

## Spreading Comfort and Joy

Throughout our school community, students found thoughtful and inspiring ways to touch the lives of others this holiday season. They made Christmas cards for soldiers, crafted lavender sachets for hospice patients, designed holiday flag banners for the elderly, and worked on several other service projects to help make the season merry and bright for those in need.

The members of 3rd grade Runnels Girl Scout Troop 10154 made Christmas cards for soldiers as part of the "Holiday Mail for Heroes" campaign sponsored by the Red Cross. They were able to send 35 cards to the program's headquarters in Maryland in time for holiday distribution.

Our second graders designed cheerful red and green holiday banners for the

Port Allen Council on Aging as a service project for our CLASSY program. Elementary teacher Linda Benson, who coordinated the project, said that they chose to make banners for that organization because her mother, Doris Bradley, and her friends volunteer there every week.

The 3rd-5th grade Girls on the Run team recently warmed hearts and feet by collecting 400 pairs of socks for the Baton Rouge Parents Magazine sock drive for the homeless. The team also participated in the Girls on the Run South Louisiana Fall 5k on Dec. 14 at the Pennington Biomedical Center.

The Lady Raider Basketball team helped bring a very merry Christmas to the students at Wildwood Elementary by volunteering to help host "Christmas in a Box" parties in classrooms on Dec. 15.

Coach Justin MacKay said the girls arranged and helped supervise craft, food, and games stations for the parties at Wildwood, where they worked with both regular and special needs students.



A group of 2nd graders holds up one of the holiday banners their class made for the Port Allen Council on Aging.

"The girls really enjoyed the experience, and the kids didn't want them to leave; they kept asking the girls to stay" said the coach. "On the bus back, the girls chattered constantly, telling each other stories about what happened at the parties and with the kids."

The project, called Wildwood Winter Wonderland, was an outreach of Kids Hope USA and Chapel in the Oaks. Wildwood Elementary serves children in grades Pre-K through 5. Ninety percent of the students at Wildwood Elementary live below the poverty line.

(See "Comfort and Joy," page 2)

## Cast Announced for "Willy Wonka"

The Runnels Jr./Sr. High Drama Department will present the timeless family musical, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, for three performances, Feb. 14, 15, and 16, in the Runnels Theater for the Performing Arts.

Based on Roald Dahl's children's book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and adapted from the 1971 movie musical featuring Gene Wilder, the stage version follows the five Golden Ticket winners on their fantastical tour of the Wonka chocolate factory.

The Runnels production will put a fresh spin on the cherished tale with the addition of steampunk inspired sets and Oompa-Loompas. The chocolate factory will be designed and built by technical theater students at Runnels.

Leading the cast as chocolate imagineer *Willy Wonka* is junior Caleb Manning, with Everett Hibner, also a

(See "Willy Wonka' Cast," page 7)

## The Gift of Reading ...

BASF recently gave a very generous gift to our libraries. The chemical company donated \$3,874 to cover Accelerated Reader costs at Runnels for the entire



year. The Accelerated Reader program offers online reading quizzes for students through 9th grade. BASF employee and Runnels dad, Thomas Yura (above, left),

father of Christopher, 5c, and Rachel, grade 9, recently presented the gift on behalf of the company to Elementary Librarian Joni Orgeron (above right). We sincerely thank BASF for the donation as well as Mr. Yura, who was so instrumental in obtaining it for our school.



Girl Scout Ryan Matthews, 3c, with her "Holiday Mail for Heroes" card.



# Junior Wins House of Blues Music Competition

Kara Peneguy, a junior at Runnels High School, clinched first prize in the International House of Blues Foundation's "Bringin' Down the House" 2013 Teen Showcase competition held Dec. 3 before a live audience at the House of Blues in New Orleans.

For the contest, Kara sang three original songs of her own composition while accompanying herself on the keyboard. Her performance edged out five other acts in the competition.

