



ANNUAL REPORT
2025

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.....

We welcome this opportunity to reflect on an inspiring and eventful year of partnership with the Public Schools of Brookline - a year of **change, growth and renewal** for the Brookline Education Foundation.

Kim Barnum, a long-time educator in the Public Schools of Brookline and a familiar face to the BEF, became our **sixth Executive Director**. We have now settled into our new offices at the Baldwin School and continue to build relationships with our community and to provide educators with opportunities for professional and personal growth and development.



As the pandemic recedes into our collective memories, educators are eager to bring back that sense of community the Public Schools of Brookline are known for. Librarians have played a major role this year in growing school communities. At the Driscoll school, the librarian and art educator were awarded a Teacher grant to travel to Costa Rica and join the Costa Rica Green Sea Turtle Research Expedition to participate in sea turtle research and learn about conservation efforts. This learning experience was the catalyst for the **Year of the Turtle at Driscoll School**. At BHS, the Student Library Advisory and librarians received an Idea Lab grant to launch the school's first ever **Library Reading Challenge**. Additionally, the elementary school Caverly award winner this year was the Pierce School librarian Amanda Kretschmar. Students, parents and colleagues alike regard her as the heart of their school community.



We continue the BEF's commitment to centering teacher voices, renewing educators' commitment to enriching student experiences. At this year's *Celebrating Teachers* event, Caverly Award recipient Lisa Rodriguez from Brookline High School spoke powerfully about how reestablishing a sense of community brought professional renewal in the wake of Covid. Our Metzger Fellows also shared their experiences of the transformative and renewing power of collective reflection on teacher and student interactions and connections at this year's *Tales From The Classroom* event.

As we look ahead to the organization's 45th anniversary, we remain committed to the BEF's core mission of preserving Brookline's commitment to excellence in public education by providing funding to Public Schools of Brookline educators to support innovative teaching, administrative leadership, professional development, and community participation in schools. We want to thank our donors, supporters and tireless board and advisory members and staff. **Without your steadfast support, these opportunities would not have been possible.**

Kim

Kim Barnum,
BEF Executive Director

Jen

Jennifer Rothstein,
BEF Board President

WE FUND..... PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The BEF funds 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.

FY25 Grant Funding by Type

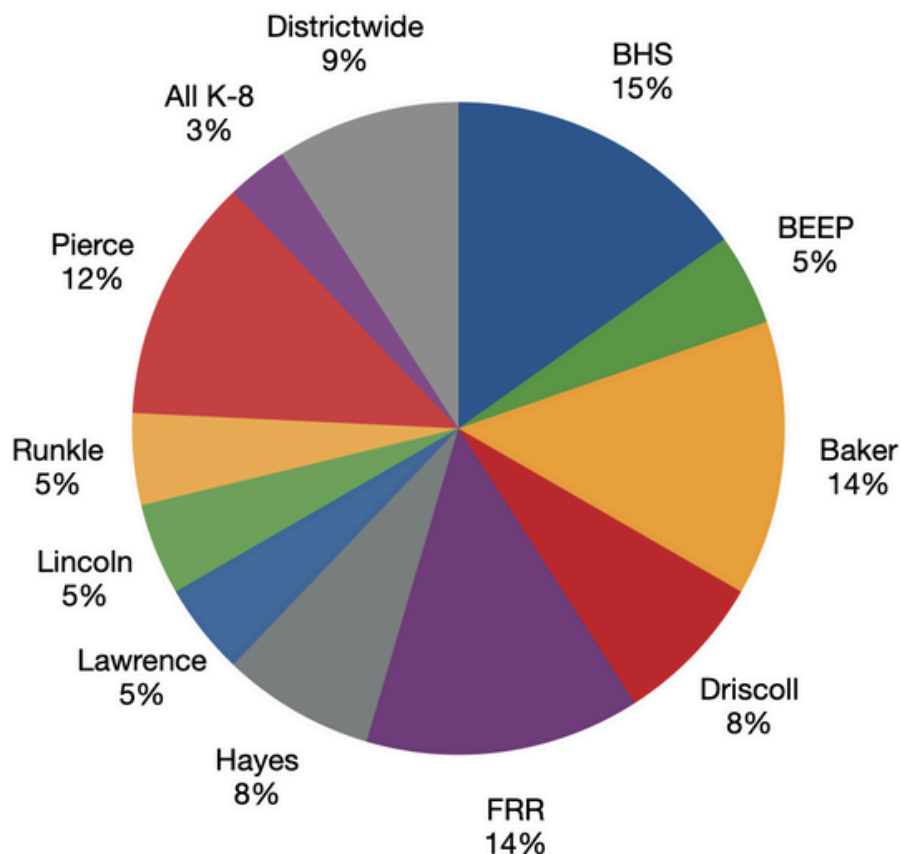
	Total granted
Systemwide	\$101,209
Teacher	\$87,834
Collaborative	\$51,142
Idea Lab	\$15,948
Overall	\$256,133

