

LSU Baseball Great To Keynote Commencement

Dr. Wilburn Edward "Eddy" Furniss, III, who achieved legendary success as a powerhouse hitter for the LSU Tigers during their championship seasons in the '90s and went on to follow his dream of practicing medicine in his hometown with his dad, will share his inspiring story with our graduates and their guests at the 2014 Runnels High School graduation May 15 in the Runnels Theater.

As No. 36 in the LSU lineup, Dr. Furniss helped lead the Tigers to two consecutive College World Championships in '96 and '97, setting SEC records along the way in hits (349), home runs (80), Runs Batted In (RBIs) (309), doubles (87), and total bases (689).



Fabled LSU slugger turned physician, Dr. Eddy Furniss, will deliver the 2014 commencement address May 15.

He topped off his undergraduate baseball career by winning the Dick Howser Trophy in 1998 as college baseball's most outstanding player.

He was named a two-time College Baseball First Team All-American, a four-year letterman, and he is among the NCAA's all-time leaders in home runs and RBIs. Dr. Furniss has also been inducted into three halls of fame: the LSU Athletic Hall of Fame, the College Baseball Hall of Fame and, most recently, in 2012, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

While slamming home runs out of the Alex Box Stadium as a first baseman and designated hitter, he made it a priority to maintain his grades, earn-

ing All-American Academic honors as a pre-med student.

After graduation from LSU, Dr. Furniss was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was in their minor league system until 2000 and moved on to play in the minors for Oakland and Texas. He left professional baseball in 2002 to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

He attended medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and completed his residency in family medicine at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, serving as chief resident during his final year in the program.

Along the way, Dr. Furniss found time to marry his high school sweetheart, Crystal, and they have three young children. Now board certified in family medicine, he shares office space with his dad, longtime family practitioner Dr. Ed Furniss, in his hometown of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Junior High Cellist To Play at Carnegie Hall

Runnels 8th grader Sean Parker will pack up his cello and take it to New York City this June to participate in the 2014 Middle School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall.

The program, which is open to students in grades 6-8 in North America as well as some international schools, brings together accomplished young musicians for five days of rehearsal under a master guest conductor in preparation for a performance in one of the world's most revered venues, Carnegie Hall. This year's conductor is scheduled to be Kirt Mosier, a composer and noted middle school honors program director.

Sean, who has studied cello for five years under Runnels strings instructors Dan and Jennifer Cassin, said the application process for the program included

a history of his musical experience and the submission of audition recordings. He said he played the Courante Cello Suite No. 1 by Bach and Arcangelo Corelli's Sonata in D Minor for his audition.

On his musical resume', Sean wrote that he had taken seven years of piano in addition to his cello lessons and that he had been a member of the Louisiana Junior Strings Ensemble for one year and had played with the Louisiana Junior Youth Orchestra for three.

Mr. Cassin, who nominated Sean for the program and encouraged him to apply, said that Sean is "a very talented

young man who is a diligent worker."

Sean recently was notified that he



Sean Parker

was selected as a Junior Finalist in the program and would spend five days in New York preparing for his June 28 debut as a member of the 2014 Middle School Honors Performance Series Orchestra in Carnegie Hall.

Though he will spend much of his time in rehearsal, Sean said he is also looking forward to seeing a Broadway show, taking in the sights of the Big Apple, and visiting the American

Museum of Natural History. He is the son of Robert Parker and Dr. Wendy Holden-Parker.

Scouting for Landmarks in the Windy City

Students from Norma Marsh's American Studies and AP U.S. History classes braved the icy temperatures of Chicago over the Mardi Gras break to go on a literary treasure hunt in search of architectural landmarks they had read about in Erik Larson's best seller, *The Devil in the White City*.

The book, which the students had read for class, said Mrs. Marsh, "is about the construction of the Chicago World's Fair (also known as the World Columbian Exposition) in 1893 by famous architects Daniel Burnham, John Root, and Louis Sullivan, among others."

The students took an architectural tour of Chicago skyscrapers built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and visited the Chicago Art Institute and the Museum of Science and Industry, which served as pavilions housing exhibits for the fair, and the Chicago Field Museum, which originally was established as a memorial to the Fair. (The Museum of Science and Industry served as the Palace of Fine Arts and The Art Institute housed the Parliament of Religions.)

