

BROOKLINE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Brookline Education Foundation



OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

- Teaching is a **craft** and teachers are **professionals**
- We encourage the pursuit of **excellence** in the craft of teaching; students benefit from excellent teachers
- Every adult in a school is an **educator**
- We spend money on **people, programs, and ideas**
- We **enhance** district spending but should never be a substitute for it
- We focus on **long-term**, not short term, goals of education
- We strive for a **diverse** and **transparent** culture
- We are **not** political

IN THIS REPORT

- We Fund Professional Development
- We Honor and Celebrate Teachers
- We Engage the Community
- We Outline our Governance
- We Thank our Donors



MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share our annual report with you, covering activities from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

In many ways, last year felt like the reset that we needed. At least as far as the Brookline Education Foundation was concerned, we returned to much of our regular routine. We had all of our major events—the Margaret Metzger Fellows event, the Fifth Grade Spelling Bee, the Trivia Bee and Celebrating Teachers—in person, and they were all well attended. We were so impressed by the thoughtfulness of the teachers who wrote about their experiences in the classroom in their Metzger essays. And we are always impressed by and proud of the fifth graders who give it their all on stage spelling their hearts out. Not only was our Trivia Bee back, it was held in the beautiful new 22 Tappan Building at Brookline High School. It was beautiful, fun (as always), and great to see our friends again in person.

Perhaps most importantly, the grants that we awarded last year were very impressive. Some were truly inspired and inspiring. For Idea Lab, the number of exciting, creative, hands-on, experiential grants that we gave to teachers throughout the District was, we think, unparalleled. But, the Teacher and Collaborative, and Systemwide Grants were not to be outshone, and were noteworthy in their own right. Teachers traveled to Europe, South America, Korea, and all around the United States, and learned some valuable things that benefited students in many ways. We encourage you to read through this report to get a sense of the breadth of these grants.

Finally, we had our Celebrating Teachers event at the BHS auditorium, where we awarded Sara O'Shea from Heath School, and Elizabeth Crane from Brookline High School with this year's Ernest R. Caverly Awards for excellence in teaching. Their speeches were outstanding and very heartfelt, and as always, we feel so lucky to have such amazing teachers in Brookline from which to choose.

All in all, this year felt like a sigh of relief, in which we realized that things can go back to normal. However, the BEF is only able to accomplish any of this **because of you**, our generous and steadfast donors. Thank you for your support! We look forward to another incredible year!

Liz

Elizabeth Ascoli,
BEF Executive Director

Jen

Jennifer Rothstein,
BEF Board President



WE FUND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We fund four types of grants:

Teacher, Collaborative, Idea Lab, and Systemwide.

Each year, the BEF awards grants to Brookline teachers, staff, and administrators from preschool through grade 12, allowing them to deepen their learning, develop leadership and other professional skills, experience professional renewal, test innovative educational ideas, or pursue a passion to share with their students.

Every student in every Brookline classroom benefits from BEF grants.