FY25 Grant Funding by School

The BEF funded a total of 51 different grants in FY25, benefiting educators and students from BEEP, BHS, and every K-8 school in the district. Many grants involved participants from multiple schools.

School	Number grants
BHS	10
BEEP	3
Baker	9
Driscoll	5
FRR	9
Hayes	5
Lawrence	3
Lincoln	3
Runkle	3
Pierce	8
All K-8	2
Districtwide	6

(% of 51 total grants)



TEACHER GRANTS



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



NORTH INDIA MUSIC IMMERSION

Meredith Huntley (Hayes)

Ms. Huntley traveled to New York to study North Indian music and dance with world-renowned Indian musicians at the Chhandayan Indian Music School, and brought new materials and pedagogical methods back to her music classes at Hayes and her colleagues districtwide.

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMER PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (PPPP)

John Ferguson (all K-8)

Mr. Ferguson brought in professional musicians to collaborate with his student ensembles, broadening their experiences and performances. Together, these ensembles performed one of Mr. Ferguson's own compositions, alongside student compositions, at their annual Spring concerts.

ORTON-GILLINGHAM PLUS TRAINING FOR THE LEARNING CENTER

Colleen McCormack (FRR)

This advanced training improved Ms. McCormack's ability to utilize multi-sensory instruction with her students who have phonics goals in their IEPs.

AP SUMMER INSTITUTE - AP PHYSICS

Julia Mangan, Melissa Nixon (BHS)

Two BHS Physics teachers participated in the AP Summer Institute to refresh their teaching practices, collaborate with other AP Physics teachers from across the country, and learn about recent changes to the AP Physics exam.



BHS educator at AP Physics Summer Institute

NURSES' RESTORATIVE YOGA

Ellyn Mulock, Debra Troderman, Jana Young (BEEP, Baker, FRR)

Three school nurses traveled to Florence, Italy to participate in "Yoga and Meditation for Educators," learning techniques and strategies for stress management to bring back to their students and colleagues.

"This was one of the most meaningful professional development experiences of my career in the Brookline School District, owing to the BEF Teacher Grant program. It began with a simple desire to better understand the Spanish language and culture so I could more effectively support some of my students."

- Jasmin Ha



Baker educator in Guatemala

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL IMMERSION: A JOURNEY TO ENHANCE SERVICE TO UNDER-PRIVILEGED STUDENTS

Jasmin (Jeong-Ah) Ha (Baker)

Ms. Ha traveled to Antigua, Guatemala to immerse herself in the Spanish language and local culture. Improving her proficiency enhanced her ability to work effectively with her Spanish-speaking math students.

TEACHER GRANTS, continued.....



EXPLORING EARTH HISTORY & SUSTAINABILITY ON ICELAND'S SOUTH COAST

Melissa Mooradian (Hayes)

Ms. Mooradian explored Iceland's unique geological features and commitment to sustainability. Her hands-on experience with rock formations, glaciers, and tectonic activity informed her middle school Earth Science curriculum.

NCTM/NCSM MATH EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Jenna Laib (Driscoll)

Ms. Laib participated and presented in two Math Educators' conferences in Chicago, one for teachers and one for teacher-supervisors. Her sessions were titled "Building Pedagogical Content Knowledge through Collaborative Coaching" and "Cultivating Student Ownership of Mathematical Language and Ideas."