Her first-place prizes included an electric guitar, a bass guitar, a set of drums, an Xbox, a gift certificate to Guitar Center, and a 10-hour recording session at a New Orleans studio to have a song fully mastered so it's ready for iTunes.

In addition, a movie producer at the House of Blues approached Kara and said he was interested in using one of her songs in an upcoming film.

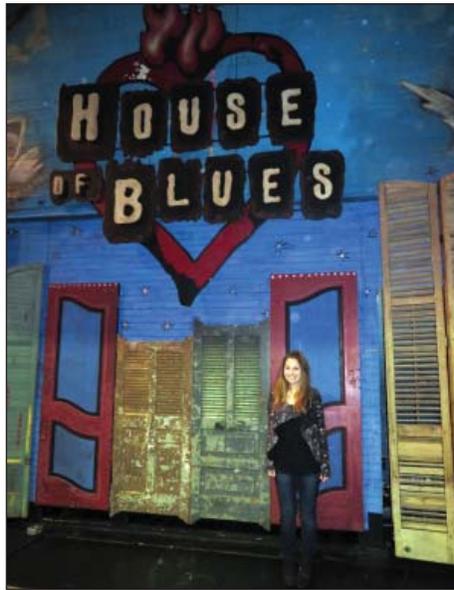
Kara, who has been writing songs since she was eight years old, said she was shocked to win the contest. "I thought the other acts were good. I was surprised I won because they were all very talented."

## Spreading Comfort and Joy, continued from page one

Members of the Junior Beta Club wrote and illustrated Christmas cards for the Sweet Dreams Women's and Children's Center at the Bishop Ott Shelter. They also made their annual delivery of "Cookies for Heroes" to thank local fire fighters, EMS staffers, and police officers for their service to the community. The club members also volunteered as helpers at the RPO's second "Pictures in the Plaza" movie night Dec. 14.

The Senior Beta Club provided cookies to the Generations Hospice over the holidays and participated in the Salvation Army's Christmas Angels project. They also volunteered to wrap purchases at our Barnes & Noble showcase in December and participated in "Cookies for Heroes."

Members of the National Honor Society at Runnels made lavender sachets for terminally ill hospice patients. Sponsor Pamela Gyan said that Joan Bourgeois of Generations Hospice



Prize winning singer and songwriter Kara Peneguy at the House of Blues in New Orleans.

A relative novice to the stage, Kara said that before performing at the House of Blues she had only sung with a group at a Runnels High School Talent Show, with a Praise Band at church, and at two local coffee houses.

She explained that winning the contest has helped boost her morale as a singer and songwriter: "I'm feeling

more confident about my music now," she said.

Kara, who plays varsity soccer at Runnels, is also active in the Beta Club, the Girl Scouts, and the National Charity League.

She is the daughter of Teresa and Mark Peneguy.

*iPad Air Raffle Winner ...* Congratulations to 7th grader Cameron McKnight for winning the Jr./Sr. High Library's iPad raffle. Jr./Sr. High Principal and Guidance Counselor Conchetta Foshee drew the winning ticket (No. 13) in the High School Office on Dec. 16.



Lucky iPad Air winner Cameron McKnight and Jr./Sr. High Librarian Charlotte Lockhart.

brought bags of dried lavender flowers and small sachet bags for the students to use for the project. The NHS members "filled over 50 sachets with the aromatic flowers," said Mrs. Gyan, adding that "aromatherapy can be used as a method for stress-relief, relaxation, and as a sleep aid."

The sachets will be distributed to hospice patients in the Baton Rouge area.

In addition, many Runnels families

in our preschool, elementary, and junior and senior high divisions donated generously to Thanksgiving Food Drives for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and to the Marine Corps Reserves' "Toys for Tots" program.

Participating in these service projects and others like them helps our students understand how much joy can come their way by lending a hand to others when they need a little extra care.