FY23 Grant Funding by Type

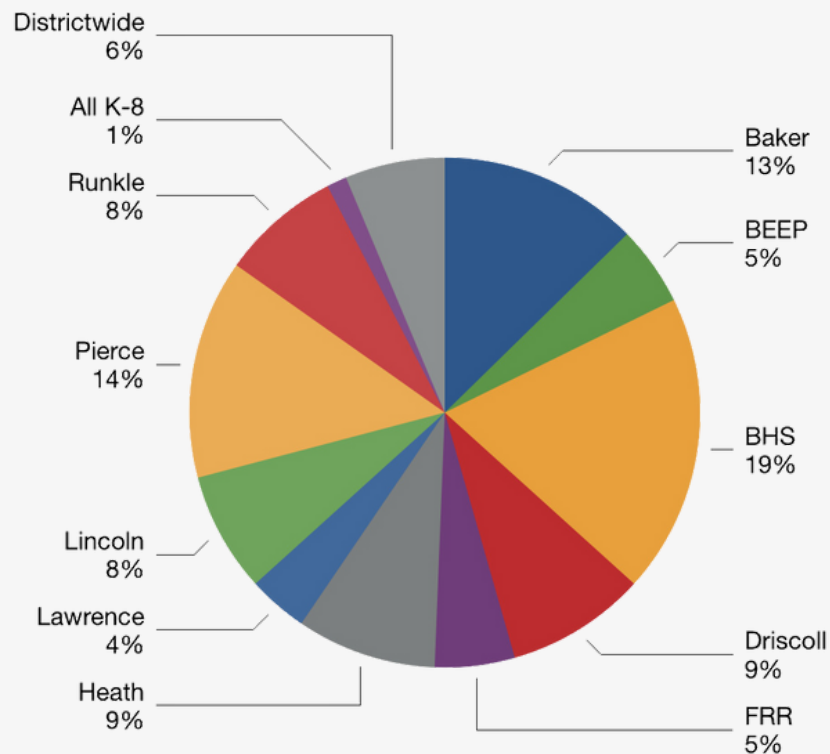
	Amount funded
Teacher Grants	\$42,546
Collaborative Grants	\$72,034
Idea Lab Grants	\$15,666
Systemwide Grants	\$99,060
Total	\$229,306

FY23 Grant Funding by School

The BEF funded a total of 49 different grants in FY23, with participants from BEEP, BHS, and every K-8 school in the district. Many grants involved participants from multiple schools.

School	Number of Grants
Baker	10
BEEP	4
BHS	15
Driscoll	7
FRR	4
Heath	7
Lawrence	3
Lincoln	6
Pierce	11
Runkle	6
All K-8	1
Districtwide	5

(% of 49 total grants)



TEACHER GRANTS

awards of up to \$3,000 for individual or small groups of educators

GEISLER-MORODER WOODCARVING SCHOOL IN ELBIGENALP, TYROL, AUSTRIA

Glen Gurner, BHS

Mr. Gurner attended a one-week woodcarving workshop in Austria, gaining experience in established European woodcarving traditional techniques and bringing his new skills back to the classroom, to give his students a better understanding of woodcarving and the opportunity to create more sophisticated sculptural and functional pieces.



BUILDING LANGUAGE BRIDGES

Laura London, Pierce

Ms. London traveled to France to study written and spoken French, including learning new content and teaching styles at museums dedicated to linguistics, and immersing herself in the French culture so as to put herself in the shoes of her students learning to speak, listen, read, and write with correct grammatical form.

ASTRONOMY AND ENGINEERING IN PRE-HISPANIC MEXICO

Dominique Gonyer, Baker*

Ms. Gonyer traveled to Mexico to gain firsthand experience in pre-Hispanic civilizations' use of astronomy, geometry, engineering, and technology. She then explored ways to weave her new knowledge into the Baker library's interactions with teachers and students, especially around implementing STEM curricula.

KOREAN LANGUAGE STUDY IN SEOUL

Alison Hansel, Pierce

Ms. Hansel traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to intensively continue her previously self-directed study of the Korean language and culture. The trip deepened and enriched Ms. Hansel's learning experience, as well as providing a better understanding of the ELL student perspective.

CHOROTEGA POTTERY OF COSTA RICA

Megan Burdy Kaufman, Baker*

Ms. Kaufman traveled to Costa Rica to study pre-Colombian ceramic art. She used her new knowledge about ancient ceramics techniques, ecology, and indigenous cultures to help her students to make connections between art and indigenous cultures..

YOGA AND MINDFULNESS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Leah McGowan, Lawrence

Ms. McGowan attended specialized classes and a retreat at the Kripalu Center to deepen her ability to incorporate yoga and meditation into the classroom.