These world class museums, Mrs. Marsh explained, "featured many paintings and exhibits we've discussed this year in both classes, and the students had a great time."

A highlight of the tour included front-row seats for the Blue Man Group, which was strictly for fun, she added.

We sincerely thank Mrs. Marsh for organizing the tour and chaperones Karen Matthews, Dana Kahn, and Tami Arceneaux.



As temperatures hover near 18 degrees in Chicago's Grant Park Norma Marsh (5th from left) and her "The Devil in the White City" tour group pause for a keepsake photo. In the back row, from left are Anna Morgan, Emily Mack, Ryan Baird, Connor Matthews, Max Morgan, and Caleb Manning, and in the front are Anna Arceneaux, Lauren Kahn, Olivia Arboneaux, Taz Shah, Rebecca Bender, and Sadie Kraft.



Adding some fancy footwork to the Upper Elementary Chorus' version of "Singin' in the Rain" on Mar. 13 in the Runnels Theater are 6th graders Cana Brumfield and Arden Kleinpeter, and 5th grader Thea Knowles.

Songs of the 20th Century

Congratulations to the members of the Upper Elementary Chorus and their director, Johnice Thoms, for a lively and entertaining concert in the Runnels Theater on Mar. 13.

Enjoying the concert, "Songs of the 20th Century," from a front-row seat was special guest, Dr. Greg Brandao, who will join our school community in July as the new Headmaster of The Runnels School.

Meeting a Reading Challenge

The students in Beth Golden's 2nd grade classes have been boosting their reading skills and learning the value of setting goals by accepting the "You Can Do It!" reading challenge.

The plan calls for the entire 2nd grade to complete 40,000 minutes of reading in 13 weeks! The goals include reaching 10,000 minutes of reading by Jan. 31, 20,000 minutes by Feb. 21, and 30,000 in early spring. The final goal of 40,000 reading minutes will be due in April. Will they make it? According to Mrs. Golden, it's looking good.

The attack strategy for the "You Can Do It!" challenge calls for each student to read for 20 minutes per day outside of class, with parents recording individual tallies and submitting them to Mrs. Golden in increments of 100 minutes of completed reading. As the entire class hits the successive 10,000-minute marks, there are parties and treats as rewards, with special recognition for students turning in at least two reading logs during a set period of time.

As an added incentive for the reading project, the children have read the life stories of famous people, including the Beatles (John, Paul, George, and Ringo), Dr. Seuss, and Thomas Edison, who have faced personal challenges and obstacles on the way to becoming household words.

When the 2nd graders reach their ultimate goal of completing a grand total of 40,000 minutes of reading, they will be rewarded with a super-celebration at school, hosted by their extremely proud teacher, Mrs. Golden. But the ultimate reward will be something a bit more personal and enduring -- the gift of becoming better readers.



Emma Felton, 2c, displays some of the tangible rewards the 2nd graders earned by meeting their first goal (10,000 minutes of reading) in the "You Can Do It!" reading challenge.

Comfort for the Homeless

Members of the Junior Beta Club recently helped make life a little more comfortable for the homeless in the Baton Rouge community. They worked on a project to transform ordinary recycled plastic grocery bags into sturdy, thick sleeping mats for people in need.

For the project, which was affiliated with an outreach program sponsored by the Ladies' Mission of Faith Presbyterian Church, the students first gathered piles of plastic bags.

Jr. Beta president Erina Buchholz who helped with the project said, "We flattened out the bags and cut out strips, which we tied together to make one long strip."

Jr. Beta cosponsor Christine Pousson added that the strips are rolled into large balls that are given to Ladies' Ministry members, who crochet them into comfortable mats that the homeless use for bedding or to sit on.

From 500 to 700 plastic bags are required to create just one sleeping mat, and it takes up to 35 hours to crochet the bags.

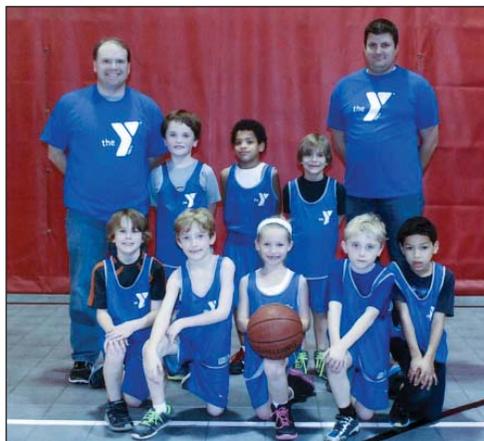
Members of the Faith Ladies' Mission meet twice a week to work on the mats. For more information, contact the Faith Presbyterian Church Office at 225-275-7393.