Left: Sixth-grade Jr. Beta members Anna Manning (center) and Bailey Hyatt deliver cookies to the Kleinpeter Sheriff's Substation as part of the Beta Club's "Cookies for Heroes" annual program. Right: Lady Raider basketball players, Coach Justin MacKay, and Volleyball Coach Jean Martinez at Wildwood Elementary as volunteers for "Christmas in a Box" parties.

# Barnes & Noble Showcase Sparkles

The Visual and Performing Arts Showcase and Book Fair at the Citiplace Barnes & Noble Dec. 6 - 8 offered a wonderful opportunity to share the accomplishments of our music, art, photography, ballet, and drama students with the Greater Baton Rouge community.

We sincerely thank Elementary Librarian Joni Orgeron for coordinating the showcase, K-12 Art Department Head Lee Brandt Randall and the art faculty for organizing and mounting the art and photography exhibit, Rebecca Todaro for providing harp music at the opening night reception, the students, club sponsors, parents, and teachers who volunteered at the gift wrapping table, and the many members of our school community for braving the rain to come out and support the showcase and book fair.

All proceeds from the event will help support the library programs in the pre-school, elementary, and junior and senior high divisions of our school.

We also thank everyone who so thoughtfully left "Tips" at the complimentary gift wrapping table. The \$153.00 that accumulated in the jar will be used to purchase crayons, coloring books, and soccer balls for orphans in Haiti. The items will be delivered by High School Librarian Kristen Manning and her daughter Anna, 6b, who are heading to the Caribbean nation in late December on a mission trip sponsored by their church and The Global Orphan Project.



*Mrs. Kelfstrom reads "Mouseton Abbey" as her daughter, Kate, 2c, shows pictures from the book.*



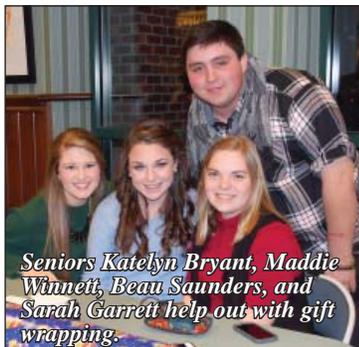
*Advanced String Orchestra cellists Sean Parker, Luc Kharey, William Harrell, and Peyton Collett performed "Sonata for Cello Quartet in E Minor" by Bernard Romberg at the Showcase.*



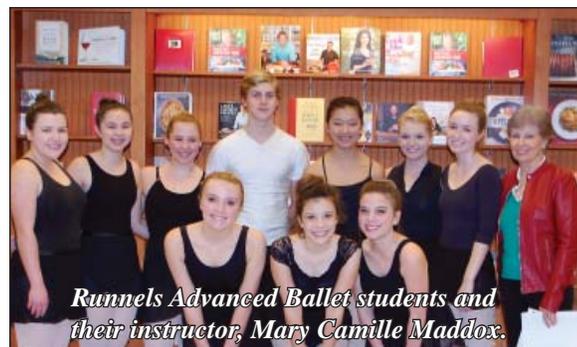
*Fifth-Grade Band members Rachel Middlebrook, Madisan Milam, and Caroline Daigle.*



*Enjoying the reception for the art exhibit are art teachers Dana Wiese, Rachel Klein, Pamela Gyan, Lee Brandt Randall, and Janine Kharey.*



*Seniors Katelyn Bryant, Maddie Winnett, Beau Saunders, and Sarah Garrett help out with gift wrapping.*



*Runnels Advanced Ballet students and their instructor, Mary Camille Maddox.*



*Santa stops by our December "Picture in the Plaza" evening for a photo op with RPO President Nicole Latiolais and event coordinator Colleen Spillane.*