“The BEF provides opportunities for teachers to develop meaningful, self-styled Professional Development experiences and is one of the things that makes teaching here so unique and attractive. I am forever indebted to them for providing me with the resources to pursue some of my dreams as both a craftsperson and teacher.”
- Glen Gurner, BHS

*recipient of additional special award; see page 15

TEACHER GRANTS, CONTINUED



MASTER CLASS WITH TERRENCE TAO, MATHEMATICIAN AND FIELDS MEDALIST

**Shoshanna Kostant, Joshua Paris,
Megan Kennedy-Justice, BHS**

Two math teachers and the chair of the department participated in online lessons designed to help them conceive of methods for deepening and expanding their students' mathematical thinking.

ART NEW ENGLAND AP ART AND DESIGN WORKSHOP

Elizabeth Brennan, BHS

Ms. Brennan attended a week-long workshop where she immersed in content-rich training designed to strengthen her understanding of all aspects of the AP Art and Design test. She left the workshop with strategies, pedagogical tools, a timeline for the year, and plans and a schedule for the first two months of school, as well as a new affiliation with a supportive and committed community of art educators from across New England.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023

Jenna Laib, Driscoll

Ms. Laib traveled to Los Angeles, CA to attend the annual conference of math educators and to present at sessions addressing equity and anti-racism in math instruction and assessment, and incorporating social-emotional learning into math instruction.

CHILE: THE LASTING LEGACY OF POLITICAL TURMOIL

Kevin Whitehead, BHS*

Mr. Whitehead traveled to Chile and Peru to immerse in the culture and language that plays a prominent role in the curriculum of Spanish III. He visited cultural sites and interviewed local residents about the effects of the political turmoil of the 20th century, bringing back recordings and artifacts that illustrate the resilience of the Chilean and Peruvian people and the many parallels to the current American political climate to share with his colleagues and students.

“

During my 30-plus years teaching in Brookline, the BEF has been a constant. My participation in initiatives supported by the BEF allows reflection and renewed clarity of purpose. My life's work has been in service to my students regarding their social-emotional learning, academic success, and ability to make meaning through their artistic and intellectual pursuits. For this, I feel a sense of pride. And I thank the BEF for their unwavering support.

- Elizabeth Brennan, BHS

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MEDICAL SIMULATION LAB AND ANTI-RACISM IN MEDICAL TRAINING

Ed Wiser, Sara Hemphill, BHS

Mr. Wiser and Ms. Hemphill utilized this grant to gain facility and expertise in using BHS' new medical simulation lab (part of the recent STEM wing expansion project), to explore ways of expanding the popular Medical Careers course offered at BHS, and to incorporate instruction around bias and race-based misconceptions in medicine into their pedagogy.

*recipient of additional special award; see page 15

TEACHER GRANTS, CONTINUED

COMPREHENSIVE ORTON-GILLINGHAM TRAINING

Amanda Baranowsky, Pierce

Ms. Baranowsky participated in advanced Orton-Gillingham training designed to help her provide Pierce students with improved comprehensive reading lessons, focusing on expanded decoding skills and emphasizing the provision of an enhanced facility of reading and deeper ability to participate in community activities that require reading.

NATIONAL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS' CONFERENCE

Lenny Libenzon, BHS

Mr. Libenzon, the BHS College Counselor, attended the annual national conference in his field, so as to learn more about current topics and to network with admissions representatives from colleges and universities. He then shared the information he gained with students and their families through formal and informal meetings and presentations.

WILSON READING SYSTEM LEVEL 1

Michelle Gokarakonda, Pierce

This online reading instruction course and certification in the Wilson method provided Ms. Gokarakonda with additional skills needed for delivering reading instruction to her students with language-based disabilities like dyslexia.

MINDFUL FACILITATION

Julie Boss, all K-8

Ms. Boss, a math specialist working all across the district, participated in a training course designed to deepen her cultural intelligence, increase her ability to navigate difficult situations, and bring more compassionate perspective to her work. She has utilized her new knowledge and skills in her work facilitating teacher trainings and staff professional development.