"DRAW, PAINT, PRINT" AT OX-BOW SCHOOL OF ART

Emily Manning-Mingle (FRR)

Ms. Manning-Mingle participated in a two-week summer arts educator program focused on integrating new techniques into her personal art practice and her middle school art curriculum.

EXPLORING THE EMIRATES: A PEEK INTO THE CULTURE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM OF THE UAE

Keumjoo Armstrong, Katy Sazama (Baker)

Two Baker educators traveled to the United Arab Emirates with the objective of enhancing their teaching and support for the Arabic-speaking population at their school. They connected with former Baker families who had moved back to the UAE and visited local schools to learn about educational practice.

IMSE ORTON-GILLINGHAM PLUS & MORPHOLOGY PLUS

Liz Cook (Lincoln)

Ms. Cook enrolled in two courses with the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education designed to help her increase her students' reading success.

NATIONAL BLACK ASSOCIATION FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE AND HEARING CONVENTION

Lauren Tavares (Runkle)

Ms. Tavares traveled to California to participate in this national conference. As the only Unit A staff member at Runkle identifying as a Black woman, she benefited greatly from this opportunity to network and engage with other Black professionals in her field.

"[This conference] was a space of affirmation, community, and shared purpose ... Being among other Black professionals allowed me to connect with others who share lived experiences and cultural insight, feel seen, supported, and empowered in a field where we are underrepresented, and engage in learning that was culturally relevant, evidence-based, and immediately applicable to my practice."

-Lauren Tavares



Baker teachers in the UAE

TEACHER GRANTS, continued.....



2024 NACAC CONFERENCE

Lenny Libenzon (BHS)

The college counselor at Brookline High School attended the annual national conference for college admissions. He learned the latest updates in his field and made important connections to admissions staff from many colleges and universities.

CASEL EXCHANGE 2024

Tim Hintz (Pierce)

Pierce's K-2 guidance counselor participated in the Social and Emotional Learning Exchange, where he learned new strategies for working with student data and engaging with students around issues impacting attendance and connection.

TRUTH & JUSTICE PILGRIMAGE

Julie Boss (FRR)

Ms. Boss participated in a civil rights education program which featured a trip to Selma, AL and pre- and post-travel work around racism in the United States and the strength and resilience of the Black community. She returned with new and deepened tools and knowledge to inform her work with students and as a teacher-mentor.

EXPLORING AND CONSERVING THE AEGEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN SEAS

Stephanie Goodman, Lucy McNeil (Pierce)

Pierce's 6th grade science and ELA teachers traveled together to Greece to learn about efforts to reduce pollution, preserve biodiversity, and protect animal life in the Aegean Sea. They worked together to create interdisciplinary connections to supplement their mutual curricula around these issues and experiences.

GEOGRAPHY & CULTURE OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST *

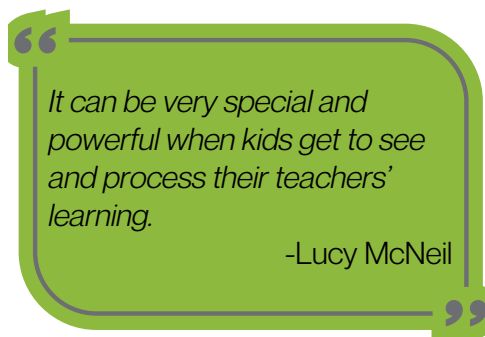
Carlie Espinosa, Michaela Dodge (Baker)

Two Baker educators traveled in the American Southwest to learn about the geology, geography, and heritage of the region.

THE SPANISH CLASSROOM IN THE REAL WORLD: SOCIAL NETWORKS, THE MEDIA, & AUDIOVISUAL RESOURCES IN THE TEACHING OF SPANISH *

Colleen Boyle (Runkle)

Ms. Boyle traveled to Alicante, Spain to participate in a 3-week intensive program focused on using tools and resources students encounter in the world around them in Spanish instruction. She immersed in the language and culture of the setting, bringing many meaningful stories and artifacts back to her students.



