

High School Harpist To Perform at Carnegie Hall

Though most musicians only dream of performing at Carnegie Hall, that dream is about to become a reality for Runnels sophomore Rachel Yura. She has been chosen to participate in the 2015 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall and will play the harp as a member of the Honors Orchestra and Concert Band in New York City on Feb. 22.



Harpist Rachel Yura

Students participating in the program rehearse and perform under master conductors for five days in New York. Approximately 10,000 students are nominated each year, but only 500 are chosen to participate. Rachel is the third Runnels student selected for the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall.

Rachel's passion for playing the harp was ignited when she came to Runnels as a 5th grader. The Runnels harp program had just been started by Rebecca Todaro and Gladys Runnels, and Rachel decided to sign up for the beginning harp class. She has taken the class for the last six years, first with Mrs. Todaro and now with new harp instructor Gabriella Werries.

In addition to taking daily harp classes at Runnels, Rachel commutes to New Orleans for lessons with Mrs. Todaro, who nominated her for the High School Honors Performance Series. On her audition tape for the Carnegie Hall program, Rachel performed Debussy's "Clare de Lune" on her Salzedo Concert Grand pedal harp. A member of the 2014-15 Louisiana Youth Orchestra, Rachel has performed with the Louisiana Junior (SEE "CARNEGIE HALL" PAGE 3)

OPERATION DESK MOVE ... Runnels students in all junior and senior high and some upper elementary classrooms will be sitting pretty in 2015 and beyond thanks to the efforts of a volunteer task force that helped move, set up and clean 400 desks we recently purchased at nominal cost from LSU.

"The desks," said Headmaster Dr. Greg Brandao, "are larger than our current junior and senior high desks and I believe they will be substantially more comfortable for our students."

Most of the desks (340) were moved from LSU and installed at Runnels in one afternoon. Below, Dr. Brandao describes how the volunteers tackled the mission:

Our first small group of workers arrived at LSU a little after 1 p.m. on Sunday (Dec. 14) to mark desks 'ready to move.' Most of the rest of (SEE "DESKS" PAGE 2)



Sydney (left) and Stephen Worsham help clean newly installed desks in Room 26. Also in the work crew were students Thomas Worsham, JP Guillot and Humza Pirzadah.

Time to Reenroll for '15-'16 School Year at Runnels

If you have questions about reenrollment, please contact Renee' Crow in the business office (225-751-5748 or r.crow@runnels.org).

Current Students (2014-15): Spaces reserved until Feb. 2, 2015.

Enrollment after Feb. 2, 2015 (if space available): Enrollment tuition will be assessed.

Enrollment for 2015-16: This is in effect only with signed Enrollment Agreement.

Payment Due: Resource tuition for 2015-16 is due on Monday, Feb. 2 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!



Scholar-Athletes Honored

Seniors (from left) Shannon French, Olivia Arboneaux, Thomas Myers, Nabil Essajee and Morgan Evans have been named to 2014-15 All-Academic Composite teams by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) for maintaining 4.0 grade point averages throughout high school.

Thomas qualified in boys' basketball, Nabil in boys' soccer, and Olivia, Morgan and Shannon in girls' soccer.

Congratulations to these students, their parents, teachers and coaches.

Spirit of Giving Makes Holidays Bright

In the weeks leading up to Winter Break, our school community found many inspiring and thoughtful ways to lend a hand to those in need during the holiday season. Donations of toys, clothes, books, cash, socks, food and other items rolled in and piled up in bins, boxes, barrels and even a dressing room in the Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre.

Among the holiday giving programs available at Runnels this year were the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program, sponsored at Runnels by the Elementary School; The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program and the Youth Oasis drive, sponsored by the Senior Beta Club; Cookies for Heroes, sponsored by the Junior Beta Club; a Sock It To Me drive for local homeless shelters, sponsored by Girls on the Run; and Thanksgiving Food Drives for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, sponsored by Senior Beta and Preschool.

In addition, our 1st graders presented gifts to the guards in our Gate House, and 6th graders shared their writing and reading skills with their Kindergarten Buddies, helping them write letters to Santa and read books in December.

A heartfelt thank you goes to students, parents, faculty members and friends of our school community whose thoughts turned to giving and helping others over the holidays.