Special thanks go to Jr. Beta sponsor John Baird for providing the club members with this opportunity to assist the less fortunate in our community.



Jr. Beta volunteers prepare to flatten out recycled plastic bags that will be woven into sleeping mats for the homeless. Clockwise from bottom left are: Ally Garrity, Austin Stansbury, Katlyn Roy, Emma Milneck, Sean Parker, and Catherine Henning.

Winter Basketball Champions



Congratulations to the members of the Runnels 2nd Grade Basketball Team and their coaches, Jeremy Hader and Hayden Middlebrook, for winning in their division in YMCA Winter Basketball and becoming the 2014 YMCA Champions in their age group (7/8 year olds).

Second Grade Basketball Team: (Back row, from left) Coach Jeremy Hader, Ben Hader, Michael Matthews, Nic Middlebrook, Coach Hayden Middlebrook; (front row, from left) Caleb Johnston, Easton LeBlanc, Hope Oubre, Arthur Donaldson, and William Matthews.



Water Music... NBC33-TV meteorologist Jesse Gunkel paid a visit to Runnels 3rd grade science students in the Drama Room Mar. 11 to expand on their recent lessons about weather. During his presentation, the children sang the "Water Cycle" song, which they had learned from their science teacher, Cyndy Krul. Mr. Gunkel was so impressed with their performance that he recorded it on his cell phone and aired it on the 5 pm news that night. Many thanks to Mr. Gunkel for taking the time to share his expertise with our students and to Mrs. Krul for composing the "Water Cycle" song and arranging the popular weatherman's visit.

High School Athletic Awards Ceremony Runnels Theater: Sunday, May 4, 2014

Session I, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Swimming
Cross Country
Volleyball
Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball
Girls Soccer
Bowling
Powerlifting

Session II, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Baseball
Golf
Boys Soccer
Indoor Track & Field
Outdoor Track & Field
Tennis
Softball
R Award Presentations

The Runnels Booster Club will provide refreshments in the foyer of the Runnels Theater from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, between Sessions I and II.

Jr. High Athletic Awards Ceremony Runnels Theater: Thursday, May 1, at 6 pm

Runnels Artwork in B.R. Gallery's Juried Art Show



Artists (front row, from left) Christian Amedee, Samantha Sieberth, Alex Benson, and Sarah Garrett; (back row, from left) Erin Gleason, Grace LeBlanc, and Eve Axelrod.

Seven Runnels High School students recently had their artwork accepted for the "Real-Life Experience Juried High School Exhibition" which will be held at the Baton Rouge Gallery April 1 - May 1, 2014. These artists are senior Sarah Garrett, junior Erin Gleason, sophomores Christian Amedee, Alex Benson, Grace LeBlanc, and Samantha Sieberth, and freshman Eve Axelrod.

Prizes will be awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners and honorable mentions at a reception Wednesday, Apr. 2, from 7 - 9 pm, at the Baton Rouge Gallery.

Art department head Lee Brandt Randall teaches Sarah Garrett, Eve Axelrod, and Grace LeBlanc, painting teacher Danna Wiese instructs Erin Gleason, and Rachel Klein teaches Christian Amedee, Samantha Sieberth, and Alex Benson. The art show will be open to visitors from 12 pm to 6 pm Tuesdays through Sundays at the Baton Rouge Gallery.

Awards Announced for Varsity Soccer

Post-season awards are rolling in for varsity soccer players honors.

The Lady Raiders won the District 6, Division III, title for the third year in a row and advanced to the quarterfinals. Sadly, their hopes for a state title were crushed by a 1-0 loss to Catholic New Iberia. The team wrapped up the year with a record of 15-4-3, with players receiving a combined total of 10 All-District awards.

Junior Sadie Kraft was named the Overall District Most Valuable Player, and junior Olivia Arboneaux, who had 11 shutouts for the season, was recognized as the Co-district Defensive Most Valuable Player. Sadie and Olivia also made 1st Team All-District, along with seniors Haleigh Armstrong and Erin Dean and junior goalkeeper Shannon French.