It can be very special and powerful when kids get to see and process their teachers' learning.

-Lucy McNeil



Pierce educators in Greece

TEACHER GRANTS, continued.....



WORLD MUSIC PEDAGOGY: TEACHING MUSIC/TEACHING CULTURE

Katy Moy (Baker & FRR)

Ms. Moy participated in an online world music seminar, enabling her to refresh and update the selection of musical traditions represented in Brookline's K-8 music program.

ARTE DE MEXICO

Abigail Robichaud (Lawrence)

Ms. Abi traveled to Mexico City and immersed herself in the culture, language, and art history and practice, bringing back new strategies for inspiring student creativity.

SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDY IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT SERVICE TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Julia James (BHS)

Ms. James traveled to Santo Domingo to study Spanish immersively and build connections in the community in preparation for leading an interdisciplinary math and Spanish student trip in future years.

BLACK MEN EDUCATOR CONFERENCE

Kendell Jones, Clifton Jones, Jason Montrose (BHS)

Three BHS administrator/counselors, who identify as Black men, traveled to Philadelphia to participate in a conference designed to provide opportunities for learning and networking in community.



Driscoll educators in Costa Rica

SHARING ACE'S SUCCESS & LEARNING FROM OTHER CBE PROGRAMS

Amy Bayer (BHS)

Three educators from BHS's competency-based education program, along with students, presented and learned at the Aurora Institute's annual conference.



Lawrence educator in Mexico

BREATHE FOR CHANGE 200 HOUR YOGA TEACHER PROGRAM

Jeannette Sergeant (Baker)

Baker's guidance counselor deepened her yoga knowledge by participating in an online Yoga Teacher Certification program, allowing her to further integrate yoga into her work with her Baker students and colleagues.

TURTLES AS INSPIRATION FOR LEARNING: ART, LITERATURE, & RESEARCH *

Anne Reid, Olivia Reyelt (Driscoll)

Driscoll's librarian and art teacher traveled to Costa Rica to participate in sea turtle conservation, and then returned home to kick off the Year of The Turtle, adopting two baby turtles through a Zoo New England program which sparked new interdisciplinary learning opportunities and schoolwide joy in preschool through grade 8.

*recipient of additional special award; see page 13

COLLABORATIVE GRANTS



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



ROLAND HAYES COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Educators created a multimedia database with references and primary sources on the life and accomplishments of musician/composer Roland Hayes.

Meredith Huntley (Hayes); Melodie Linhart (Lawrence), Rebecca Vinci-Campagna (FRR).

THE LGBTQ+ COLLABORATIVE

High School and K-8 educators worked together to build supports and resources for clubs supporting LGBTQ+ students.

Stephen Eesley (BHS); Leah McGowan (Lincoln).

BHS PATHWAYS EXECUTIVE FUNCTION TRAINING

Speech-language pathologists received ongoing workshops from an expert in their field throughout the year.

Alissa Parker (BHS); Mary Antonellis, Jesse Barron, Alanisa DeRubeis, Casey Farrissey, Shannon Foley, Nicole Muldowney, April Zyirek (BHS).

BHS SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL: INNOVATION IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

BHS senior administrators attended a conference in Nashville focusing on diverse elements of student support and instruction.

Anthony Meyer (BHS); Astrid Allen, Hal Mason, Brian Poon, Summer Williams (BHS).

FROM THE SCIENCE OF READING TO THE SCIENCE OF WRITING

Driscoll K-2 educators attended workshops, gaining exposure to up-to-date literacy instruction methodologies.

Angela Harvey (Driscoll); Jen Doubilet, Jen Pescosolido, Erica Sullivan (Driscoll).



One saying I really hate is “we need to burst [new teachers’] bubbles”. No, we don’t! ... it’s not about bursting bubbles, it’s about expanding bubbles, and getting to meet other people, and knowing them in a deep way ... to us I think the BEF is like the world’s best bubble machine. Just that there’s this group of people who wants to help, and support, with no strings attached, just you wanna do something cool? I got you! And let’s do this cool thing together.