## RPO Picture in the Plaza, Part 2 ...

On Dec. 14, the RPO held its second "Picture in the Plaza" event. Feeling the cool winter air and following a rainy day, the event was moved indoors to the gym. Holiday fun was had by all with blankets and pillows laying about. Approximately 90 children, parents and friends enjoyed the holiday double feature and tasty treats served up by RPO and Junior Beta volunteers. Santa made several appearances between films while taking a break from posing for Santa photos. Our photographer, Wendy Milam, patiently took Santa photos and gave out candy canes to smiling children. In addition, the talented Caleb Manning, grade 11, graced us with a memorable performance of our guest from the North. Our event sponsors were Presonus, Don's Seafood, Coke-a-Cola and AMC theaters. We graciously thank our sponsors and volunteers for their contributions and time. We raised over \$800 from our December event. "Picture in the Plaza" coordinator Colleen Spillane says: "We'll be back in the spring with more movies and fun!" -- RPO President Nicole Latiolais

## Runnels Awarded Grant from Circle K and Exxon ...

Runnels Grants Officer Beth Golden reports that our school has recently been awarded a \$500 grant from Circle K Stores, Inc., and the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program to support math and science education.

According to a letter from Circle K Stores, Inc., the grants are intended to "make learning math and science fun and help schools purchase supplemental learning tools such as science lab supplies, iPads, graphing calculators or to fund math and science related field trips."

We sincerely thank Circle K Stores, Inc., and Exxon Mobil for selecting Runnels School as a grant recipient.

## Johnson Recruited by Nicholls State

Bobby Johnson, a senior at Runnels High School, recently signed with Nicholls State University to play baseball next year.

He was recruited to join the Nicholls State Colonels as a catcher, the position he has played on the Runnels varsity team since his sophomore year.

Bobby, who received the offer to play for Nicholls while visiting the campus to watch fall scrimmages



*Bobby Johnson*

said he's happy to be starting his college baseball career in Thibodaux.

"I like the Nicholls

coaching staff and what they're doing in the conference. They're really competitive."

Bobby is the son of Runnels High School Athletic Director Tookie Johnson and Rhonda Johnson.

## Mini Cheer Clinic Coming Up Jan. 18

The Junior and Senior High Cheerleaders are holding their annual Mini Cheer Clinic for Runnels students in grades K-5 on Jan. 18 from 2 - 5 pm in the gym. At the clinic, students will work in small groups to learn motions, jumps, chants, and a cheer.

On Friday, Jan. 24, participants are invited to demonstrate what they learn at the clinic by performing cheers at the varsity girls basketball game in the Runnels gym.

Registration for the clinic, which includes a t-shirt and snack, is \$25. Forms are available online at [www.runnels.org](http://www.runnels.org) in "What's Happening" or in the Elementary School Office.



Registration forms are due on Jan. 10. For more information, contact cheer coach and sponsor Holly Wilder at 225-751-2192.

## Runnels Musicians Make District Honor Bands

Thirteen Runnels students have been chosen for District Honor Bands. Auditions were held Saturday, Dec. 14, at E. Ascension High School. Runnels 6th-12th Grade Band Director Jill Swetnam said that more than 900 students from 10 parishes participated in this year's auditions. Congratulations to Ms. Swetnam and the following Runnels musicians.

### High School Symphonic Band:

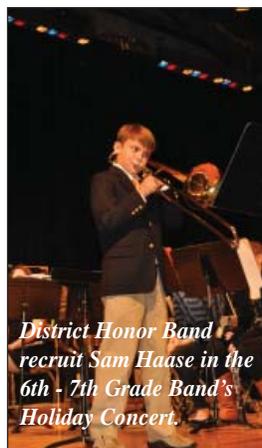
Connor Matthews, 1st chair, Oboe; Amelie Kharey, 2nd chair, Clarinet.

### High School Concert Band:

Michael Martinez, 5th chair, Trumpet; Marisa Russo, alternate Flute.

### Middle School Symphonic Band:

Erina Buchholz, 1st chair, Clarinet; CC Monett, 2nd chair, Flute; Aidan Matthews, 7th chair, Flute; Elizabeth Foley, 8th chair, Flute; Ashley Stansbury, 3rd chair, Alto Saxophone; Sam Matthews, 7th chair, French horn; Sam Day, 2nd chair, Trombone; Alex Matthews, 4th chair, Trombone; and Sam Haase, 7th chair, Trombone. The District



*District Honor Band recruit Sam Haase in the 6th - 7th Grade Band's Holiday Concert.*

Band concerts are held at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond Jan. 16-18.