OUTDOOR LIVING THROUGH NATURE-BASED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Anne Nasson, Baker

Ms. Nasson participated in a summer-long online training to gain proficiency in nature-based occupational therapy and be able to incorporate Baker's beautiful campus and nearby nature sanctuary in her work with students.

YOGA FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jeanette Sergeant, Alexa Cuff, Katy Sazama, Baker

Three guidance counselors traveled to Barcelona, Spain to participate in a specialized yoga training targeting teachers, alongside participants from around the world. They learned new strategies for implementing yoga, mindfulness, and meditation into classroom time with students, and gained international perspective on educational practice in this area.



ORTON-GILLINGHAM TRAINING TO HELP STUDENTS READ!

Kris Frye, Lawrence

Ms. Frye participated in a training to elevate her facility with the highly effective Orton Gillingham method of literacy instruction, with a focus on providing better support to students with dyslexia.

COLLABORATIVE GRANTS

awards of up to \$20,000 for groups of educators in collaboration

IMPROVING SCHOOLWIDE SOCIO-EMOTIONAL LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS ALL K-8 SCHOOLS

Matt DuBois (districtwide); Maria Letasz (districtwide), Alexa Cuff, Jeanette Sergeant, Katy Sazama (Baker), Angela Berlingeri, Hannah Goldberg, Jacqueline Lavigne (Driscoll), Bob Babigian, Jennifer Maylone, Mary Murphy, Jordana Spitz (FRR), Vivian Perez, Erica Polonsky, Sara Gottfried (Lawrence), Rebecca Precourt (Lincoln), Lindsay Bastable, Tim Hintz, Amy Reed, Kate Sullivan (Pierce), Alex Ross, Rebecca Snyder (Runkle).



TEACHING DATA SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Danielle Rabina (BHS); Christopher Monschauer, Danielle Theissen (BHS).

BHS CAFE (CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FOOD SERVICE EDUCATORS) CONFERENCE

David Pazmiño (BHS); Divonne McCoy, Elizabeth Ricardelli (BHS).

“

This grant helped me infuse new knowledge into my teaching practices and renewed my enthusiasm for teaching by giving me a new approach for connecting with my students. I am so grateful I was given this opportunity to learn and grow as an educator.

- Anne Nasson, Baker

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VIVIDO WRITING TRAINING

Caroline Shea (Runkle); Kirsten Gervais, Rebecca Miller, Hallie Shinohara (Runkle).

SHAPE (SOCIETY FOR HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATORS) NATIONAL CONVENTION

Katie Goldring (Heath); Scott Newman (FRR), Greg Kester (Pierce), Carlyn Uyenoyama (districtwide).

IMPROVING RUNKLE SCHOOL'S CLIMATE AND CULTURE

Meghan Walsh (Runkle); Alaina Ortiz, Jen Schultz, Tracy Paradise (Runkle).

THE INDIGO PROJECT

Marney Howes, Lauren Ockene (Baker, Pierce); Dominique Gonyer, Megan Burdy Kaufman, Lucy McNeil, Meredith Ritter (Baker), Amanda Hockensmith, Karen Shashoua (Heath), Amelia Black, Felicia Huggins, Amanda Kretschmar (Pierce).



COLLABORATIVE GRANTS, CONTINUED

REIMAGINING EDUCATION: TEACHING, LEARNING, AND LEADING FOR A RACIALLY JUST SOCIETY

Laura Tanis (BEEP); Alba Bizhoti, Margaret Eberhardt, Briana Hopkins, Maisie O'Leary (BEEP), Maggie Canniff (Driscoll), Nicole Chasse (FRR), Dominique Herard, Elizabeth Watts, Jenny Yee (Pierce), Ashley Haese (Runkle), Matt DuBois, Lesley Ryan Miller, Jenée Uttaro (districtwide).

“

Although learning Korean is not directly related to my work as a math specialist, the BEF recognized that this passion would help revitalize and deepen my practice. The grant allowed me to feel seen as a person and valued as teacher again. That recognition, followed by my incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience in Korea, has helped me return to teaching a better teacher for all my students. I am deeply grateful for the work the BEF does to honor teachers and for the generosity of the donors who make these grants possible.