- Marlene Goncalves



2024 NCTE IN BOSTON: HEART, HOPE, AND HUMANITY!

Middle school ELA teachers from across Brookline attended their annual conference together.

Marlene Goncalves (Pierce); Sheila Cusack, Sara O’Shea (Hayes), Margaret Avakian, Lara Miller, Diane Muendel (Lawrence), Benjamin Stein (Lincoln), Stephanie Goodman, Annice Kra (Pierce), Sarah Hubbard Benham, Schiller Diny (FRR), Ania Bigda, Olivia Dailey (Runkle).



Middle School ELA teachers in Boston

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA) LGBTQ CAUCUS CONFERENCE 2025

Hayes educators attended a conference to learn new strategies for supporting LGBTQ+ students.

David Chaet (Hayes); Sara O’Shea, Asa Sevelius (Hayes).

IDEA LAB GRANTS



awards of up to \$1,500 to be spent
in the same year on project-based learning

PIERCE PARTNERS BUILDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH EXPERIENCES

Amanda Baranowsky, Susan Leipman, Jesse Carson, Deborah Levine (Pierce)

Pierce Partners, a mentoring program, developed some new activity ideas with the goal of deepening connections through shared experiences, culminating in a very successful trip to an escape room.



Pierce Buddies at the escape room

CREATING PRE-K LIBRARIES FOCUSED ON NEURODIVERSITY

Andrea Schuettler (BEEP)

BEEP educators selected and purchased books, with the goal of building a shared vocabulary around neurodiversity that can be used at school and at home. The books comprise a lending library, shared among students, teachers, and parents.

LIBRARY READING CHALLENGE

Molly Wallner (BHS)

BHS's student library committee created a reading incentive program. Prizes were purchased and fellow students encouraged to read as many books as possible, culminating in a community-wide celebration of reading, with music and refreshments, where the prizes were awarded.

EXPANDING FIBER ARTS AT FRR

Emily Manning-Mingle (FRR)

Ms. Em purchased tools and materials so as to expand her arts curriculum to include more sewing, knitting, and crochet - all art forms that students have enjoyed and expressed a desire to explore further - to her curriculum.



BHS readers & librarian



BHS Reading Challenge celebration event

MATH ENRICHMENT THROUGH GREG TANG MATH

Daniel Lipton (FRR)

This math instruction resource brings fun, hands-on learning ideas, particularly around computation, into the classroom, along with professional development opportunities for educators using the program. Mr. Lipton held a family gathering toward the end of the year to showcase all of the ways in which his students had utilized the new materials.

RELAXATION STATION AT LAWRENCE

Meaghan Monahan (Lawrence)

Ms. Monahan purchased new furniture and manipulatives, repainted, and decorated a small room at Lawrence, to create a quiet, peaceful space where students experiencing dysregulation or distress can regroup and relax with the support of caring adults.

IDEA LAB GRANTS, continued.....



BALL PIT FOR BEACON!

Molly Goff, Laura Shiman, Jocelyn Hesse (BEEP)

BEEP on Beacon installed a therapeutic ball pit, to be used by students to help with sensory needs, self-regulation, and fun!

CULTURAL SITES CLASSROOM FAIR

Jenny Yee Malaguti (Pierce)

Pierce educators toured Boston's Chinatown, bringing new learning and resources back to inform the creation of an immersive experience for the whole community.

CIRCUIT GREETING CARDS

Gwen Vitti (Baker, Pierce)

Ms. Vitti blended art and science in this project, using this grant to purchase the supplies for her students to build working electrical circuits and incorporate them into greeting cards.



circuits & working greeting card

CLIMATE CHANGE TIME CAPSULE & PERMANENT PUBLIC MARKER

Roger Grande (BHS)

With the goal of “amplifying the fears and hopes of our youth today, and their demands for a liveable future”, Mr. Grande invited seniors to prepare reflections on objects to be included in a time capsule and submerged beneath Cypress Field. The objects and student reflections represent their grief and fear around climate change, and the time capsule and marker are on permanent display to the public.