Players earning 2nd Team All-District

honors were junior Morgan Evans, 8th grader Kaylen Howe, and 7th grader Fain Buete.



Sadie Kraft



Olivia Arboneaux

coach of the boys varsity soccer team is Gary Buete. Congratulations to all of our soccer players and their coaches.

In addition, Lady Raider Head Coach Marvin Smith was recognized as the District Coach of the Year.

The boys varsity soccer team also enjoyed a fine season, and several players were recognized with post-season awards.

Receiving 1st Team All-District honors were sophomores Grant Fink and Eric Gonzalez, freshman Wesley Harris, and 8th grader Hayden Armstrong. Named 2nd Team All-District were juniors Joey Fairley, Nabil Essajee, and goalkeeper David Segalla, along with midfielders Henry Forgey, grade 9, and Max Sager, grade 8. The head



Nico Morgan pans for minerals aboard Diamond Del's Mobile Gem Mine.

Eureka!

The kindergartners went prospecting for treasures the afternoon of Mar. 14 when Diamond Del's Mobile Gem Mine pulled up in the school parking lot. The interactive mining exhibit on wheels offered students the opportunity for a hands-on lesson in geology.

Upon entering the trailer, each child received a wooden mining box of Brazilian mining ore.

Students sluiced the boxes of ore in the running water flumes aboard Diamond Del's trailer to find hidden semi-precious stones. The gems they discovered included amethyst, garnet, fool's gold, tiger's eye, petrified wood, quartz crystal, hematite, fluorite, rose quartz, orange calcite, moonstone, snow quartz, apatite, and green moss agate.

The students bagged up their haul of minerals to use later in science class where they have been learning about mineral classification and identification during lessons on rock exploration with their teacher Lisa Latona.

It was an exciting afternoon of exploration and discovery for the youngsters as they excavated knowledge about mining and geology.

We Sincerely Thank... Coach Sam Coates (Gracie, K, Cooper, 2a, and Collin, 4b), for working with the City of Baton Rouge to arrange for the placement of a Runnels School directional sign to go up on O'Neal Road, and for negotiating with the state government to also get a southbound Runnels School sign placed on O'Neal Rd.

... Jihan Fodeh and Belal Badawi (Kareem, 2a, Mira, 3c, and Omar, 4a) and Las Palmas Mexican Restaurant, for donating nacho chips, queso, and salsa for our 4th and 5th grade students as a treat for meeting their third quarter "Accelerated Reader Goal."

Elementary reading teacher Kellie Dodgen and Omar Badawi, 4a, dig in to the chips, queso, and salsa his family provided to help the 4th & 5th graders celebrate meeting an Accelerated Reader goal.



Notable Events

D.A.R. Award Winner

Senior Mackenzie Byrd was chosen to receive the prestigious Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) Good Citizens Award for 2013-2014 at Runnels High School.



Mackenzie Byrd

The award is presented to outstanding seniors across the nation who demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship, including reliability, service, leadership, good character and patriotism.

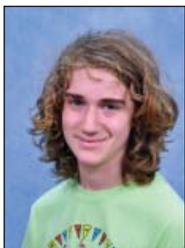
All high school seniors are eligible for the award, but only one from each school is selected to receive it. Members of the high school faculty determine the winner. Mackenzie will receive her reward at the Runnels High School commencement.

She plans to attend Northwestern Louisiana University in the fall to study musical theater.

Mackenzie, who is captain of the Runnels varsity cheer squad, is also a three-time Universal Cheerleaders Association All-American Cheerleader.

She is the daughter of Stacy and Wally Byrd.

Super Speller



Ian Duke

Regional Spelling Bee held in Hammond on Mar. 15.

Ian Duke, a seventh grader, represented Runnels at the 2014 Northwest Louisiana

A member of the Runnels Spelling Bee Club, Ian was the winner of the school spelling bee. At the Regional Spelling Bee, he made it to the finals. Although he did not place," said Runnels Spelling Bee club co-sponsor Colleen LeBlanc, "he represented Runnels very well and we are very proud of him."

Ian is the son of Kealy and Eugene Duke.

Senior Wins Youth Leadership Award

Noelle Morris, a Runnels 12th grader, recently was awarded the Knights of Columbus

Catholic Youth Leadership Award for St. Patrick's Parish.

The award is for church and spiritual activities, scholastic achievement, involvement with civic and community organizations, athletic activities, and social and school activities.