- Alison Hansel, Pierce

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SHARED LEARNING, PROFESSIONAL GROWTH, AND COLLABORATION: K-12 WORLD LANGUAGE EDUCATORS AND THE 2022 ACTFL (AMERICAN COUNCIL ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES) CONFERENCE

Alison Kerr (Heath); Amanda Breckner, Marnie Weiss (Baker), Catherine Beck, Alisa Conner, Elena Cruz-Lopez, Marta Fuertes-Rodriguez, Elizabeth Gorman, Laura Gurry, Andrew Kimball, Emily McGinnis, Erica O'Mahony, Kristina Tobey (BHS); Xiaoxue Cao, Cecilia Costanzo, Jianchen Luo (Driscoll), Esther Morales, Evis Shkreli (FRR), Victoria Ridge, Cara Whiting (Heath), Laura Brady (Heath, Runkle), Margaret Dalton, Sarah Moghtader (Lawrence), Tiffany McMahon, Heather Pineault, Kristen Van Dyke (Lincoln), Lauren Finucane, Kristen Kenney, Xuran Wang (Pierce), Wan Wang (Pierce, BHS), Tanya Alvarado, Rachel Eio (districtwide).

IDEA LAB GRANTS

awards of up to \$1,000 to be spent during the same year on project based learning

MOVIE MAKING AND PLAY PERFORMANCE IN THE ELE CLASSROOM

Katya Babitskaya, BHS

Students created films of horror stories they wrote in English for ELE class with the help of a green screen and special LED lights.

HEATH SCHOOL PHOTOBOX

Matt Picard, Heath

Heath students photo-documented their work and made it look clean and professional with a special photo box, enabling them to be more invested, take their work more seriously, and be proud of their accomplishments.

MUD KITCHEN FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTDOOR LEARNING

Alicia Osborne-Stackpole, BEEP

This grant allowed for the purchase of an outdoor mud kitchen and associated supplies, providing BEEP students with exciting opportunities to develop in the areas of imagination and creativity, social-emotional learning, cognition, physical and motor skills, language, and communication.



"CRAFTING" SEL SKILLS IN ADVISORY

Stephanie Goodman, Pierce

Ms. Goodman purchased crafting supplies and offered a series of hands-on projects during homeroom throughout the year, contributing to improvement in her students' emotional well-being and social-emotional skills.

“Working with the BEF was an extremely positive experience and I am so thankful for the support they provide to Brookline teachers and students!
- Alicia Osborne-Stackpole, BEEP”

BAKER SCHOOL CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Amy Ostroff, Baker

ELE students in grade 7 created a resource to help incoming Baker students become oriented to the school and community before arriving. Working as a team, the students filmed different aspects of the Baker school day, connecting with staff and students, and capturing the Baker core values on camera – all the while practicing their English presentation skills, oral and written fluency, and utilizing their home languages as well to help new arrivals to the community feel welcome.

"I'VE CREATED A MONSTER"

Talmadge Nardi, BHS

This project provided supplies for students to take their original short stories written in Future World Literature and transform them into an artistic piece, either visual, performance, costume, or set design.

IDEA LAB GRANTS, CONTINUED



EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOM UKELELE CHOIR

Laura Tanis, BEEP

Ms. Tanis, a proficient ukulele player and teacher, purchased soprano ukuleles to put in the hands of her BEEP students, teaching them to play the instruments, and stimulating their growth and development.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS

Jennifer Maylone, FRR

Ms. Maylone created four content clubs for middle school students – Art, Cooking, Book, and Adventure – giving students at this critical developmental level a substantive, engaging pathway for connecting more deeply to school and to each other.

