



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of  
**BROOKLINE** 

# Superintendent's Update

February 29, 2024



# A Leaping Good Year

Students and Staff at Pierce had a “froggy” good time acknowledging leap year today.

Principal Yadoff shared that **200 itty bitty baby frogs** (the unofficial mascot of Leap Day) were hidden around the school buildings.

Classes/students/staff were tasked with collecting the frogs throughout the school day.





# Facing History and Ourselves Partnership

## SY 22-23

Facing History and Ourselves worked with the grades 6-8 team, modeling Facing History's pedagogical approach, and then specifically with grade 8 teachers to explore curriculum materials related to the teaching of civics

## SY 23-24

Facing History is facilitating professional development for social studies teachers in grades 6-12 on Civil Discourse

## SY 24-25

We have applied for the Genocide Education Grant to work with Facing History and Ourselves to teach young people a sense of agency to stand up to bigotry and hate and to make choices for a more just and equitable world. Genocide education provides us with a crucial opportunity to do just that, weaving together historical case studies and ongoing current events

# Literacy Study

**Hill for Literacy** is conducting classroom walkthroughs over the next few weeks to collect trend data specific to literacy.

## About Hill for Literacy

Hill for Literacy is an education nonprofit that helps teachers better translate literacy research and assessment data into highly effective instruction that results in long-term success.

Tuesday, February 27	Lincoln
Thursday, February 29	Driscoll
Tuesday, March 5	Ruffin Ridley
Wednesday, March 6	Pierce
Thursday, March 7	Baker
Monday, March 11	BHS
Tuesday, March 12	Lawrence
Wednesday, March 13	Runkle
Thursday, March 14	Hayes



# Holocaust Education

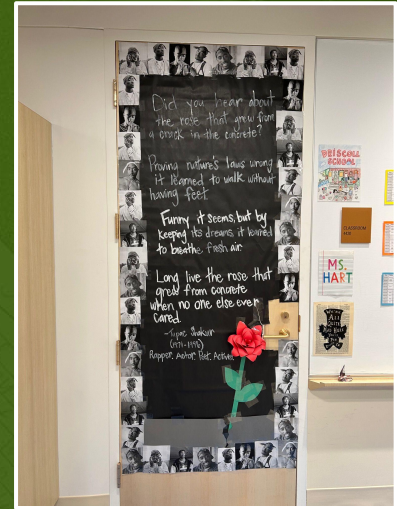
Holocaust Education is taught in Grade 10 as part of the Interwar Era or World War II Units. This topic was moved from the 8th grade when the 2018 standards were adopted. 8th grade now focuses on civics education.

In Teaching the Holocaust, teachers cover:

- The rise of anti-semitism during the interwar era, the steps that led to the Holocaust and the "Final Solution,"
- The experiences of Jewish people and others who were targeted during this time period and resistance by Jewish people and others.

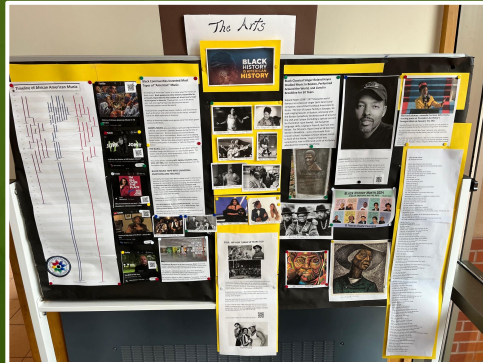
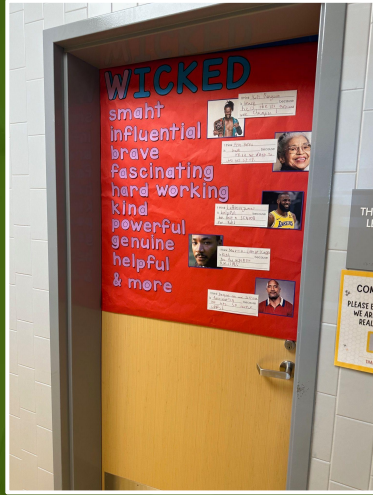
# Black History Month Recognition

For Black History month, students completed various research projects and readings, and in some schools, shared important information on the morning announcements. Students and staff also decorated classroom doors and walls to honor and celebrate important Black artists, scientists and activists. In addition, students completed various research projects and readings.