## Senior Presented at Les Jeunes Amies Ball

Runnels senior Conley Bourgeois was among the 19 members of Les Jeunes Amies de la Symphonie presented at the Baton Rouge Symphony League's Bal de la Symphonie at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge on Nov. 30.

Les Jeune Amies is a service organization made up of the daughters and granddaughters of Baton Rouge Symphony League members.

The girls perform volunteer service in support of the Baton Rouge Symphony and help promote music education.



*Runnels senior Conley Bourgeois and her father at the Les Jeunes Amies Ball.*

Conley, a member of Les Jeunes Amies since her freshman year in high school, said she has attended Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra concerts, provided refreshments for concert-goers, and has helped at performances with programs and tickets.

At the ball, each girl made a presentation outlining her accomplishments and future goals. Conley's father, Saint Bourgeois, was her escort for the presentation.

Conley said that the night ended with dinner, and dancing to music provided by the V-Tones. She added that it was a night that she and the other 18 girls would remember for a long time to come.

Conley is the daughter of Saint and Anna Bourgeois.

*New Members in Honor Math Club ...* A lunchtime pizza party was held in Novak Hall on Dec. 11 to officially welcome eight students into Mu Alpha Theta, the national honor math society.

The newly inducted members are juniors Hana Derzi and Caitlyn Moore, sophomores Olivia Arce-mont, Drake Fromenthal, and Wesley Harris, and freshmen Regan Dean, Andrew Mitchell, and John Wiese.

This year's Mu Alpha Theta officers are senior Matt Mitchell, president, senior Amelie Kharey, vice presi-  
dent, sophomore Anna Morgan, secretary, and junior Olivia Arboneaux, treasurer. The sponsors are Karen Matthews and Norma Marsh.



*Newly inducted Mu Alpha Theta members.*

## *Scholastic Book Fair Update and Thank You's*

Mrs. Orgeron reports that the Elementary Library's Fall Scholastic Book Fair was a great success. Sales totaled \$17,114.37, with the library receiving \$3,325.48, plus \$750 worth of new books from Scholastic.

At the book fair, donations to the Sweet Dreams Women's and Children's Center at the Bishop Ott Shelter totaled \$456. We delivered \$456 worth of books to the shelter right after the book fair. In addition, Scholastic sent one book for every dollar we collected to the Philippines to help rebuild libraries destroyed by November's Typhoon Haiyan.

We offer our grateful thanks to the many volunteers who helped with the book fair. They include (*cont'd. from our December issue*): Carrie Griffin (Alex, K), Beverly Griffin, Analee Campbell (Matthew, K, Katherine, 2c, and Margaret, 5c), Erin Kennedy (Jonah, Pre-K, and Isabelle, 1b), Wendy Dolan (Maeve, K), Kara Cambre (Braydn, K), Jalan Woodward (Nina, 5a), Sally Power (Julie, 10th, and James, 5c), Julie Stevenson (Baron, 3c, Wesley, 5b, and Michael, 8th), Tami LaBonne (Jenna, 5a and Jarrett, 9th), Sam Oakley (Taylor, PS3, and Eli, K), Missy Stafford (Ben, 5b), Wendy Milam (Alaina, K, and Madisan, 5c), Kristina Porthouse (Connor, 5c), Lisa Pellissier (Poppy, 2b, and Dino, 6a), Natalie McGee (Sean, 2c, Dylan, 11th, Garrett Deshotels, 11th, and Jadan