Jenna Carballo, Taylor Koontz and Kayla Evans help wheel donated bicycles from the Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre to waiting vehicles ready to deliver them to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Project.



1. Waiting for members of the Marine Reserve Corps to pick up Toys for Tots donation boxes from the foyer of the elementary school on Dec. 16 are elementary secretary Pamela Culp, who organizes the collection at Runnels, and kindergartners (from left) Karam Sheikha, Maeve Morrissey, Addy Miller and Adin Brunner. 2. Student organizers Kim Lam and Irene Lewis are overjoyed with the bounty of bicycles and other items donated to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program and Youth Oasis. 3. After helping Briley St. Romain (center) write a letter to Santa, her Kindergarten Buddies, Sierrah Causey (left) and Aeryn Miller, enjoy a story together. 4. A group of 1st graders delivers holiday treats to Sheriff's Deputies who staff our Gate House. Accepting the gift on behalf of himself and his colleagues is Sheriff's Deputy Eric David.

"Desks," continued from page one

our troops arrived by 1:30. By 2 p.m. we had all 340 desks loaded on trucks and trailers and we were rolling to Runnels! By 3:30 p.m., we had moved all desks into classrooms (or the theatre for temporary storage) and had given a first cleaning to each classroom desk.... All together we had 52 workers here on Sunday! They were an amazing team!

On Monday evening we heard that more desks were available, so on Tuesday we went to LSU and secured 60 more desks.

I am very excited about the impact

these 'new' desks will have on our school.

When students return to class on

Jan. 5, they will be seated at "new" desks in Novak and Koenig Hall classrooms, in Rooms 56, 57 and 58 in the temporary buildings and in Rooms 41, 44, 45 and 46 in the Gym. Several classrooms in the elementary courtyard also received "new" desks.

We are deeply grateful to the many members of our

school community who pitched in to help with this project. Thank you all very much!



Thomas Worsham is on hand to help clean desks at school on Dec. 22.

Students Shine in Barnes & Noble Spotlight

The Visual and Performing Arts Showcase and Book Fair at the Citiplace Barnes & Noble in December provided a perfect opportunity to share the accomplishments of our music, art, photography, ballet and drama students with the Greater Baton Rouge community.

Our first ever Chess Tournament sponsored by the Runnels Chess Clubs, drew many players and onlookers. Congratulations to tournament winners Eric Huygues (1st place), Eddie Tunis (2nd place) and Rachel Middlebrook (3rd place).

We sincerely thank Elementary Librarian Joni Orgeron for coordinating the event, K-12 art department chair Lee Brandt Randall and the art faculty for organizing and mounting the art and sculpture exhibit, Maggie Wrenn for providing harp music at the opening night reception, Neena Kelfstrom and Cristin Ponjuan for storytelling in the children's room, the Runnels Chess Clubs and sponsors Lety Ellsworth and Rita Hunt for overseeing the chess tournament, our performing arts faculty for organizing and directing the performances, and our amazing student artists and performers for sharing their talents and skills with the public. We also thank everyone in our school community who came out to support the showcase and book fair.

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

We also thank everyone who so thoughtfully and generously left "tips" at the complimentary gift wrapping table. Junior and Senior High Librarian Charlotte Lockhart said that the \$75.00 in tips will be used to purchase 11 books for Our Lady of the Lake Children's Services. Many thanks to student volunteers manning the gift wrap stand and supervisors Ann Ostrom, Jennifer Carpenter and Rita Hunt.



Wahlid Farzeen with her art show entry.



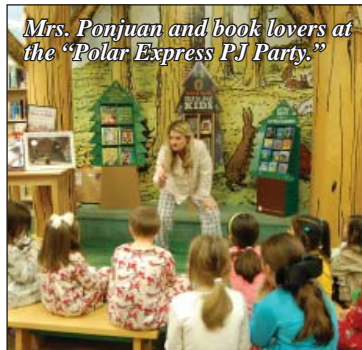
Elementary students perform songs from their fall musical, 'Aladdin, Jr.'