# Black History Month Recognition



## TASTES OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Menu designed by Jesse Thompson & Tappan Green in honor of Black History Month.

# Hayes' Young Scholars Celebration



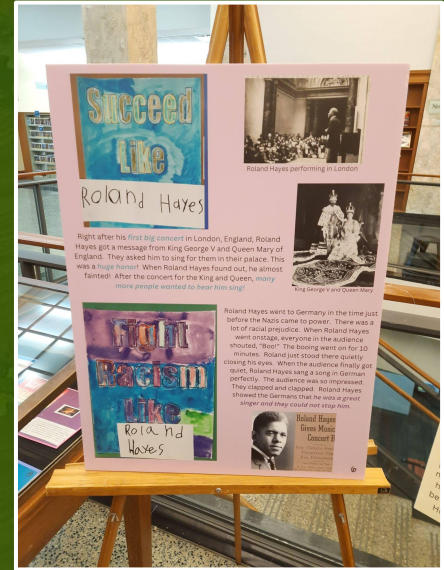
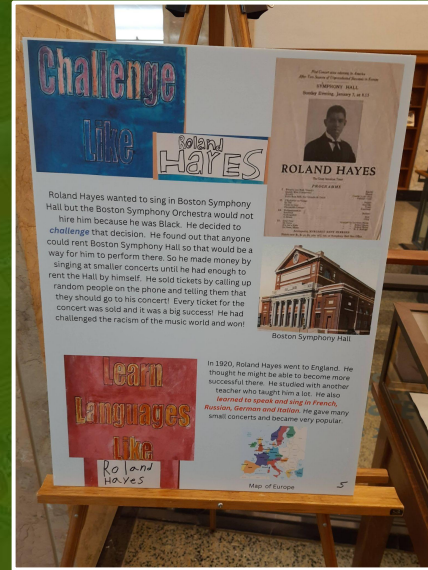
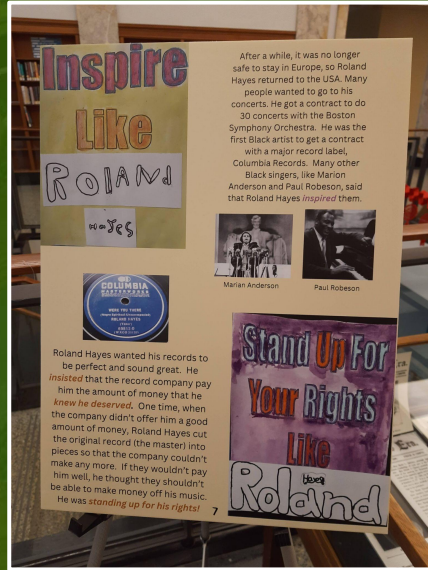
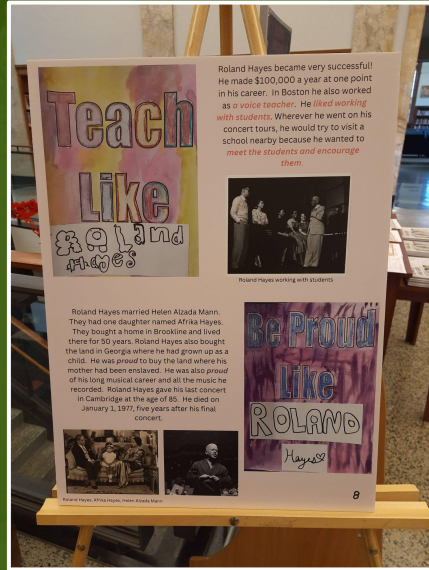
The Roland Hayes School's Young Scholars Program held a students' celebration at the Brookline Public Library Tuesday, February 27th.