Deshotels, 12th), Sharyn Schmitz (Emilie, 1a, and Alexis, Pre-K), Lely Hedrick, grandmother of Alaysia Mandujano, 2c, and Zayne Mandujano, 4a, Holly Carey (Jake, 1a, and Nikolas, 4c), Jennifer Carpenter (Anna, K, and Katie, 4b), Jodi Koontz (Taylor, 6c, and Phoebe, 3c), Laura Roark (Stuart, 2b), Treva Parolli (Bella Barnes, 5b), Mary Crowson, grandmother of Mason Pizzalato, 1b, and Cohen Pizzalato, PS3, Cindy Joubert (Conner, K), Kathie Filardo, grandmother of Liam Oliver, K,

Nicole Latiolais (Eli, 3b and Cole, 6b), Kim Cox (Chris, 3b), Caroline Hader (Ben, 2cC and Ellie, 4aA), Alecia Tate, (Daniel, Pre-K, Zeb, 1b, and Mikey Albarado, 5a), Dana Kahn (Jack, 6a, and Lauren, 11th), Anna Eason, grandmother of Briley St. Romain, Pre-K, and Bailey St. Romain, 1a, Sarah Odom (Paige, 3a), Amanda Francois (John-Kirby, K), Sarah Rogillio (Carter, K), Audra Collett (Emma, 3a, Parker, 5a, and Peyton, 8th), Ann Shaneyfelt (Megan, 2a, Evan, 3c and Ian, 6c), Jill Bourque (Briley, K, and Braeden, 5b), Kristin Morgan (Nico, K and Leo, PS3), and Elizabeth Novak, (Kristen '01, and Kris '03).

The Jr./Sr. High School Library's Scholastic Book Fair also did well. Mrs. Lockhart said that 27 new books were added to the collection due to the fair. She and Jr./Sr. High Librarian Kristen Manning thank everyone who supported the event.



*Jordyn Miller, grade 8, shows 1st grader Olivia Bruner around the Elementary Library's Scholastic Book Fair. The older students helped the younger ones with their Wish Lists.*

## *Remembering Sugar ...*

Preschool students and faculty members recently said a sad good-bye to a dearly loved pet. Sugar the preschool bunny quietly passed away the weekend of Dec. 8.

A cherished resident of preschool classrooms for nearly a decade, Sugar, who was named in honor of LSU's 2004 Sugar Bowl championship, touched many hearts. Preschool Co-directors Karen Runnels and Janice Leger said that the preschoolers who first helped care for Sugar are now in 7th grade.

In a letter sent home to preschool parents, the co-directors wrote: "We will always remember the way Sugar welcomed us to school each morning. He



*Sugar the preschool bunny by his friend, Pre-K student Tyler Felton.*

was eager to eat the treats we provided for him. He loved to get pats and helped many a child overcome missing Mom or Dad. Sugar loved blueberries, broccoli, and strawberry tops. We will miss the way he eagerly jumped up to beg for treats throughout the day. He was a great vegetable eater!"

The preschoolers have been finding consolation for the loss of their much-loved pet by drawing pictures, sharing books, and talking about Sugar's amazing life.



*Dear Santa... Michaela Fennell (right), 6c, helps her kindergarten buddy, Anna Carpenter, compose a letter to Santa on a warm winter's day in December.*

# Runnels Community Scrapbook



**Shaping Knowledge** (far left) ... Geometry students Jena Bordelon, Olivia Arcemont, Natalie Justus, Christian Martin, and Mason Williams display the 3-D geometric sculptures they constructed using 10 geometric concepts they learned in class.

**Songs of the Season** (left) ... Jr./Sr. High Chorus, directed by Johnice Thoms, in formal attire for a Holiday Concert in the Runnels Theater on the evening of Dec. 12



**Gingerbread Girls** ... Preschooler Brynne Chapoton displays the gingerbread girl cookie she decorated at school and her gingerbread girl dress. The 3s also enjoyed a gingerbread house on campus.

**Joyful Noise**... Percussionist George Buete swings into the 4th-5th Grade Band's Holiday Concert in the Runnels Theater the evening of Dec. 9. Shanna Drescher directs the band.