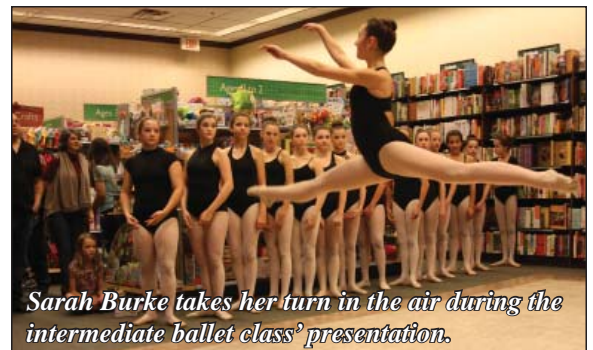
Ryan Baird and Tazkia Shah volunteer at the gift wrap table.



The Chess Tournament was a popular attraction at the Showcase.



Mrs. Ponjuan and book lovers at the "Polar Express PJ Party."



Sarah Burke takes her turn in the air during the intermediate ballet class' presentation.

"Carnegie Hall," continued from page one

Youth Orchestra and at several charity and business events and a wedding.

Currently, Rachel is preparing three audition pieces for the 2015 American Harp Society competition. Each audition piece is 10 minutes long and must be memorized and performed in succession on videotape. The competition is only held every other year. If she makes it to the finals, she will compete in Utah at the organization's annual convention.

At her Carnegie Hall debut, Rachel will have plenty of family support. In addition to her mom and dad, Brooke and Thomas Yura, and her brother Christopher, at least a dozen relatives have plans to head for the Big Apple in February to cheer her on when she performs at Carnegie Hall.

Attention Coaches and Club Sponsors: We would like to include a picture of your group in the 2014-15 Runnels yearbook. Please email news@runnels.org or call the yearbook office (225-751-2192) to make arrangements for your group photo to be included. **School News...? Please send it to news@runnels.org.**

Mini Cheer Clinic Set for January

Junior and Senior High Cheerleaders will hold their annual Mini Cheer Clinic for Runnels K-5th grade students in the Gym on Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. At the event, students will work in small groups led by the cheerleaders and their coaches, Dana Schlotterer and Sherry Wilks, to learn motions, jumps, chants, and a cheer.

On Jan. 27, participants are invited to demonstrate what they learn at the clinic by performing routines at the varsity girls' basketball game in the gym.



Cheerleaders teach Grace Scott the correct way to execute a lift at last year's mini cheer camp.

Registration for the clinic, which includes a t-shirt and snack, is \$25. Download the registration form at www.runnels.org or pick up a hard copy in the elementary school office. Registration forms are due on Jan. 12. For more information, contact Mrs. Schlotterer in the junior and senior high office (225-751-2192).

Don't Toss Out Those Unused Plastic Sporks!

When students in Lisa Haller's 4B lunch group realized they were throwing away a lot of unused plastic utensils delivered with their meals, they decided to start a service project to recycle the cutlery.

Naming their group the "Busy Bees," the students made colorful collection boxes out of shoeboxes and placed them in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms as receptacles for other lunch groups' surplus utensils.

Each month, the Busy Bees collect the donation boxes and count the utensils contributed. "Their goal," said Mrs. Haller, "was to collect 1,000



With some of the decorated boxes they're using to collect unused plastic utensils delivered with lunches are 4th grade "Busy Bees" (from left) Maggie Arceneaux, Cassidy Wartelle, Ali Guerin, Ally Miller and Sarah Burleigh.

by May." The Busy Bees crossed that mark by Dec. 15 and started thinking about where they might donate the recycled goods.

When plastic utensils appeared on a list of items the Senior Beta Club was hoping to collect for the Young Adults Residential Complex of Youth Oasis in Baton Rouge, the Busy Bees decided to donate their cutlery to this worthy cause.

"Busy Bees were so happy to give a donation that would otherwise have ended up in a landfill," said Mrs. Haller. "They are proud to reduce the amount of trash put in landfills and help the needy."

Who's Cooking Those Green Beans on TV?

Four junior high drama students taped a public service announcement (PSA) for Southern University's Ag-



Taping a PSA for healthful recipe apps for Southern's AGCenter at the LPB studio are (center; from left) Dino Pellisier, Andrew Schacht, Julia Sager and Natalia Tooraen.

Center at the LPB studio in December. The PSA, which introduces three new apps for healthful recipes, features Andrew Schacht, Dino Pellisier, Julia Sager and Natalia Tooraen.