The event included an exhibit put together by the students, on the life of the school's namesake, **Roland Hayes**.

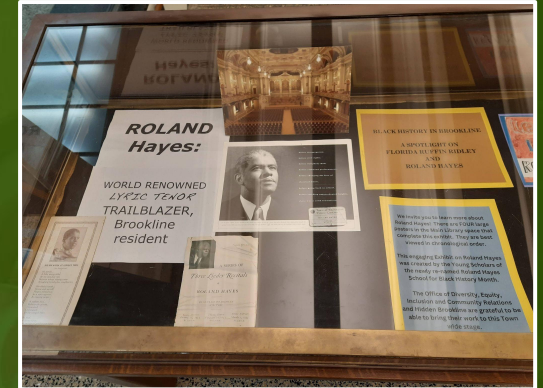
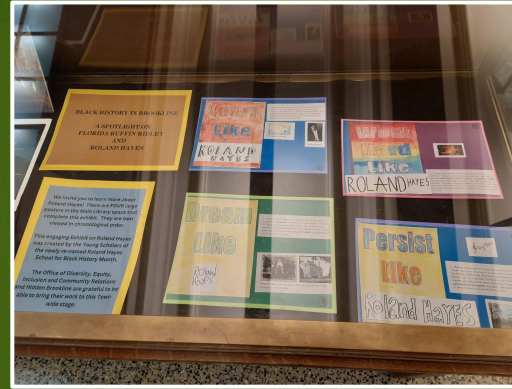
Thank you to 4th grade teacher Tatiana Beckwith for her work with the Scholars. Special recognition to 2nd grade teacher **Karen Shashoua**, who organized a game of Bingo based on Hayes' life. Thank you to Barbara Brown for coordinating the event.



# Hayes' Young Scholars Celebration



# Hayes' Young Scholars Celebration





# BHS TAP Challenge



The **BHS Climate and Food Justice Club** and **Global Leadership Class** is organizing its annual TAP (Together Against Plastics) Challenge, which aims to reduce unnecessary single-use plastic bottles where tap water is secure, and improve access to tap water where it is needed.

The idea is to sign up for a two-week challenge and pledge to refrain from purchasing single-use plastic water bottles between March 20-31, and contribute the money saved towards improving water infrastructure in Quezalguaque, Nicaragua, via the **Brookline-Quezalguaque Sister City Project**.

Participants can also boost support by purchasing a TAP reusable metal water bottle.

# Brookline Pride Apparel

Brookline Pride apparel is now available for purchase online. Apparel includes t-shirts and hoodies. Proceeds from sales will go towards queer student programming throughout the district.

A shout out to middle schooler **Lara Spitz Sousa** for coming up with the design, along with **Marney, Kate, Julia, Sabine, and Leah** who helped throughout the process.

**BROOKLINE PRIDE**  
HOODIE AND T-SHIRT SALES



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER  
YOUR BROOKLINE PRIDE APPAREL**

T-SHIRTS \$20  
HOODIES \$40

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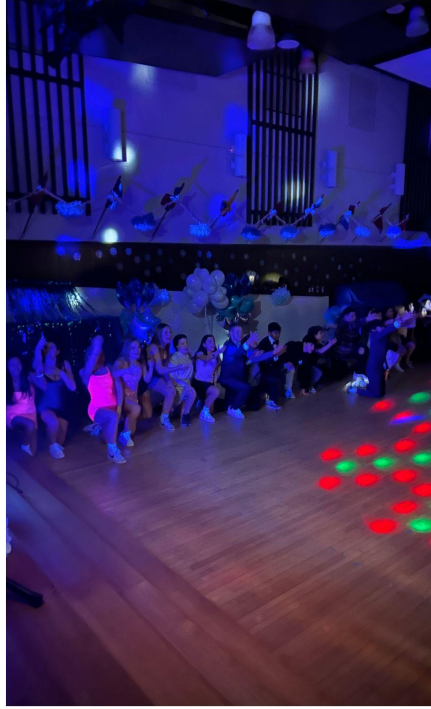
# Flowers in Focus at BEEP

After reading the book, *Have You Ever Seen a Flower?* by Shawn Harris, BEEP Pre-K students viewed and discussed Georgia O'Keeffe's close-up flower paintings with artist & art therapist, Erin Palazzolo Loparo.

