

# BEF NEWS

*the quarterly newsletter of the Brookline Education Foundation*

*supporting innovative teaching, administrative leadership, professional development, & community partnership in Brookline schools since 1981*

## Team Brookline Training Underway

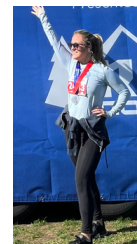
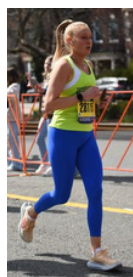
### IN THIS ISSUE:

### TEAM BROOKLINE TRAINING UNDERWAY

### GREEN APPLE EVENT

### TRIVIA BEE IS COMING

### FEATURED GRANT: Pierce School's Alison Hansel travels to Seoul, South Korea



Click [HERE](#) to read each runner's bio, and to support them!

We just had our first real winter storm of 2023, but our Team Brookline runners are training rain or shine (and even snow), to get ready for April's Boston Marathon. We have five incredible runners this year, raising money for the BEF. **Zac Broken Rope**, a BHS teacher, started running in 2015, working his way up from 5ks to his first marathon in Chicago in 2017. This year's Boston Marathon is his elusive white buffalo of marathons! His running journey is especially inspiring - you can watch his video about it [here](#). **Lily O'Day**, a World Languages teacher at FRR, is running her first

Boston Marathon as well this year. Since moving from Mexico to Boston in 2005, she has dreamed of this achievement. **Holly O'Sullivan**, a paraprofessional at FRR, is running her first marathon! What an incredible goal and to do it in support of the BEF is much appreciated. **Emily Edgar** ran for the BEF last year. She raised nearly \$10,000 and hopes to beat that goal this year. She runs for the BEF because she grew up in neighboring Newton and understands how much organizations like the BEF do for our teachers and students. **Abi Robichaud**, an art teacher at FRR and Lawrence, is our fifth runner this year. In addition to teaching our kids about amazing artists and inspiring them to explore their own creativity, she is also a Coach of Girls on the Run Greater Boston. And she makes a mean cocktail at the Audubon on Beacon. Please check out our wonderful and inspiring runners on our website [here](#), and learn more about our grants [here](#).



BEF Board Members enjoy gathering in-person.



Please click their names to listen to inspiring words from [Kevin Whitehead](#) and [Elyse Terry](#).

## Green Apple Event

For the first time in three years, the Brookline Education Foundation was delighted to host a social gathering for donors, community leaders, and past and present Board members. Being together in person to celebrate the work of the BEF was extremely enjoyable, and the highlight of the evening was hearing from BHS Spanish teacher **Kevin Whitehead** and Heath Social Studies teacher **Elyse Terry** about the many ways in which BEF support has positively influenced their work and the experiences of their students.

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## Trivia Bee is Coming

**March 31, 2023** will mark the in-person return of the BEF's annual community-building and fundraising event, the Trivia Bee. More than 250 supporters will gather at Brookline High School's brand new 22 Tappan Commons space to compete, socialize, eat and drink, and learn more about the amazing ways in which the BEF supports Brookline educators, who in turn create vibrant learning environments for students. Watch your email for an invitation to this much-anticipated event!

If you are involved with a local business and would like to sponsor the event or contribute an item to the raffle, click [HERE](#) to learn more.



# Featured Grant: Pierce School math specialist Alison Hansel traveled to Seoul, South Korea



Earlier this month BEF board members were treated to a presentation by **Alison Hansel** about her recent trip to Seoul to study the Korean language with help from a BEF grant. Ms. Hansel, a math specialist at the Pierce School, began studying Korean during the pandemic lockdown. Like many (if not all) educators, Ms. Hansel felt burnt out and exhausted by remote and hybrid teaching. She was looking for a means to reconnect with her work and renew her motivation, so she applied for a Teacher Grant. Ms. Hansel shared that the experience was energizing and fulfilling, and allowed her to remember what it felt like to be a student. She found this particularly helpful in gaining experiential insight into the challenges faced by Brookline's many English language learners who encounter an unfamiliar cultural environment where they often don't speak the language at all.

Ms. Hansel introduced a few of the ELL students she works with. Her deeper understanding of what it feels like to struggle with a language barrier has opened new ways of helping these students and continues to inform her teaching. She also shared what her classes were like, and how the Korean alphabet was created phonetically as a means to make literacy easily accessible for all. She showed photos which highlighted the beauty of the Korean landscape as well as the contrast between older and newer areas of Seoul, a city that has experienced massive expansion and growth in a very short time.

The BEF loves this example of a Teacher Grant, because it illustrates what these grants are all about – professional development and renewal. Ms. Hansel is not a Korean language teacher or an ELL specialist; she did not pursue learning Korean because she had cause to use it in class. Her experience in Korea nonetheless had a powerful impact on her teaching, and therefore on her students, and served the equally important purpose of refreshing the motivation and inspiration all teachers draw upon in doing this difficult work that they love.