


PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE 

Superintendent's Update

February 01, 2024



Agenda

- Community Highlights
- Superintendent's School Visits



MMEA All-State Music Festival 2024

Huge congratulations to the following Brookline High School students who successfully auditioned into the the Massachusetts Music Educators Association's (MMEA) 70th All-State Music Festival, an event featuring top instrumentalists and singers from all over Massachusetts.

These students will represent the Public Schools of Brookline in the two-day festival and perform at the **Boston Symphony Hall** on **March 23, 2024**.

Henry Allen, <i>Trombone</i>	Rahimi Kianoush, <i>Bass Voice</i>
Ronni Chang, <i>Violin</i>	Elise Ruberg, <i>Soprano Voice</i>
Antonia Duffield, <i>Alto Voice</i>	Sophia Shahrooz, <i>Soprano Voice</i>
Rebecca Gale, <i>Soprano Voice</i>	Noa Suk, <i>Violin</i>
Diane Kang, <i>Cello</i>	Justina Wang, <i>Violin</i>
Anthony Lee, <i>Clarinet</i>	

Summer Eats Meals Program

The Healey-Driscoll Administration, in collaboration with the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), will launch the 2024 Summer Food Service Food Program, or **Summer Eats**, as it is known in Massachusetts, in June.

Summer Eats is a U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded initiative that provides free, nutritious meals to children when school is not in session. In Massachusetts, DESE administers the program.

More than 520,000 children qualify for free or low-cost school meals during the school year. During the summer months, some children lose access to those meals, and families frequently find it difficult to replace them. Summer Eats provides healthy meals to children in eligible areas throughout the state. Summer meal sites include schools and other community locations, from parks to summer camps.

Many Summer Eats programs will open before July 4 and will continue serving meals until early September. Sponsors operate sites with close technical support from DESE and outreach assistance from the Child Nutrition Outreach Program at Project Bread.

Training for Families of LGBTQ+ Students

The Brookline LGBTQ+ Task Force has collaborated with the PTOs to host a training for parents who have LGBTQ+ youth in Brookline schools.

The Zoom event will take place on **Monday, February 5 at 7pm**, and will be led by **Emily Lunardi**, a licensed mental health counselor and registered drama therapist working towards helping others improve their LGBTQIA+ competency.

Additional local resources will be shared by staff and parents from the Task Force.

Brookline PTOs Present

Training for Families of LGBTQ+ Brookline Students



Please join us for a Training with Emily Lunardi and members of Brookline's LGBTQ+ Task Force to learn about LGBTQ+ identities and community resources!

FEBRUARY 5TH
7-8PM
Zoom Link:
<https://psbma-org.zoom.us/j/99888637185>
Questions? Email Leah at Leah_McGowan@psbma.org

Spring Preschool Screening

The Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP) will conduct preschool screenings on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. This is a free and optional service for preschool-aged Brookline residents (ages 2.6 to 5 years old) who are not currently attending BEEP.



BHS Art Exhibit at Goddard House



The student artists at Brookline High School have been invited to exhibit their drawings, paintings, and photographs in **Gallery M at Goddard House**, a senior living community in Brookline. The art exhibit, *Together*, is an intergenerational opportunity to build an empathetic relationship between artists and viewers as we find connection and resonance in these paintings, drawings, and photographs. *Together* is a celebration of moments and experiences – big and small – that are common to us all, whether we are eighteen years old or eighty.

Together will be on exhibit until February 26 and is open to the public.

Image: Painting by **Ellie Churchill**, a BHS Junior taking the Advanced Portfolio Prep Class.

Mock Caldecott Award 2024

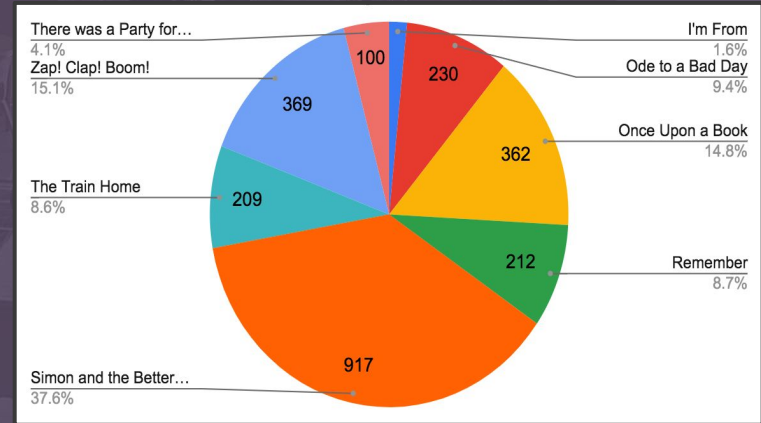
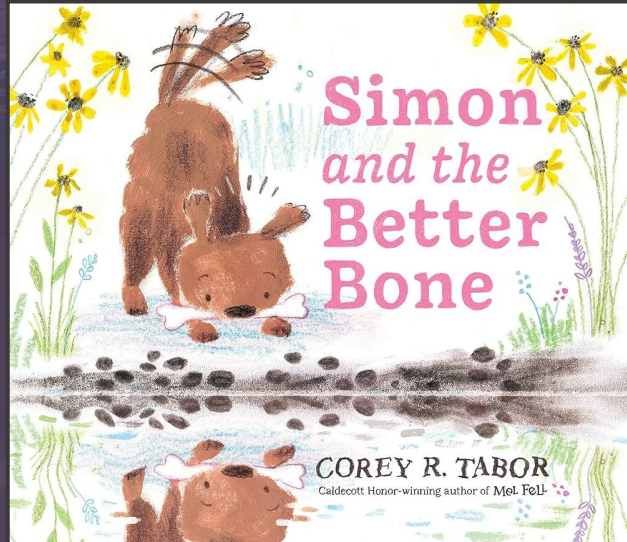
More than 2,400 Brookline students in K-5 voted in the annual Brookline Mock Caldecott Award this year. Each year, in honor of the real Caldecott Medal given annually by the American Library Association for the "most distinguished American picture book for children," the Brookline K-8 librarians choose a selection of outstanding picture books to share with students across every school. Students learn about the elements that make up excellent picture books: plot, character, setting, style, and interpretation. Keeping these elements in mind, students then vote on their favorite book.