**Native American Lore**... Local historian "Strong Buffalo," a member of the Choctaw and Cherokee nations, pitched a full-sized teepee on our playground in November to show our kindergartners how the Plains Indians lived.

**Tuning Up**... Avery Matens, 4b, prepares for the String Orchestra's Holiday Concert in the Runnels Theater Dec. 13. The Runnels String Orchestra is directed by Jennifer Cassin.

**8th- 12th Grade Band Holiday Concert, Runnels Theater, 12/12** ... French horn players Alex Stansbury and Sam Matthews and trombonists Sam Day and Ryan Carrier play "Rockin' Christmas." Jill Swetnam directed the band.

**Upper Elementary Chorus Holiday Concert, Runnels Theater, 12/17**, directed by Johnice Thoms. Sixth grade singer Julia Sager lights a holiday menorah on stage during the performance.

**Harp Choir Concert, Runnels Theater, 12/6**, with music by the Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Harp Choirs, directed by Rebecca Todaro. At right, 5th grade harpist Angie Patton performs a song at the show.



## Meet the Beatles

... The Swingin' Sixties came alive for Ali Guerin, 3b, when she read about the British rock band, the Beatles, for her biography book report in November. Ali presented an oral report on the book in Mrs.

Harris' reading class, dressed up as guitarist, Sir Paul McCartney. The rest of the band, Ringo Starr, George Harrison, and John Lennon, made an appearance, too.



## Mathnasium Award

... Because Runnels Elementary School had more students competing in Mathnasium's 3rd annual "Tri-Mathlon" in November than any other local school, we recently received a \$250 honorarium from the company. At left, Mathnasium owner Randy Booth (third from left) presents Assistant Head of School and Preschool and Elementary Principal Gladys Runnels (second from left) with the award check. From left are elementary math teachers (from left) Wendy Worsham, Christine Pousson, and Tamara Smith, whose students participated in the competition. (See a related story about how the Runnels students fared in the "Tri-Mathlon" in our November 2013 issue.)

# We Sincerely Thank



... *Derrie Perez*, grandmother of Stuart Roark, 2b, for making a contribution to the Elementary Library. Mrs. Perez, a retired librarian, was Dean of Libraries at USF in Tampa. Her daughter-in-law, elementary teacher Laura Roark, said that libraries are near and dear to her heart.

... *Melanie Hyatt* (Bailey, 6b), *Kristen Manning* (Anna, 6b, Caleb, 11th, and Joshua, '12), *Neena Kelfstrom* (Kate, 2c, and Brandon, 8th), *Christine Pousson* (Caroline, 2a, Anna Claire, 7th, and Kathleen, 11th), and *Richard Buchholz*

(Erina, 8th) for volunteering to drive Beta members around town to make deliveries for the "Cookies for Heroes" project.

... *David Marshall*, for donating a playhouse to the Runnels Preschool for the 2-year-olds to enjoy. Mr. Marshall teaches Environmental Science AP and Biology II at Runnels High School. We also congratulate Mr. Marshall on winning the recent "Christmas Sweater Contest" in the Jr./Sr. High School.

... The *many parents* who so generously contributed to the "Teacher Appreciation Holiday Project" organized by the RPO.

## Essay Winners Named at D.A.R.E. Graduation

The entire Runnels 5th grade class celebrated the successful completion of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (D.A.R.E.) with a graduation ceremony held in the Runnels Theater Dec. 19.

Presiding over the event was Capt. Randy Aguillard of the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, who has been the D.A.R.E. instructor at Runnels for 19 years. Also on stage to help with the presentations were Assistant Head of School and Elementary Principal Gladys Runnels and elementary social studies teacher Tana Cramp.

Highlighting the program was the announcement of the D.A.R.E. essay contest winners. They are fifth graders Evan Beoubay, Marshall Pentes, Nina Woodward, and Xander Pyle. All read their essays on stage and received special pins and certificates of achievement from Capt. Aguillard. The overall essay winner, Xander Pyle, also received a D.A.R.E. medal.