Natalia explains what happened when the director called "Action" in the studio:

"Julia was cooking green beans (in a kitchen on the LPB set). We (Dino, Andrew and I) were coming home from school, and I said, 'Who cooked the green beans?' Julia answered that she did. Andrew said that he didn't know Julia could cook, and she replied, 'Anyone can cook as long as they have an Android or iPhone.' Dino asks how, and she tells him about the new apps."

Natalia said she wasn't sure when the PSA would appear on television or when the apps would become available, but we'll update you when the information comes our way.

Math Society Adds New Members



Among the newly inducted members of Mu Alpha Theta, the national math honor society, are (from left) Clay Harned, Nick Saunders, Lee Parker, Sam Matthews, Alex Matthews and Ross Stephens.

Nine new members were inducted into the Runnels Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, the national math honor society, at a lunchtime pizza and dessert party held in Novak Hall on Dec. 10. Congratulations to inductees Sam Matthews, Alex Matthews, Julia Justus, Natalie Justus, Nick Saunders, Adam Howe, Ross Stephens, Lee Parker and Clay Harned.

At Runnels, Mu Alpha Theta is a math club as well as a national math honor society, according to junior and

senior high math and science department chair and organization sponsor Karen Matthews.

Students are eligible for induction into the honor society when they reach Algebra II and are in 9th grade or above. Honor cords can be worn at high school graduation by students active in the club for two years or more who have a 3.5 grade-point average and all As and Bs in math. Those students can letter in Mu Alpha Theta as well, Mrs. Matthews explained.

Students in 9th grade and above and 8th graders taking geometry are welcome to join the math club portion of the organization. "All 9th graders in geometry or above may go to convention, and everyone may go to tournaments during the year," said Mrs. Matthews.

Light Aircraft Spotted Near Novak Hall

Fifth graders in John Baird's science classes have been flying paper airplanes around campus to enhance their understanding of forces and concepts involved in aviation.

"In our study," said Mr. Baird, "we include Newton's Laws of Motion, Bernoulli's Principle, the Coanda Effect and to some extent, Newtonian Lift."

Students made model planes and flew them on the playground, from a balcony and through a series of Hula Hoops in their classroom to help grasp principles involved in flight, aircraft design and performance.



Launching model airplanes off the Novak Hall staircase in the interests of science are Mr. Baird and 5th graders (from right) Emma Fishbein, Bailey Ourso and Wren Brumfield.

Students Named to Honor Orchestra, Bands

Congratulations to the many Runnels students recently selected to perform with honor bands and orchestras.

All-Parish Honors Orchestra: Hannah Barback, viola; and Sophie Edwards, Anna Claire Pousson, James Power and Ally Sutton, violin. Their concert will be held on Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. at McKinley Middle School.



Selected for the All-Parish Honors Orchestra are (from left) James Power, Anna Claire Pousson, Hannah Barback, Sophie Edwards and Ally Sutton.

East Baton Rouge All-Parish High School Honor Band: Maria Russo, 1st chair, flute; Garrett Miller, 1st chair, clarinet; Connor Matthews, 1st chair, oboe; Alex Benson, 2nd chair, trumpet; Michael Martinez, 3rd chair, trumpet; Alex Stansbury, 3rd chair French horn; and Sam Day, 3rd chair, trombone.

East Baton Rouge All-Parish High School Concert Band: Sam Matthews, 1st chair, French horn; Ross Stephens, 2nd chair, trumpet; Andrew Mitchell, 4th chair, percussion; and Emma Shupe and Alex Matthews, trombone.

Several Runnels students also were named to District Honor Bands.

Middle School Symphonic Band: Sophie Arceneaux, 2nd chair, flute; Evan Beoubay, 2nd chair, clarinet; Aidan Matthews, 3rd chair, flute; Joseph Ismail, clarinet; and Caleb Reid, trombone.

Middle School Concert Band: Preston Kyle, 1st chair, alto sax; Ryan Ly, 2nd chair, clarinet; Chris Yura, 3rd chair, alto sax; and Nik Horton, clarinet.

High School Symphonic Band:

Connor Matthews, 2nd chair, oboe; Alex Stansbury, French horn; and Garrett Miller, clarinet.