In addition, Noelle was recently named to the Louisiana High School Coaches Association All-State Basketball Team. Only 10 players in all girls basketball divisions received the award.

Noelle is the daughter of Cindy and Tex Morris.

Meeting an Author

Children's author Julie Sternberg met with Runnels 2nd through 5th grade students in our Drama Room Mar. 25 to share information about her newest



Noelle Morris



book, *Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake*.

In her presentation, Mrs. Sternberg talked about what inspires her to write, the writing process itself, and a new book series she's been working on. She also showed illustrations from *Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake* as well as pictures of her dog and children.

Elementary librarian Joni Orgeron said, "The students in the 4th and 5th grade classes will be sending notes of thank you and appreciation to Mrs. Sternberg to let her know just how much we all enjoyed her visit."

A former resident of Baton Rouge now living in Brooklyn, Mrs. Sternberg is also the author of *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* and *Like Bug Juice on a Burger*.

Canned Pet Food Needed for Local Animal Shelter

Spring is puppy and kitten season, and that means the Companion

Animal Alliance (CAA) shelter is full of homeless and hungry babies and their moms. As a service project, our 3rd-grade students are collecting canned pet food to donate to the shelter.

If you can help, please place your canned pet food donations in the "dog house" in the foyer of the elementary school office by April 17. Thank you for supporting this important project.

Squids 4 Kids



High school students in Meagan Morris' Honors Biology class and Dave Marschall's Biology II class recently had the opportunity to inspect, first hand, the anatomy of two *Disidicus gigas*, commonly known as the Humboldt squid or the jumbo flying squid.

The squid, which live in the eastern Pacific from Chile to Baja, but have recently been moving further north into California, were requested by Mr. Marschall through the Stanford Marine Lab in Santa Cruz, California, in connection with the Squid-4Kids program.

Fitted out with surgical gloves and dissecting instruments, the students got straight to work -- some with more enthusiasm than others -- inspecting and identifying the internal and external anatomy of the squid.

Having squid on deck in the classroom to dissect is an advantage for students, said Ms. Morris. "It's more fun to get the hands-on experience, and they're more inclined to remember it."

Many thanks to Mr. Marschall for providing the squid for the biology classes.

Caught Our Eye Around Campus

1. On “Kick-off to Cursive Handwriting Day,” (Feb. 24) elementary teacher Gena March, dressed as John Hancock, reads a “Declaration of Intentions” to students in 3c, in which they promise to use their best cursive handwriting from that day forward in all of their classes. Each student signed the declaration. The youngsters also wrote their monograms on sugar cookies with colorful frosting and signed each other’s autograph books, which they had created in class.

2. Among the wide array of Native American dwellings on display in the foyer of the Elementary School Office in March were those of 4th graders Wren Brumfield (*left*) and Abigail Robbins. To enhance and expand their social studies lessons on Native American life, the 4th graders all built miniature long houses, igloos, teepees, chickees, pueblos, and other varieties of Native American dwellings and presented talks about them to their classmates. Our thanks to elementary social studies teacher Cristin Ponjuan for organizing the exhibit.

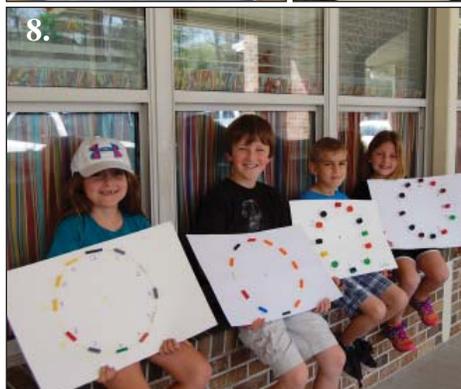
3. The 2nd graders celebrated St. Patrick’s Day recently by sharing their clever and colorful homemade “Leprechaun Traps.” In Composition class, they had been having fun writing stories about trapping a leprechaun who granted them three wishes. The youngsters exhibited their ingenious traps on the elementary playground where students from other grades viewed them. Then the traps were left unattended. Late in the afternoon, the 2nd graders returned and carefully inspected the traps. Unfortunately, no leprechauns were found, but the wee folk did leave behind some candies and treats for the children. Viewing a trap on the playground is 2nd grader Caroline Pousson.

