifer Cassin**, for providing patriotic music for the event.

... (At left) Eighth-grade athletes **Lainee Alfonso** (right) and **Michael Stevenson**, for being named this year's recipients of the Silver R Awards at the Jr. High Athletic Award Ceremony May 7 in the Runnels Theater.

... Mother and Daughter National Charity Award winners, **Elizabeth**, grade 8, **Anna**, grade 10, and **Lisa Daigle**; **Kelsey**, grade 10, and **Kristy Mayes**; **Riley**, grade 9, and **MC Stewart**; and **Sarah**, grade 10, and **Donna Wehbe**. Each mother/daughter team had a combined 50 hours of volunteering. They received their awards at a tea held at the L.S.U. Faculty Club on May 4.

... (At right) Senior **Michael Gallant**, for being awarded the Knights of Columbus Patriotic Medal, which was presented to him by a representative of the organization at the High School Academic Awards Assembly May 6 in the Runnels Theater.



... The many members of our school family named to the cast and/or crew of Playmakers' recent production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*, at the Reilly Theater: K-12 Theater Program Chair **Neena Kelfstrom** (director), junior **Emily Mack** (Belle), junior **Allie Nicholson**, freshmen **John Wiese**, **Savannah Sanders** and **Jarrett LaBonne**, fourth grader **Ellie Hader**, second grader **Kate Kelfstrom**, elementary teacher **Cristin Ponjuan** (Babette) and her husband **Jorge Ponjuan** (Gaston), and 2007 Runnels graduate **Carter Dean** (Lumiere). In addition, **Danielle Adams** ('07) is the education and touring director at Playmakers.

... **Chip Davis** (Daddy Warbucks), **John Runnels** (Lt. Ward), and his dog, **Kayenne** (Sandy), all familiar faces to anyone who regularly attends our summer productions in the Runnels Theater, for winning roles in Theatre Baton Rouge's June production of *Annie*, running through June 29. For tickets, visit <http://theatrebr.org/annie.html>.



... Tennis Team members **Samantha Sieberth**, grade 10, for making the Girls Singles All-Metro Team, and **Eric Huygues**, grade 7, and junior **David Segalla**, for making All-Metro Honorable Mention in the Boys Doubles category. At left, assistant tennis coach **Gail Sherman**, junior **Brad Sherman**, sophomore **Michael Connelly**, **Samantha Sieberth**, and head tennis coach **Kathrin Sieberth** at the State Tournament in Monroe.

... The **Runnels Bowling Team** and coach and sponsor **Meagan Morris**, for a crackerjack season that climaxed with a tie for 1st Place in District. In addition, sophomore **Drake Fromenthal**,

who made 1st Team All-District, was named District MVP. **Jordan Johnston**, a junior, also made 1st Team All-District. Senior **Amelie Kharey**, juniors **Ryan Baird** and **Connor Matthews**, and sophomore **Clay Harned** were named 2nd Team All-District.



Symphony Leads to Scholarship ... Runnels senior **Caroline Bonaventure** was one of only 75 students to win Tulane University's prestigious Dean's Honor Scholarship this year. Also known as the "Box" scholarship because it requires the applicant to do something creative with a 3" x 3" box, the award provides full tuition for all four years at the university. Caroline's "Box" project was a video showcasing her love of music and her passion for bringing the arts, in all forms, to children. It features a compilation of arts-related scenes filmed in and around Baton Rouge, with original music composed by Caroline and performed by the Runnels String Orchestra, in which she has played the violin since the fourth grade.

Writing the music, a piece entitled "Symphony of Art," was a process, Caroline explained. "I came up with a melody and added the harmonies. Then I wrote out parts for each instrument and added chords and put them together." She credits her Runnels strings teacher, **Jennifer Cassin**, with adding "embellishments."

Her symphony was recorded and the orchestra scenes shot at Runnels. "We set up in the school auditorium and filmed the orchestra playing there," Caroline said. "The students and teachers were really excited about it." See it on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwm-DnUmzQ>.

We Sincerely Thank

... For providing free pre-participation athletic physicals on May 8 in the Runnels Theater to our rising 6th-12th grade students: **Runnels Sports Medicine** - Team Physicians, **Vincent Shaw, MD, CAQ** and **Brian Harrell, MD, CAQ**; **Marcella Babcock, MA, ATC, LAT**, and **Sadie**



Some of the medical professionals providing pre-participation athletic physicals to student athletes in May were, from left, **Luke Zumo**, **Alicia Dwyer**, **Ashley Gann**, **Matt Simmons**, **Derek Laurent**, **Vince Shaw**, **Lacy Knowles**, **Brian Harrell**.

Kraft, athletic training student. **Baton Rouge General Physicians Group** from the offices of **The Family Health Center and Family and Sports Medicine**: **Lacy Knowles, DO**; **Shawn Skarpnes, MD**, and **Matt Simmons, MD**. **Runnels School Nurses**: **Karen Rhinehart**, **Natalie McGee**, and **Beth Williams**. **Runnels Faculty**: **Rebecca Penniman**, **MC Stewart**, **Amy Taliaferro**, **Sarah Haase**, **Lonnie Leger**, **Tom Babcock**, **Dana Schlotterer**, and **John Baird**. **Baton Rouge Physical Therapy Volunteers**: **Derek Laurent, PT, MPT**, **OCS**, **Alicia Dwyer, PT, DPT**, **Luke Zumo, PT, DPT**, and **Ashley Gann, PTA**.

... **William Katzman** of **LIGO**, who is the father of **Mikey Katzman** (at right), Pre-K, for visiting with the preschoolers in May to demonstrate the wonders of liquid nitrogen.



First-Grade Finale ... Joining their classmates for a song at the "First-Grade Finale" in our theater May 20 are (from left) **Cadan Justus**, **Rion Miller**, **Leyna Huynh**, **Bailey St. Romain**, and **Gibson Guay**. During the assembly, the students received special recognition for accomplishments, their certificate envelopes, and "Star" medals.

Contact us at news@runnels.org. School resumes on Monday, Aug. 11. See you then!

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