High School Concert Band: Michael Martinez, trumpet.

District Honor Band concerts will be held on Jan. 17 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

In addition, four Runnels students were chosen to perform in the *Southeastern Invitational Honor Band Concert* at Southeastern Louisiana University on Dec. 5. Musicians were selected by band director nomination and a point system. Participants included Connor Matthews, Marisa Russo, Alex Stansbury and Michael Martinez.

At Runnels, their band instructor is Jill Swetnam and strings instructors are Jennifer and Dan Cassin.

Cool New D.A.R.E. Car Comes to Campus

The stodgy old D.A.R.E.-mobile Capt. Randy Aguillard was used to driving has been upgraded. He recently pulled into our parking lot in a flashy red speedster bearing the



Capt. Randy Aguillard shows his new D.A.R.E. car to some 5th grade students in the program.

D.A.R.E. insignia. The 2014 fire engine red Dodge Challenger drew admiring glances from 5th grade D.A.R.E. students who flocked around the car for a closer look.

"It's a REAL conversation piece to discuss the new D.A.R.E. 'Keepin' It Real' curricula," said Capt. Aguillard. "The vehicle is being used to communicate with the youth in our community about personal safety," he added.

New Coaching Line up for Varsity Soccer

Four new coaches are directing the varsity soccer program at Runnels this year, bringing a wealth of playing and coaching experience to our school.

Leading the girls' team is Angie Mitchell, who attended Mississippi State on a full soccer scholarship after a stellar student career as an athlete at Woodlawn High, where she was all-district, all-metro and all-state in soccer for all four



Athletic Trainer and Junior High Athletic Director Marcella Babcock and new assistant boys' varsity soccer coach Fred Parker.

years. Midway through college she left Mississippi State for LSU, where she also played soccer, and finished her degree in Kinesiology. Coach Mitchell played semi-professionally in 1997 and switched to coaching a year later. She has coached at Episcopal, Baton Rouge Soccer Club (BRSC), Woodlawn, St. Joseph's and U-High.

She said she thought Runnels would be a good fit for her. "I knew the history of soccer at Runnels and knew that I would have some hard working and dedicated girls playing for the team. No matter the talent level, they will always play 100 percent and work hard to attain their goals. I learned that in the past coaching against Runnels."

Former Lady Raider Callie Allbright, who attended Runnels from kindergarten through 8th grade, comes back to us this year as assistant girls' varsity soccer coach.

At Runnels, she played middle school and high school soccer. She also played at BRCC and Baton Rouge High and attended McNeese University on a full athletic scholarship, where she played NCAA Division 1 soccer. Currently, Coach Allbright works as a traffic engineer in Baton Rouge. "It's great to get to coach at a school I attended and where I played soccer," she said.

Heading the boys' varsity soccer coach is Chris Stewart, a graduate of McKenna College in California. He played in Division 3 for the San Fernando Valley Heroes in California, and was a member of the Louisiana Outlaws, a Premier Development League, in Lake Charles. Coach Stewart said he looks forward to continuing to build the soccer program at Runnels, with hopes of growing it into an elite program.

Our new assistant boys' varsity soccer coach is Fred Parker, who began playing premier soccer for BRSC when he was only 11. "I played with the club all the way through U-18," he said. "I was also an ODP Olympic Development Program player. At Tara High, Coach Parker was a consistent all-district, all-metro and all-state pick, and he played for the semi-pro team, the Baton Rouge Capitals, while they were in existence. He attended Lander University in South Carolina where he earned a degree in visual arts and played soccer in the Division II Peach Belt Conference, earning two NCAA titles (2010 and 2012). After college, Coach Parker returned to Baton Rouge to coach at BRSC. He said he is "happy to be a part of the growing program" at Runnels.

Please join us in welcoming this talented team of coaches to the Raider nation.

In Concert ... (from left) Alex Acosta, Luc Kharey, All-State Orchestra conductor Dr. Gene H. Moon and Sean Parker at the Louisiana Music Educators Association's All-State Orchestra concert on Nov. 23 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge.



A Visit to NOMA

High school art and sculpture students took a field trip to the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA) and sculpture garden this fall. Art teachers Lee Brandt Randall and Cetin Ates led students from AP Studio Art, Honors Art, 3D Sculpture, and Graphic Design classes through galleries containing paintings, sculptures, and photographs representing various styles.