This mindful process and collaborative artwork began with students using magnifying glasses to observe and draw the center of living flowers' parts, lines, colors and shapes using markers. Using pastels and artist blending sticks, they then experimented with blending warm and cool colors to create petals. Finally, these young artists brought their seed circles and petals together, finding joy in forming large flower murals with their class.



# Runkle's Middle School Winter Dance



The Runkle PTO sponsored the school's second annual Middle School Winter Dance (for grades 6-8) on Wednesday, February 14.

The students had a great time dancing to the music of DJ Mike Price.



# Runkle Field Trip to Wheelock Theatre

On Thursday, February 15, Runkle's first and second graders caught a show *Mr. Popper's Penguins* at the Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University, after having read the book and learned all about penguins.

The students rode the T to the theatre, accompanied by parent chaperones.





# Superintendent's School Visits

## Recently Completed

Pierce	Monday, February 26
Runkle	Tuesday, February 27
FRR	Wednesday, February 28
Baker	Thursday, February 29

## Upcoming

BHS	Friday, March 1
Lincoln	Friday, March 1
Driscoll	Monday, March 4
Hayes	Friday, March 15
Lawrence	Friday, March 15



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of  
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# Spotlight on Excellence







# Lunar New Year for Kids

[www.weareteachers.com](http://www.weareteachers.com)





# What is Lunar New Year?

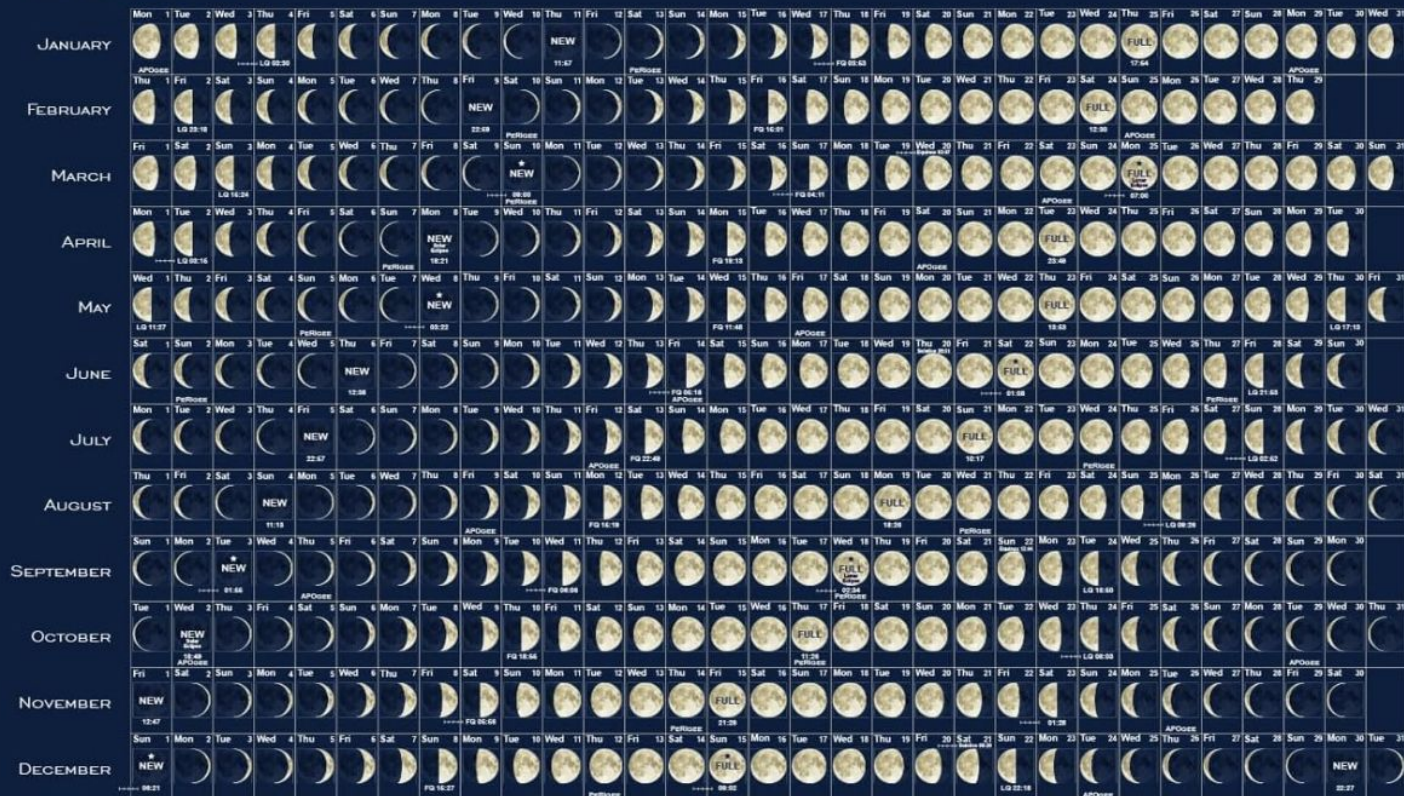
Lunar New Year is a holiday celebrated by countries and cultures that traditionally followed a calendar governed by the moon as well as the sun (lunisolar). It takes place during the first 15 days of the first month of the lunisolar calendar, which lead up to the first full moon of the year. [Learn about the Chinese lunisolar calendar here.](#)