All of the graduates were given D.A.R.E. t-shirts and gift bags at the ceremony.

The main purpose of the D.A.R.E. program, according to Capt. Aguillard, is to help students "become better choice makers" when it comes to drugs and violence. The 18-week program is designed to assist students in recognizing the consequences of drug use and give them practice in developing techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illegal substances.



Capt. Randy Aguillard with 5th grade D.A.R.E. essay contest winners (from left) Evan Beoubay, Marshall Pentes, Nina Woodward, and Xander Pyle. Xander was also the overall essay winner.

## Kudos to...

Runnels varsity cheerleader Mackenzie Byrd, who marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City as a Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) All-American.

Mackenzie was one of the few UCA All-Americans chosen to represent the group on NBC's "Today Show" the morning of Nov. 27. The girls got to meet celebrity anchors and performed a stunt for a live audience in the Plaza.



UCA All-American Cheerleader, Runnels senior Mackenzie Byrd (circled), appears on the "Today Show" in New York City Nov. 27, the day before she marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

## "Willy Wonka" Cast, continued from p. 1

junior, as young *Charlie Bucket*, and Max Morgan, grade 11, as the amiable *Grandpa Joe*. Also featured are freshman Micah Danos as the *Candy Man*, freshman Rachel Yura, as *Mrs. Bucket*, 7th grader Alex Morgan as *Mr. Bucket*, junior Allie Nicholson as *Phineous Trout*, freshman John Wiese as *Augustus Gloop*, sophomore Sarah Gibbs as *Mrs. Gloop*, 8th grader Garrett Miller as *Mike Teavee*, senior Caroline Bonaventure as *Ms. Teavee*, junior Emily Mack as *Veruca Salt*, junior Connor Matthews as *Mr. Salt*, sophomore Samantha Sieberth as *Violet Beauregarde*, and freshman Savannah Sanders as *Mrs. Beauregarde*.

Also in the cast are seniors Sarah Garrett and Abi Moussa, sophomore Anelise Broussard, freshmen Maggie Anders, Eve Axelrod, Kristina Khalid-Abasi, Rose Law, and Marisa Russo, 8th graders Harrison Bonaventure, Alex Matthews, Sam Matthews, and Haley Raines, and 7th graders Saylor Ourso, Emily Bienvenu, Kayla Evans, Brennan Grady, Amelia Jennings, Sydney Markham, McKenzie Mayeaux, Hannah Page, and Tyler Robbins.

Specialty *Oompa-Loompa* dancers are juniors Nicole Gardana and Griffin Gowdy, freshmen Jarrett LaBonne and Stephen Watson, and 7th grader Emma Tooraen.

Elementary students from grades 4-6 will portray the *Candy Man Kids*, *Squirrels*, and dancing *Oompa Loompas*.

Jr./Sr. High Drama Department Head Ann Dalrymple will direct the production, and 6th-12th Grade Band Director Jill Swetnam will conduct the band.

Advanced tickets are \$12 for students and \$15 for adults, and \$20 for all at the door. For ticket information, visit the Runnels High School Office or call 225-751-2192.

If you have news for "The Reporter," please send it to [news@runnels.org](mailto:news@runnels.org).

The Runnels Faculty and Staff Wish you a Very Happy New Year! See you on Monday, Jan. 6.

*It's Time to Reenroll for the*  
*2014-15 School Year at Runnels!*

- Current Students (2013-14): Spaces reserved until Feb. 3, 2014.
- Enrollment after Feb. 3, 2014 (if space is available): Enrollment fee will be assessed.
- Enrollment for 2014-15: This is in effect only with signed Enrollment Agreement.
- Payment Due: Resource fee for 2014-15 is due on Monday, Feb. 3, if it is not already paid.
- Three Payment Plans: These are available, with different refund provisions.
- Prepaid Multi-Year Enrollment Plan (optional): This saves you money and freezes costs!