NAVIGATION GAMES: ORIENTEERING AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES IN WELLNESS

Carlyn Uyenoyama, Driscoll & districtwide

Driscoll Wellness teachers launched an orienteering unit for their students, teaching them to use a compass and a map. This activity provided the opportunity to engage in wellness lessons outdoors and in collaboration, and generated materials that can be shared with educators at other schools to expand the program.

EXPERIENTIAL PLAY FOR K-2 INCLUSION

Lauren Tavares, Caroline Shea, Runkle

This grant purchased materials used in fun and engaging activities conducted jointly for RISE and general education students learning together in their classrooms.

“

I would say the grant was "invaluable" and I have been sharing widely how very grateful I am to the BEF for making these wonderful learning experiences available to so many children (almost 40 total). It was easy and rewarding to work with the BEF- I felt supported and affirmed every step of the way. I loved attending the Celebrating Teachers Event, and am even more impressed by all the incredible work happening in this district. It makes me feel so proud being part of the PSB and being in a community where the priorities of the BEF can be actualized daily.

- Jennifer Maylone, FRR

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IDEA LAB GRANTS, CONTINUED

FREE VOLUNTARY READING (EN ESPAÑOL)

Kristen Kenney, Pierce

This grant purchased books at varying age and language levels for Spanish students to read and enhance their Spanish literacy abilities.

THE BAKER GARDEN

Amy Ostroff, Lucy McNeil, Baker

This grant purchased gardening supplies for the construction and implementation of raised planting beds, to enable the Baker community to increase outdoor learning time.

REVERSE INCLUSION ENGINEERING CHALLENGE: ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR ELECTIVE ACCESS

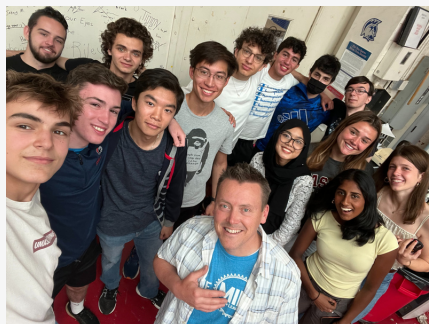
Aubrey Love, BHS*

Mr. Love introduced a new design project for seniors in his Engineering Innovation and Design class, in which they learned with and from students and teachers in BHS's RISE program about the obstacles encountered by RISE students when accessing electives. With feedback from their clients, the Engineering students designed and built prototypes of adaptive technology and experienced human-centered design.

LAUNCHING THE BHS PRODUCT DESIGN LAB

Britt Stevens, BHS

Students at BHS created prototypes of their designs using equipment purchased with this grant, and are creating a pop-up store in which to sell merchandise they are creating based on their original designs.



“

The most compelling part of project based learning is the real problem that hooks students to take the journey. Students should build skills and knowledge while in pursuit of the final goal. This project really drew my students in. With real stakeholders to care about, the extrinsic motivation affected my students in a way that normal design challenges didn't. My students pushed themselves to produce solutions that would live up to the expectations of their real world clients

- Aubrey Love, BHS

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*recipient of additional special award; see page 15

IDEA LAB GRANTS, CONTINUED

GEL PLATE PRINTING FOR ARTISTS' BOOKS

Donna Sartanowicz, BHS

Students in a new art class designed for multiple ability levels created monoprints using special gel blocks purchased with this grant.

“The impact of these grants on myself and my fellow teachers is that we feel supported in trying new things with students. We have an avenue through which if we see a need, we have a means to fill that need in the moment. The Idea Lab grants give teachers flexibility.”
- Donna Sartanowicz, BHS

HEATH SCHOOL PEER EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Allison Kerr, Heath; Jennifer Baum, Sara O'Shea, Kirtan Patel, Karen Shashoua, Elyse Terry, Jennifer Watkins, Heath

The Peer Empowerment Program (PEP) is a schoolwide initiative that promotes connections between students across grade levels, increases a sense of school belonging, and builds leadership skills. This grant allowed educators to purchase books and create informative videos about heritage months for use in developing curriculum for the project.



BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA VISIT

Nina Bishop, BHS

Brookline High School orchestra members traveled to Boston to observe the rehearsal process of the BSO, and participated in an interactive question/answer session with the musicians prior to the rehearsal.

SYSTEMWIDE GRANTS

grants made to the district to further
central office goals for Brookline educators

FUNDING STIPENDS FOR FACILITATION OF SEED (SEEKING EDUCATION EQUITY AND DIVERSITY)

This grant provided training to 19 new SEED facilitators, who in turn engaged almost 200 additional Brookline educators in their own identity journeys with respect to bias and racism, preparing them to teach effectively in a diverse community.

CREATING A MULTI-YEAR DISTRICT PLAN FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

Based on the Planning for Success model of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, this grant enabled Brookline to enter into a collaborative phase of the development of a strategic plan for the district. The work was professionally facilitated and involved participation from educators, administrators, parents and guardians, students, and community partners in a rich professional learning process through which a shared vision for the future of the district was distilled.

“

For me, attending a national convention for the first time was thrilling. I was able to meet all of my goals of learning from the best and the brightest, checking my practice, getting new ideas for best practices.

- Katie Goldring, Heath & Runkle

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PRINCIPAL MENTORS

This grant facilitated the mentoring of new principals by more experienced administrators, so as to better set up the new principals for success in Brookline. In FY23, new principals Jamie Yadoff at Pierce and Margaret Eberhardt at BEEP received mentors.

SUPERINTENDENT MENTORING THROUGH NSIP

This grant provided for the second year of a two-year mentoring relationship between a mentor from the New Superintendent's Induction Program (NSIP) and the Public Schools of Brookline's superintendent, Dr. Linus Guillory.



WE HONOR AND CELEBRATE TEACHERS

2022 MARGARET METZGER FELLOWSHIP

In 2014 the BEF established a fellowship program to honor **Margaret Metzger**, who taught English at BHS for more than 40 years, influencing thousands of students and educators through her teaching, writing, and mentoring.

Since its founding, this program has been a highlight of the BEF program calendar. Past Fellows often identify their participation as a highlight of their teaching careers. Each year, six fellows meet for a week during the summer with their coach. Together, they craft personal essays about teaching, which they present to the public at a special event in the Fall.



(left to right: **Ayala Galton Bassett** (FRR), **Mike Lewis** (BHS), **Jon Weinberger** (Lawrence), coach **Zac Broken Rope** (BHS), **Xiaoxue Cao** (Driscoll), **Marcie Miller** (BHS))

View this year's *Tales from the Classroom* event on [YouTube!](#)



SPECIAL HONORS FOR TEACHER GRANTS



THE DAVID E. PRADELL AWARD

was awarded to Baker School art teacher **Megan Burdy Kaufman** for her work researching indigenous ceramics in Costa Rica.

THE CHARLIE BAKER LEGACY AWARD

was awarded to BHS Spanish teacher **Kevin Whitehead** for his work in Chile and Peru tracing connections between language, history, and civil unrest.



THE ADAM RUSSELL GELFAND AWARD

was awarded to Baker School librarian **Dominique Gonyer** for her work exploring ancient indigenous Mexican cultures' use of engineering, astronomy, geology, and technology.

2022-2023 AWARD WINNERS

2023 ERNEST R. CAVERLY AWARDS



Ernest R. Caverly Awards for Excellence in Teaching were presented this year to **Sara O'Shea** (pictured, left), middle school ELA teacher at Heath, and **Elizabeth Crane** (right), biology teacher at BHS.

These inspiring educators were honored alongside all of the year's grant, award, and fellowship winners at the BEF's annual event, **Celebrating Teachers**, held this year at Brookline High School. Please click or scan below to watch their incredible speeches as well as introductions by their principals and brief comments by Superintendent Guillory and members of the BEF's Board of Trustees.