"There's so much more to a painting than just a surface view can portray," explained Mrs. Randall when discussing the value of the field trip to art students. "The textures of a Rembrandt are only visible when you're standing in front of a Rembrandt."

Students explored NOMA's vast collection of artwork, discussing various



Life imitates art in the sculpture garden at NOMA as Samantha Sieberth makes herself at home in George Segal's painted bronze installation, Three Figures and Four Benches, .

elements of the art, such as shape, form, and line, and how those elements were expressed in each piece. Visiting the museum allowed students to see a huge range of artwork, from masks of African tribal peoples to local paintings of the New Orleans' French Market. Virtually every continent was represented in the museum's gallery. Outside in the sculpture garden, students were able to see contemporary art such as *Corridor Pin, Blue* by Coosje van Bruggen.

Unique to this visit was the opportunity to view one of only 28 existing bronze casts of Edgar Degas' famous 1880 sculpture, *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*. It is part of a temporary exhibition that also includes Degas' pastel piece, *Dancer in Green*.

-- by Anna Morgan, grade 11

Ancient Roman Cookbook Provides Recipes for Knowledge

High school Latin and Greek students in Maggie Wrenn's and Ann Ostrom's classes welcomed the holidays and capped off their studies of ancient Roman and Greek culinary customs with a Saturnalia celebration and a symposium. Saturnalia was the Roman harvest festival celebrating Saturn, the father of Jupiter, and a symposium was an ancient Greek party centered around philosophical conversation and entertainment.

To prepare for their feast, students read recipes from the *Apicius Cookbook*, compiled in the 4th or 5th century A.D., and chose several to prepare for class on Dec. 11. They also made illustrated menus of their classes' courses with parts written in Latin or Greek. (In Rome, menus were written on the walls of taverns.)

Among the dishes served were a soufflé of little fishes (anchovies), liquid



Reclining at their Roman Saturnalia banquet/symposium are (from left) Andrew Mitchell, Connor Matthews, Isabelle McCall, Emily Britt and Max Morgan.

chicken (chicken with liquid where the stuffing should be), a pear soufflé and Etruscan Pizza (a flour dough crust covered in cheese and olives). For the feast, students wore togas or tunics and reclined on couches (air mattresses).

In keeping with ancient customs, entertainment was provided by those

attending the feast. Some students recited poems, others sang, and still others led games. One even sparked a philosophical conversation.

The lesson and feast yielded important information about how our holiday customs evolved, what was eaten before familiar foods like potatoes and peppers arrived from the New World and how important feasts were to Greek and Roman culture. "On the one hand," Ms. Wrenn explained, "feasts provided a forum for expressing and discussing new ideas and philosophical theories, but on the other hand,

feasts were important for reinforcing social norms (the rich held lavish feasts and served expensive and exotic foods, while the poor subsisted on barley bread doled out by the government). Students were surprised to learn the Romans and Greeks didn't have sugar. They used honey, a local sweetener that was easily sourced."

Scholastic Book Fair Wrap-up

Elementary Librarian Joni Orgeron reports on the "critical and financial success" of our Fall Scholastic Book Fair:

From start to finish, volunteers, coordinated by Gina Golda, were there to help in every way. Gina and Wendy Worsham and many volunteers set up and decorated the fair to look like Sir Readalot's castle. Then it was Preview Day and we had parents as well as students from Mrs. Harbin's, Mrs. Wilks' and Coach Martinez's classes volunteer to help children create their Wish Lists. On Friday, grandparents came in to find their grandchildren, and volunteers were there to assist them with selections and purchases.

On Donuts with Dad Day, we served more than 10 dozen donuts to our guests. Not to be outdone, the moms were out in full force on Muffins with Mom Day, and volunteers baked delicious muffins to serve our customers. Thursday brought joy to all as we asked students to dress as their favorite book character. Pixie sticks were



given to those children who participated.

We wrapped up the week on Friday as volunteers once again swung into action packing boxes and cases with the unsold merchandise that was heading back to the warehouse.