SPOTLIGHT ON AND STAGING SUCCESSFUL COMMUNICATION *

Jill Arnold (Pierce)

Ms. Arnold participated in a puppetry workshop at Brookline's Puppet Showplace, and brought techniques and materials to her students, to incorporate the theater arts and puppetry into building communications skills.



Ms. Arnold & her puppet

BRINGING AUTHOR VISITS BACK TO THE BAKER SCHOOL

Kaitlin Bixby, Sara Zekri, Katie Wang (Baker)

Renowned author-illustrator Hanna Cha was welcomed to the Baker School to read and demonstrate for several groups of students.

“We think the grant was actually invaluable: we can't really quantify the long term effects an author visit can have on our students and their futures. Working with the BEF was a dream: everything was easy and we felt so supported. Thank you so much!

- Kaitlin Bixby”

BEE-BOTS: BRINGING A BUZZ TO K-2 STEM LEARNING THROUGH PLAY AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

Annmarie Mazzocchi (Driscoll)

Programmable Bee-Bots were purchased for use by Driscoll's youngest learners, giving them early exposure to programming and allowing them to build strong foundations for future STEM learning through hands-on, fun activities.

SYSTEMWIDE GRANTS



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

STANDARDS INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Five senior administrators traveled to Washington, DC to participate in a training on incorporating grade-level ELA and Math instruction methods into teaching.

RESPONDING TO WORLD EVENTS TOOLKIT

K-12 Social Studies teachers participated in trainings designed to help them consistently and effectively facilitate student conversations in response to emerging world events, and to guide colleagues in their responses as well.

ADMINISTRATOR RETREAT

Dr. Guillory and senior administrators participated in an off-site leadership retreat to focus intently on their culture of care.

EDUCATIONAL TOUR OF IRELAND

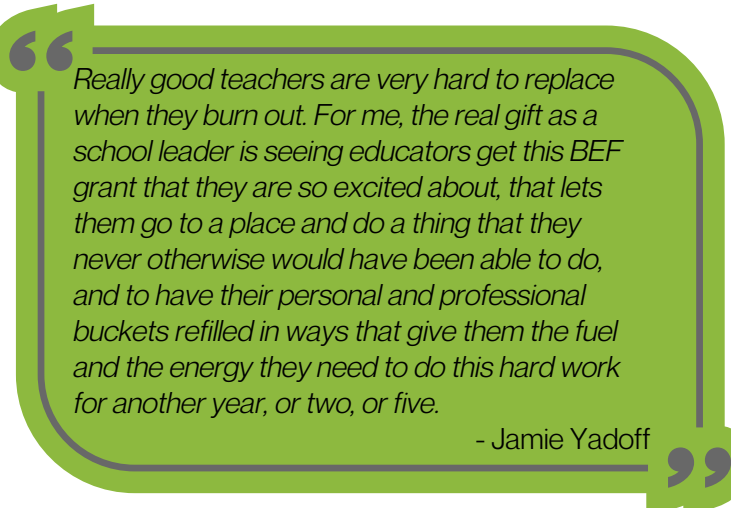
Dr. Guillory traveled to Ireland to participate in an international symposium on literacy instruction.

HGSE EDUCATION ETHICS PARTNERSHIP

Teacher mentors received training to facilitate ethical case study discussions with first year educators.

WORKSHOP FEATURING ZORETTA HAMMOND

Renowned educational coach, author, and speaker Zoretta Hammond addressed the entire staff of the Public Schools of Brookline during orientation, focusing on issues relating to equity and diversity.



WE HONOR & CELEBRATE TEACHERS.....

2024 MARGARET METZGER FELLOWSHIP

In 2014 the BEF established a fellowship program to honor veteran educator **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.

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



(left to right: coach **John Andrews** (BHS), **Daniel Lipton** (FRR), **Lily Glickstein** (Driscoll), **Matt Picard** (Hayes), **Matthew DeGrace** (BHS), **Katy McGraw** (Lawrence), **Alexa Cuff** (Baker) .