SARA O'SHEA'S SPEECH



LIZ CRANE'S SPEECH

View this year's Caverly speeches on our [YouTube Channel!](#)



2023 ROBERT I. SPERBER AWARD

Once every five years, the BEF awards the Robert I. Sperber Award for Administrative Leadership. This year, Brookline High School's **Dan Bresman** was added to the elite list of Brookline school leaders to have received this distinction. Dan is the director of the SWS (School Within A School) program. He will receive his award at an event to be held in his honor this coming fall.



left to right: Rachel Goldman (BEF), Anthony Meyer (BHS Head of School), Catherine Burke (BEF President), Karyn Wang (BEF), Elizabeth Ascoli (BEF Executive Director), Dan Bresman, and Superintendent Linus Guillory

WE ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

FIFTH GRADE SPELLING BEE

Fifth graders from around Brookline came together for the 25th BEF Spelling Bee in November. Free and open to all 5th graders in Brookline Public Schools, the Bee is a treasured community tradition.

We are grateful to Brookline librarian **Caroline Richardson**, who served as Pronouncer, to Brookline Police Sergeant **Casey Hatchett** and Officer **Katie McCabe** (with support from Bear), who served as Judges, and to Brookline Superintendent **Dr. Linus Guillory**, who served as Head Judge.



Congratulations to winner **Georgiana Green** of Runkle, and to runners-up **Evelyn Kmiec** of Heath, **Eliza Mnookin** of FRR, and **Milonee Mukesh** of Lincoln.

The winning word was "**capricious**".

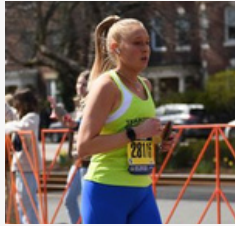
SAKER-FUNDED AUTHOR VISIT FROM JERRY CRAFT

The BEF was proud and excited to welcome renowned author Jerry Craft, Newbery Award winner for the beloved **New Kid** series. Mr. Craft spent the day in Brookline, giving presentations to packed houses at Pierce and at Heath, and signing copies of his book for hundreds of students.

We are grateful to the founders of and donors to the **Todd Saker Fund** for supporting visits from authors such as this one. The Fund was established by a generous gift from Linda and Wayne Saker to honor the memory of their son Todd, a student at Baker School, who was a voracious reader.



127TH BOSTON MARATHON - TEAM BROOKLINE



The BEF is pleased to be included among the Brookline organizations who comprise Team Brookline, and so grateful to the five runners who signed up this year to run the Marathon and raise funds to support us!



This year's BEF runners were **Emily Edgar, Lily O'Day, Holly O'Sullivan, Abi Robichaud, and Zac Broken Rope**. Thank you so much for all of your hard work! Congratulations on your runs!



BEF TRIVIA BEE

We held our annual Trivia Bee entirely in-person this year for the first time in three years - in the brand new 22 Tappan Street Commons at BHS. Over 250 community members, including educators, parents, alumni, and board members, came together for great fun, food, competition, and to support Brookline's schools.



OUR GOVERNANCE

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Elizabeth Ascoli, Executive Director
Jennie Roffman, Associate Director
Linda Okun, Office Volunteer



THANK YOU!

to outgoing Board President **Catherine Burke**,
for all of her dedication and hard work during
her three year term!

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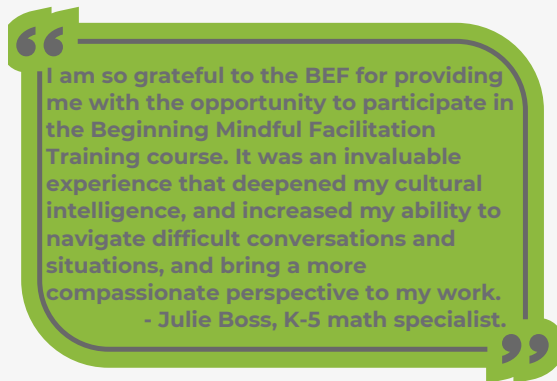
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