'All 4 Books' donations amassed \$350 in cash that was used to purchase a selection of beautiful hardcover books for the Gardere Community Christian School. We were excited to learn that our donation would be matched by a member of the Baton Rouge community!

Parents, faculty and students were very supportive with their purchases. All week long we had a steady stream of customers, and all in all, it was a very good book fair.

With the close of the book fair, we were happy to return the Drama Room to Mrs. Ponjuan and her students, who had graciously held classes in the elementary library during the week long event.

Our gross sales for the event totaled \$14,534 from which the Runnels library program will receive \$3,557.



Rion Miller and Danielle Howell do some browsing for their Wish Lists at the Elementary Library's Fall Scholastic Book Fair.

All of this money goes to the purchase of new books for the elementary library. Books are purchased in every genre and for every grade level.

We send a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers who helped with every aspect of this major fund-raiser for our library program. Special thanks go to elementary students Ben Wagner, Lucian Pham, Bailey St. Romain, Addison Watson, Emma Collette, Natalie Fairley, Emma Fishbein and Emily Reid for making posters to promote the Sir Readalot theme and to Debbie Davenport for the posters, notices and handouts she created and distributed for the book fair.

Runnels Community Scrapbook



Wild Things... Among the productions delighting audiences in our Drama Room in December was the children's musical, *It's a Jungle Out There*. In a song from the show are, from left, Gibson Guay, Sofia Dodd and Lena Huynh. Also on stage in the Drama Room in December were productions of *Elfis* and *the Elves Get All Shook Up* and *Totally Red*. Congratulations to our elementary school actors and director Cristin Ponjuan.

Alum in Top College Improv Troupe

... Alumnus Richard Bucey ('12) competed in the



National College Improv Tournament at New York City's Magnet Theatre as a member of the Sarah Lawrence College improv troupe

recently. His team, *Feral Christine*, faced 10 teams, including NYU's *Dangerbox*. The Sarah Lawrence team (pictured at left, with Richard at bottom) ultimately won regionals and will be representing all of New York City at nationals in Chicago.

A Joyful Noise ...

John Wiese astounds those attending the 8th-12th Grade Bands' Holiday Concert on Dec. 11 in the Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre with his "Jazz Saxophone Duo with Self." As junior and senior high band director Jill Swetnam said in her introduction, "You saw it at here first."



Stay in the Loop on Hoops ...

With basketball season in full swing, be sure to keep track of the games by visiting www.runnels.org. Click on "Student Life" and "Varsity Athletics" and select either "Boys Basketball" or "Girls Basketball" in the upper left-hand corner for upcoming matches.

So far this year, the Raiders have seven wins to their credit. Head boys' varsity basketball coach Ben Young reports that three of the victories came at the Runnels Tournament held Dec. 18-20 in our gym. "We beat Maurepas 44-33, Westminster Christian 86-22 and Live Oak, a 5A school, 65-55." Top scorers in those games were Hampton Hudson (17 points), Grant Welch (15 points), Douglas Gully (14 points) and Thomas Myers (21 points). "The Live Oak game is probably the best basketball game we have played so far," Coach Young added. "I am looking forward to district, which starts Jan. 21 with our game against Springfield at home. We have a great chance of winning district this year."

Top scorers this season are Grant Welch, with an average of 12 points per game, Josh Sparks, with 10, and Hampton Hudson, with an average of nine points and 5.5 assists per game.



The 2014-15 Varsity Basketball team and coaches Ben Young (back row, left) and Justin MacKay (back row, right).

Power Struggle ...

Sixth-grade science students play tug-of-war to model the scientific concept of unbalanced forces. "Forces must act on an object for it to move," noted 6th grade teacher Julie Fink, "and with our tug-of-war, students had to describe the forces involved, determine the direction of the net force and figure out the scientific explanation for why one team was able to win the contest."



Kudos To...

... Seniors *Sadie Kraft* and *Alex Stansbury* for becoming semi-finalists in the 2014-15 National Beta Club Scholarship program. This makes them eligible to compete for scholarship awards up to \$15,000.

... Running Raiders *Dean Campbell* and *Sam Matthews* for being selected as honorable mentions on the Advocate's 2014 All-Metro Boys Cross Country Team. All-Metro teams are chosen by coaches and schools in the Baton Rouge area.