# **Lunar New Year Traditions**



# 2024



"MoonFollower™ 2024" - Universal Time Edition • UPC 616271006630 • ----- \* Event may span/begin previous date in U.S. time zone.

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Universal Time (UT) • Convert to local time by subtracting time zones west (adding zones east) of Greenwich, England.

Moon at "perigee" represents the close approach to earth and "apogee" represents the far point in its elliptical orbit.



## Lunar New Year!

Name: Mrs. Shinohara

We celebrate Lunar New Year to celebrate our Korean, Taiwanese, and Chinese heritage and culture. Here are some reasons & our traditions:

- ★ Preparations (cleaning, habits, customs)
- ★ Respect for elders/ancestors
- ★ pass down traditions
- ★ embrace the beauty of our culture
- ★ what we do (food, pay our respects/message, family time)





On LNY, my family eats asian foods and make dumplings. Tradition of making dumplings tie us to our roots.





Name: Bianca







Name: Bianca



Name: Timmy Soohoo

My family and I celebrate Lunar New Year by...

- Cleaning the house to wipe out the bad luck and get new luck
- My brother and my cousins lion dance and parade around Chinatown
- We have friends over to make Chinese food like dumplings, bok choy, and sticky rice
- Going to Dim Sum with my dad's side of the family



Timmy will help out wherever he is needed. Sometimes that means being the videographer .



Timmy playing the cymbals with his cousin Alex, while Chris plays the drums.



Name: Timmy Soohoo

In honor of Lunar New Year, many Chinese clubs will unite together on this day to parade around the city in colorful lions dancing to the beat of the drums and cymbals. Each club will visit all of the storefronts in Chinatown to wish them a prosperous year. Firecrackers will be lit to scare away any bad energy and the courageous lion will dance in the fire.

I enjoy eating delicious pastries from the bakery. I have too many favorites to choose just one thing to eat! I am also a really good helper when my grandfather is feeling tired and achy from walking all day.



## Lunar New Year

Name: Inara 우인 Muller

My family and I  
celebrate Korean Lunar  
New Year by:

- Doing Se-Bae 세배
- Making Tteokguk 떡국
- Playing Yuet-Nori 윷놀이

Se Bae



dduck soup