This year's nominees were:

- *I'm From* written by Gary R. Gray Jr., illustrated by Oge Mora
- *Ode to a Bad Day* written by Chelsea Lin Wallace, illustrated by Hyewon Yum
- *Once Upon a Book* written by Kate Messner, illustrated by Grace Lin
- *Remember* written by Joy Harjo, illustrated by Michaela Goade
- *Simon and the Better Bone* written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor
- *The Train Home* written and illustrated by Dan-ah Kim
- *There was a Party for Langston* written by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jerome Pumphrey and Jarrett Pumphrey
- *Zap! Clap! Boom!* written by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Elly MacKay

Mock Caldecott Award 2024

And the Brookline Mock Caldecott Award
2024 winner was:



Elementary and Middle School Concert Season

It's the Performing Arts Department's Elementary and Middle School Band, Orchestra and Chorus Winter Concert season.

4th Grade Strings and 5th-8th Grade Orchestras – directed by John Ferguson, Irina Naryshkova and Nina Bishop

- January 29, 2024: **Driscoll School**, in the Florida Ruffin Ridley School Multipurpose Room Auditorium at 6pm
- January 29, 2024: **Florida Ruffin Ridley School**, in the Florida Ruffin Ridley School Multipurpose Room at 7.15pm
- January 31, 2024: **Pierce School**, in the Lawrence School Auditorium at 6pm
- January 31, 2024: **Lawrence School**, in the Lawrence School Auditorium at 7:15pm
- February 1, 2024: **Roland Hayes School**, in the Baker School Auditorium at 6pm
- February 1, 2024: **Baker School**, in the Lawrence School Auditorium at 6pm
- February 7, 2024: **Runkle School**, in the Lincoln School Auditorium at 6pm
- February 7, 2024: **Lincoln School**, in the Lincoln School Auditorium at 6pm

Elementary and Middle School Concert Season

5th-8th Grade Band Concerts – directed by Rick Stone, Chris Thoft-Brown, Elton Xhoja, Dylan Zobel and Steve Fell

- February 5, 2024: **Runkle School**, in the Florida Ruffin Ridley School Multipurpose Room at 6.30pm
- February 5, 2024: **Baker School**, in the Florida Ruffin Ridley School Multipurpose Room at 7.30pm
- February 7, 2024: **Lawrence School**, in the Florida Ruffin Ridley School Multipurpose Room at 6.30pm
- February 7, 2024: **Florida Ruffin Ridley School**, in the Florida Ruffin Ridley School Multipurpose Room at 7.30pm
- February 13, 2024: **Pierce School**, in the Driscoll School Auditorium at 6.30pm
- February 13, 2024: **Driscoll School**, in the Driscoll School Auditorium at 7.30pm
- February 14, 2024: **Roland Hayes School**, in the Driscoll School Auditorium at 6.30pm
- February 14, 2024: **Lincoln School**, in the Driscoll School Auditorium at 7.30pm

6th-8th Grade Chorus Concerts – directed by Lauren Cecchini, Meredith Huntley, Ali Ghassabian, Sarah Gardner, Tom Malone, Melodie Linhart, Becky Vinci, Maureen Meyers, and Mike Driscoll

- Feb. 7, 2024: **All Town Chorus Night One – Driscoll, Baker, Roland Hayes, Pierce and BHS Choruses**, in the Brookline High School Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium at 7pm
- Feb. 8, 2024: **All Town Chorus Night Two – Lawrence, Lincoln, Runkle, Florida Ruffin Ridley Choruses**, in the Brookline High School Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium at 7pm

Other Performing Arts Events

BHS Musical – ‘Chicago’

This Jazz Age musical takes you to 1920s’ Chicago, and into the lives of two rivals who are accused of murder and vying for the spotlight.

When: February 1, 2 and 3

Where: Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium, Brookline High School



Chamber Music Festival

BHS Orchestra students will perform a wide range of repertoire spanning Brahms to Nintendo themes, at the February Chamber Music Festival.

When: February 5

Where: 22 Tappan Commons

Superintendent's School Visits

Recently Completed

BHS	Friday, January 19
Lincoln	Friday, January 19
BEEP	Monday, January 22
Pierce	Wednesday, January 24
Runkle	Friday, January 26
Ridley	Monday, January 29

Upcoming

Lawrence	Tuesday, February 6
Hayes	Thursday, February 8

Superintendent's School Visits



Superintendent's School Visits