... Alumnae and teachers *Maggie Wrenn* and *Michelle Richardson* ('04) for putting in volunteer appearances as the princesses from *Frozen* at the West Baton Rouge Museum's Christmas Celebration on Dec.

7. Dressed in royal splendor, they welcomed young visitors and posed for photos with them at the holiday event.



Maggie Wrenn and Michelle Richardson at the West Baton Rouge Museum.

... Runnels volleyball player *Alyssa Campbell* for being selected to the Division V, District 4 second team.

... *Isabelle McCall* and her mom *TsiChin McCall* for appearing in a "Spirit of Healing" television commercial for



Girls on the Run 5K participants Caroline Pousson, Kate Kelfstrom and Julia Golden.

Our Lady of the Lake Hospital. It aired on local channels over the holidays.

... *Girls on the Run* members for participating in

their 5K race at the Pennington Center on Saturday, Dec. 13.

We Sincerely Thank



... *Everyone who contributed to the RPO's Teacher Appreciation Holiday Project*, with a tip of the hat to RPO President *Nicole Latiolais*

(Cole and Eli) and her "elves" for organizing the collection and delivering the generous gifts to the faculty.

... *All who supported the Apple iPad Mini 3 raffle to benefit the Andy Mack Memorial Library*. The raffle raised \$300 for the library program. The iPad winner was *Rebecca Penniman*.

... *Shannon Guidry (Zack)* for bringing a bearded dragon and snake from Bluebonnet Swamp to the Preschool for Pet Week. Also sharing pets with our preschool students were *Jennifer Marino (Samantha)*, who brought Olaf the puppy; *Valerie Myer (Amelia Jennings)*, who brought eight guinea pigs; and *John Runnels (Eric '06 and Emily '08)*, who brought *Khay and KT*, his obedience-trained golden retrievers.

... *Tommie Black* (grandmother of Ben Black) for making miniature gingerbread houses and cookies for the 2s Gingerbread Week at Preschool.



Preschooler Ben Black with gingerbread houses his grandmother made for Gingerbread Week.

... Professional actors *Carter Dean* ('07), *Danielle Adams* ('07), *Todd Henry* and *Wil Thomas* for sharing their knowledge and skills with our high school drama classes and students from the Livingston Parish Talented Theatre program at a Drama Workshop held in the Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre on Nov. 21.

... *Chad Roark* (Stuart) for bringing his trombone to the Kindergarten music class during Brass Week.

It's a Date!

For complete calendar information, go to the Runnels Master Calendar at www.runnels.org.

JANUARY

- 5 School Resumes
- 5 English I Honors Trip to see *The Hobbit*
- 9 English II Field Trip to see *Exodus*
- 12 D.A.R.E. Graduation for 5th Graders
- 14 7th Grade Trip to Jewish Film Festival
- 15 English I Trip to see *Romeo and Juliet*
- 16 Homecoming Court Presentation, Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre
- 17 Junior Beta District Rally
- 17 Homecoming Dance for Students, Gym, 7 – 10 p.m.
- 19 Martin Luther King Day – School Holiday
- 20 6th Grade Field Trip to LIGO
- 23 Raider Star Drawings, Drama Room (10:10 a.m. for Grades 1-3; 1:40 p.m. for Grades 4-6)
- 23 Thespians Club to State Festival
- 28 Junior Beta Induction Ceremony, Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre
- 29 5th Grade Field Trip to LASM

FEBRUARY

- 4 Planning Meeting for Parents for 8th-Grade's Overnight Field Trip
- 6 Junior Class Ring Ceremony, Gladys Hague Runnels Theatre
- 10 Future Scientists of America's Field Trip to LA State Police Lab
- 16-20 Mardi Gras Holidays

Runnels To Hold Spring Open House

Our school is hosting a Spring Open House for families interested in seeing what Runnels has to offer. It will be on Thursday, March 12 at 9 a.m. in the Elementary Drama room. This will be a school-wide open house not limited to one grade.

As members of our school family, you are in a perfect position to spread the good word about the benefits of a Runnels education. Please take a minute to invite your relatives, friends, neighbors and business associates to join us for this March event.

For more information, call Admissions Director Sarah Haase at 225-215-5706 or visit www.runnels.org.

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So long, 2014... Hello, 2015!