4. For the second year in a row, the members of the Runnels varsity tennis team served as ball boys and girls at the 25th Annual Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament held at the Paula G. Manship YMCA. In the photo, team members and head coach Kathrin Sieberth (*far left*) and assistant coach Gail Sherman (*far right*) gather for a keepsake photo with a local gentleman who was competing in the tournament, which was held on Mar. 20.

5. Powerlifter David Segalla, grade 11, earned a bronze medal for third place in his weight category and set a new personal record in the squat at the Louisiana High School State Powerlifting Association (LHSPLA) tournament held Mar. 20 at West Monroe High School.

6. Wearing a traditional Japanese kimono, world geography teacher Michelle Richardson instructs high school students in the ancient art of origami to mark the conclusion of their studies on Southeast Asia.

7. A line of kindergartners follows math teacher M.C. Stewart around the campus in the annual “Bug Parade” on Feb. 28. The little revelers carried cut out pictures of insects they had colored, in size order (big, bigger, biggest) to



help them learn about measurement and comparative qualities.

8. To help learn how to tell time correctly, the second graders in Caroline Hader’s classes have been making clocks out of legos. From

left are clock makers Megan Shaneyfelt, Cooper Coates, Andrew Smith, and Olivia Williams.

9. Elementary science teacher John Baird explains the intricacies of operating a microscope to 5th graders James Powers (left) and Margaret Campbell. The students were learning how to prepare depression slides and viewing fish scales and poppy seeds with the microscopes.

Notable Events

Bagpipes and Spanish Moss ... A band of pipers and drummers called *Na Cait Dubh* in Gaelic, or "The Black Cat," paid a visit to our preschool in honor of St. Patrick's Day. They shared their lively tunes with students and showed them how to play a "bodhran" drum, which is an Irish frame drum that's open on one side so that a hand can be placed against it on the inside to control pitch and timbre. "The Black Cat" members march in parades and play at parties, weddings, and statewide events for the Celtic Society of Louisiana.

In addition, the pre-kindergartners presented their spring performances, all of which were entitled "A Day at the Swamp," to appreciative audiences at the preschool on March 14, 21, and 28.



Thank You's for Teacher Appreciation at Preschool

... We sincerely thank the Teacher Appreciation committee members at the preschool for planning, organizing, and arranging this year's fantastic Teacher Appreciation events. They are Kimberly Calcote, Tiffany Slaton, Stacy Corder, Brandi Rush, Sam Oakley and Alecia Tate.

"Alice in Wonderland"

The Junior High Drama Department will present *Alice in Wonderland* for one performance only on Friday, April 4, at 7 pm, in the Runnels Theater for the Performing Arts

Tickets are \$10.00 for all and can be purchased in the High School Office in advance or at the door the night of the performance. Call the Runnels High School Office at 225-751-2192 for more information.



1. Pre-kindergartner Riley Rush takes a turn on the Irish "bodhran" drum. 2. "The Black Cat" pipers and drummers at the preschool.



3. Kendall Eastman-Stuart advertises the Pre-Kindergarten "Butterflies" and "Crawfish" production

of "A Day at the Swamp." 4. "On stage" for their presentation of A Day at the Swamp" are pre-kindergartners (from left) to right, top to bottom are: Patrick Patton, Lucas Hoang, Mikey Katzman, Daniel Tate, Harper Guay, Violet Ray, Kate Stelly, and Addy Miller.



2013-2014 Runnels Yearbook Order Form

It's time to place your order for the 2013-2014 Runnels Yearbook. Order early and receive a discount. For the biggest discount, order by Friday, Nov. 15, when the cost is \$55.00. From Nov. 18 through Jan. 24, the price is \$60.00. Thereafter, the cost of the yearbook is \$65.00. The last date to order is Friday, May 2. Below, please list the name and current grade/section of each student to receive a yearbook. Include your check, payable to Runnels School. Add \$8.00 and print the mailing address if books are to be sent to you. Turn in your order at any school office.

Student name _____ Grade/Section _____

Student name _____ Grade/Section _____

Mailing address (if books are to be sent) _____

Total amount enclosed _____ Date order received _____

Check number _____

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SPRING ART SHOW

Sunday, May 4, Runnels Gym, 2:00 - 4:00 pm



Tiger by Natalia Tooraen, grade 6

Featuring Student Art from Runnels Preschool through Senior High

Light refreshments provided, with music by the Bill Kimbrell Trio.