

Help for Japan from Lawrence School



From PTO Newsletter - March 15, 2011

On Friday, March 11, 2011, the largest earthquake in Japanese history struck the country. Damage and casualties are extensive, the full range not yet known. The Lawrence community includes many families from the region, and we hope all our friends and relatives in Japan and the Pacific area are safe and healthy.

Many people have asked how they might help. Aid organizations are gearing up. Meanwhile, we would like to show our support by starting a fundraiser, following the Japanese tradition of folding origami cranes to demonstrate concern for our friends. We'll be in the front lobby before and after school this week. Any financial donation would be appreciated—along with baked goods to sell, and help folding cranes. Thank you!

Our Fundraising for Japan

During the week of March 14, donations were collected each morning in the front lobby. After school, volunteers assisted with a week-long bake sale, with our Extended Day Program continuing the bake sale later in the afternoon every day. A ribbon campaign was started to help with fundraising and to show support for our Japanese friends. Donations were also collected at the door at each of the three performances of the annual PTO play. On April 1, Ms. Kiernan's 3rd graders also held a baked goods sale for Japan.



As of April 5, we raised \$10,791.20 to support relief efforts for Japan. We sent the collective donations to the Japanese Consulate in Boston, who in turn sends funds to the Japanese Red Cross. (<http://www.boston.us.emb-japan.go.jp/index.html>)

If you would like to donate to disaster relief efforts, contributions may be sent directly to The Consulate-General of Japan in Boston.

Checks made payable to: Consulate General of Japan in Boston

Mailing Address: Consulate General of Japan in Boston
(Attn: Japan Earthquake Relief Fund)
Federal Reserve Plaza, 22nd Floor
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210 U.S.A.

Making Origami Cranes

Cranes are sacred creatures in Japanese culture. According to legend, Japanese people believe if we build 1,000 cranes, one of our wishes will come true. The cranes also symbolize world peace.

The Lawrence PTO's SET-J program sends a teacher to Japan every year, and 1,000 origami cranes are traditionally delivered to the



Hiroshima Peace Park in November. Every day after school the week of March 14, the Lawrence community made origami cranes together as a gesture of support. At the March 25th Community Meeting, a moment of silence was observed to remember the victims in Japan. Every pre-K through 5th grade student also made an origami crane at Community Meeting that day. The Lawrence community working together made 1000 origami cranes for Japan.



We also received a beautiful delivery from the Peirce School in Newton on April 1. The school made 316 cranes (one for each student in the school) arranged in a beautiful bird cage, along with seven cards featuring Japanese words for peace, hope, love, wish, health, togetherness and friendship. The cards were signed by every student in the school.

We sent those cranes to the Paper Cranes to Japan project, led by Students Rebuild and Do Something.org. Every crane made and sent to the Bezos Family Foundation triggers a \$2 donation to Architecture for Humanity and will directly support reconstruction efforts in Japan. After 100,000 cranes are submitted, they will be turned into a woven art installation - a symbolic gift from students around the world to their Japanese friends. As of May 1st, Students Rebuild received over 1 million cranes from all over the world, resulting in a \$500,000 donation for Japan from the Bezos Family Foundation and an anonymous donor! We helped make this happen! (<http://studentsrebuild.org/japan/> and <http://architectureforhumanity.org/updates/2011-03-27-sendai-update-moving-from-relief-to-recovery>)

Support Japan Ribbon Campaign

A Lawrence parent designed beautiful ribbons to aid in fundraising and to show support for our friends. The idea is that anyone can donate as much or as little as they want and in return they will receive the support ribbon to wear. These ribbons are much like the pink breast cancer ribbons. They are made out of beautiful Japanese paper with Pink Red Cherry Blossoms design backed with black ribbon. The black ribbon represents our sadness from the disaster and the cherry blossoms symbolize our hope.



We distributed these ribbons to other schools to help with their fundraising for Japan. Because all of the materials were generously donated by private donors, all of the proceeds from the ribbon campaign were directed to relief funds. Below is a list of schools which used our ribbons for fundraising.



Lawrence School, Lincoln School, Devotion School, Brookline Early Education Program, Brookline High School, Brookline Music School, Lesley University, Northeastern University, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Dorchester Schools.

If you would like to use these ribbons to help solicit donations, we are happy to share instructions on how to make them. (<http://lawrencepto.weebly.com/contact-the-pto.html>)

Materials needed

Chiyogami Pink Red Cherry Blossoms on Black Fine Paper from Paper Source (We cut the paper into strips slightly thinner than the ribbons. http://www.paper-source.com/cgi-bin/paper/item/Chiyogami-Pink-Red-Cherry-Blossoms-on-Black-Fine-Paper/3105_001/12431350.html)

Black satin ribbon (1 inch or 7/8 inch width, cut into 5-6 inch length for each ribbon)

Safety pins (gold preferred, but also used silver)

Scotch double-sided tape (permanent double-sided tape is stronger, but double-sided removable scrapbooking tape is easier)

Amos A. Lawrence School • Rick Rogers, Principal • Monica Crowley, Vice-Principal

Message for Japan

On April 14 and 15, volunteers for our Message for Japan project set up a table in the lobby where students created 474 heart cards messages for victims in Japan. 101 bandaid boxes and numerous stickers were also collected. The following week, these donations were delivered by Dr. Tomo Tarui, a Lawrence parent and a volunteer pediatrician, to children in Kesenuma, an area that was affected by the tsunami/ earthquake (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Pray-for-Japan-Heart-Card-Project/202109826487008>).

Japan Benefit Concert

On May 2, a Japan Benefit Concert sponsored by Lincoln School, Lawrence School and Brookline High School was held at the Lincoln School.

After Superintendent Dr. Bill Lupini and the Japanese Consul General, Mr. Takeshi Hikihara gave speeches at the beginning of the event, a group of Japanese classical musicians (from Japan Benefit Concert Group, <http://sites.google.com/site/jpnbcg/about-japanese-benefit-concert-group>) performed. A special performance by Lincoln and Lawrence 1st and 2nd grade students followed, singing a traditional Japanese song called Furusato "Hometown". The final act was a Brookline-based Taiko drummer troupe called The Genki Spark (<http://www.thegenkispark.org/index.html>). Fundraising efforts included booths selling rice-balls, sushi, baked goods, T-shirts, postcards, ribbons and other items. This event raised around \$3,300 to support relief efforts for Japan. All proceeds will be sent to the Japanese Red Cross.



It was amazing how many communities came together for this special evening. Thank you to the Lawrence community for donating many different foods. Special thank you to Mr. Rogers, Mr. Brown, Ms. Kawai and Mr. Nagano who attended the concert as well as many Lawrence, Lincoln and BHS families.

Read More about Our Story

WGBH radio PRI's The World:

<http://www.theworld.org/2011/03/japan-brookline-massachusetts/>

Brookline Tab:

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/brookline/news/x1777829115/Brookline-s-Lawrence-Lincoln-schools-shows-support-for-Japan>

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/brookline/news/education/x242759628/Brookline-schools-get-together-for-benefit-concert-for-Japan#axzz1MKOrB998>

Lawrence School Help for Japan Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lawrence-School-Help-for-Japan/188860901157466>