SPECIAL HONORS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS



the **David E. Pradell award**

was awarded to Runkle Spanish teacher **Colleen Boyle**, who attended a workshop in Alicante, Spain, studying new methods of incorporating everyday tools and resources into language instruction..



the **Adam Russell Gelfand award**

was awarded to Baker teachers **Michaela Dodge** and **Carlie Espinosa**, who traveled to the American Southwest to study the geology, geography, and heritage of the region.



the **Charlie Baker Legacy award**

was awarded to Driscoll librarian **Anne Reid** and art teacher **Olivia Reyelt** for their innovative and caring creation and implementation of the Year of the Turtle at Driscoll School.



the **Elizabeth Ascoli award**

was awarded to Pierce speech-language pathologist **Jill Arnold**, whose Idea Lab grant brought her to the Puppet Showplace Theater to learn new methods of incorporating puppetry and theater arts into language and communication skill-building..

2025 ERNEST R. CAVERLY AWARDS



Ernest R. Caverly Awards for Excellence in Teaching were presented this year to **Amanda Kretschmar** (pictured, left), Pierce School librarian, and **Lisa Rodriguez** (right), math 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**, in the Brookline High School STEM Commons. Please click or scan below to watch their incredible speeches as well as introductions by their colleagues and brief comments by Superintendent Guillory, BEF Executive Director Kim Barnum, and members of the BEF's Board of Trustees.



[Amanda Kretschmar's
Caverly speech](#)



[Lisa Rodriguez's
Caverly speech](#)



[View the whole event
on our YouTube
channel!](#)



(l-r) Jim Stoddard, Pierce Vice Principal, Caverly winners Amanda Kretschmar & Lisa Rodriguez, BHS Math Coordinator Josh Paris, BEF Executive Director Kim Barnum

WE ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

FIFTH GRADE SPELLING BEE

Brookline fifth graders came together for the 27th 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 **Abbey Stephens**, who served as Pronouncer, to Judges Brookline Police Sergeant **Casey Hatchett** and Officer **Katie McCabe** (with support from Bear the dog), and to Head Judge **Latasha Scott** from the Brookline Teen Center. And thank you to this year's Spelling Bee sponsors, **Wegmans**, the **Brookline Booksmith**, and the **Brookline Teen Center**.



Congratulations to winner **Sophia Karl** of Runkle! There were six runners-up: Andrew Tran (Lincoln), Dani Chen and Joshua Tsai (FRR), Kinsley Ahn & Kavi Shastry (Baker), and Maxwell Jacobs (Runkle). Great job, everyone! The winning word was "**capricious**."

129th BOSTON MARATHON - TEAM BROOKLINE

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

This year's BEF runners were **Sarah Janisch**, **Seth Jones**, **Lia Marino**, **Zoe Moran**, and **Evan Mousseau**. Thank you so much for all of your hard work! Congratulations on this major achievement! And thank you to all of the BEF volunteers who came out on race day to cheer on the runners!



TEAM 2025
BROOKLINE 26.2
BOSTON MARATHON
ONE TOWN. ONE TEAM.



SAKER AUTHOR VISITS

.....

VISIT FROM HANNA CHA

Baker School librarians organized a wonderful visit with author-illustrator Hanna Cha, who spoke to several groups of early elementary students during her visit to Baker, sharing her artwork, stories, and technique for creating. The students were inspired by her dedication and talent, and enjoyed trying their hands at illustrating!



VISIT FROM STEVE SHEINKIN

The BEF was proud and excited to welcome award-winning author Steve Sheinkin to Brookline this year, thanks to the Todd Saker fund. Mr. Sheinkin spoke to packed auditoriums at Driscoll, Runkle, and Ruffin Ridley, sharing stories about how he came to be a writer, and how he researches and brings to life the ideas in his books.



We are grateful to the Saker family and donors for founding and maintaining the **Todd Saker Fund** to support author visits such as these. The Fund was established by Linda and Wayne Saker to honor the memory of their son Todd, a Baker School student and voracious reader.

