

BEF NEWS

the quarterly newsletter of the Brookline Education Foundation

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

25th Annual BEF Spelling Bee

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The Brookline Education Foundation's annual 5th Grade Spelling Bee was a huge and exciting success resulting in one shocked and exuberant winner and three students tied as first runners-up. 50 fifth graders from throughout the Public Schools of Brookline gathered in the Brookline High School auditorium on Sunday, November 13th for the traditional spelling bee.

Georgiana Green of the Runkle school won by being the only student out of the final round of four to correctly spell her word, which was "**capricious**." The three runners-up were Eliza Mnookin of Ridley, Evelyn Kmeic of Heath and Milonee Mukesh of Lincoln. The 5th Grade Spelling Bee is a traditional but unique opportunity for older elementary students to practice public speaking and compete against peers at a district level. This was the **25th annual** BEF Spelling Bee. Thank you to Pronouncer Brookline Librarian Caroline Richardson, Head Judge Dr. Linus Guillory and Assistant Judges Sergeant Casey Hatchett, Officer Katie McCabe and Officer Bear.



Idea Lab Pitches Underway

This year, the BEF is delighted to have received over 20 applications for Idea Lab grants, which are quick-turnaround grants, meant to be spent in the current academic year, for **new, innovative ideas involving hands-on, experiential learning**. The Idea Lab Committee is hearing pitches from the teachers who applied, ranging from BEEP through Brookline High School. The ideas are inspiring, and we can't wait to make and publicize the awards... and afterwards, the results of these grants!

Metzger Event

The 2022 Margaret Metzger Fellows read their essays about **the craft of teaching** at an emotional, deeply impactful event on October 15th at the Lincoln School. This year's Fellows were Xiaoxue Cao (Mandarin teacher at Driscoll), Ayala Galton Bassett (Health teacher at Ridley), Mike Lewis (Paraprofessional at BHS), Marcie Miller (Social Studies teacher at BHS), and Jon Weinberger (4th grade teacher at Lawrence), and their coach was Zac Broken Rope, English teacher at BHS and one of last year's Fellows.



[Please click here](#) to learn more about the Margaret Metzger Fellowship, and for video of the event!

Todd Saker Fund supports Jerry Craft visit



The Saker Fund was established by Linda and Wayne Saker in memory of their son Todd, a Baker school student who loved to read. Since 2004 this fund has financed visits from many notable authors and illustrators to Brookline Public Schools. This year featured **Newbery Award winner Jerry Craft**, best known for his NY Times bestselling middle grade graphic novel *New Kid*. Mr. Craft visited Heath and Pierce elementary schools, where he was received by his audience with all the excitement you'd expect for a rockstar like him. The students were thrilled and inspired, and when Mr. Craft announced that there are plans for a *New Kid* movie in the making, the crowd went wild! It was a day those kids will never forget.

Other authors and illustrators brought to Brookline to share with students about their craft:

Lesa Cline-Ransome – *Finding Langston, Before She Was Harriet*

Jarrett J. Krosoczka – *Lunch Lady* graphic novel series

Eric Velasquez – *Grandma's Gift, Looking For Bongo*

Bryan Collier – *Trombone Shorty, Martin's Big Words*

Peter Lourie – *Whaling Season, The Polar Bear Scientists*

Marie G. Lee – *The Rose of Sharon, Necessary Roughness*

Grace Lin – *A Big Mooncake For Little Star, Where The Mountain Meets The Moon*

Mitali Bose Perkins – *Monsoon Summer, The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life Of Sunita Sen*

Christopher Bing – *Casey at Bat, The Midnight Ride Of Paul Revere*

Tobias Wolff – *This Boy's Life, Old School*

David J. Smith – *If The World Were A Village, This Child, Every Child*

Yangsook Choi – *New Cat, Behind The Mask*

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Saker Fund!

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