BEF TRIVIA BEE

We held our annual Trivia Bee in March, once again in the 22 Tappan Street Commons at BHS. Over 200 community members, including educators, parents, alumni, and board members, came together for great fun, food, competition, and to support Brookline's schools in our central fundraising event of the year. It was an evening filled with energy and connection, and we're so grateful to everyone who helped us to uplift Brookline educators by attending, donating, or sponsoring the event.

[Watch this year's BEF video, highlighting grant activities by teachers from Lawrence, Hayes, and BHS.](#)



THANK YOU to our generous 2025 Trivia Bee Sponsors!

And THANK YOU to our Special Friends of the Trivia Bee:



BEF PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

.....

Fiscal Year 2025 marked the Brookline Education Foundation's twenty-fourth year. As we prepared for our quarter-centennial, we were fortunate to welcome BEF founders **John Hodgman** and **Deborah Brooks** to our annual Board Retreat. As lifelong Brookline residents who have been dedicated and involved in town governance and multiple community organizations in addition to having helped to found the BEF, John and Deborah brought unique and extremely valuable perspectives to the work of the current Board. With their guidance, the current Board and staff reflected on consistencies and new challenges facing the Public Schools of Brookline, and ways in which our role as a private organization supporting the school district remains vital and crucial to the success of our educators, students, and families.



Thank you to the Brookline Teen Center for providing space for our Annual Board Retreat. Panelists Deborah Brooks and John Hodgman and moderator Shalini Kasida speak to current BEF Board Members about their experiences founding the BEF in 1981 in collaboration with then-PSB Superintendent Sperber, in response to the passage of Proposition 2^{1/2}.



*left to right: **Deborah Brooks**, founding BEF Executive Director and current Advisory Board member; **John Hodgman**, founding BEF Board President and current Advisory Board member; **Shalini Kasida**, former BEF Board member and current Advisory Board member; **Kim Barnum**, BEF Executive Director.*

OUR GOVERNANCE

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Beth Gilligan, Vice President, Fundraising
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Alan Kurd, Treasurer
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Lisa Ting
Deanne Urmey
Karyn Wang



BEF STAFF

Kim Barnum, Executive Director
Jennie Roffman, Associate Director
Bruce Haimowitz, Office Volunteer

THANK YOU TO LINDA OKUN!

In the fall of 2024, the BEF said goodbye and thank you to Linda Okun, longtime office volunteer, on the occasion of her retirement. Many prior and current Executive Directors, Associate Directors, and Board Presidents gathered to wish Linda well and to thank her for over a decade of hard work on behalf of the BEF.



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Educators and BEF supporters mingled at this year's Green Apple Celebration event.

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BHS Reading Challenge



Because of this generous BEF grant, I was able to spend a week immersed in a truly dynamic learning environment. I had dedicated time for learning and reflection on my work, while also connecting with passionate educators across various roles—from classroom teachers to university professors, curriculum writers, and researchers. It was professionally renewing.

—Jenna Laib



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 - Amy Bayer

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"This grant provides an exceptional opportunity to broaden educators' cultural awareness and global perspective. My visit to the UAE ... enhanced my ability to support [my students] with greater empathy, understanding, and effectiveness. This experience continues to inform and enrich my teaching in meaningful, lasting ways.

- Keumjoo Armstrong

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Brookline ELA teachers at their annual conference



This grant was invaluable. I received expert training and was supplied with methods, manuals, and resources steeply based in the most current research about reading and writing. The most exciting part is how much progress my students have made this year. I am immensely impressed with the steady acceleration of how they have acquired crucial skills - decoding, encoding, letter formation, fluency, vocabulary development, word analysis, word building, comprehension in the context of a story, and written mechanics. In 34 years of teaching, this was one of the top learning experiences I have ever had. What I have gained from this grant will benefit my students and fellow teachers, as well as my own teaching, for many years to come.

- Liz Cook



THANK YOU! to all of our generous donors.

We regret any errors, and encourage you to reach out to us with any questions about your gift.



*front cover: students enjoying the turtles at Driscoll School
back cover: Pierce educators express gratitude on a Mediterranean beach*

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