

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

**Calendar**

- 7 December (Monday)**  
PTO Phonathon
- 8 December (Tuesday)**
  - Photo Retake Day
  - PTO Meeting 7 pm library
- 9 December (Wednesday)**  
EARLY DISMISSAL  
12:30 pm Grades K-8
- 10 December (Thursday)**  
Grades 5/6 Chorus Concert  
10 am and 7 pm
- 11 December (Friday)**  
*Think Math* program overview  
8 am Library Media Room
- 16 December (Wednesday)**  
Grades 7/8 Play:  
*Into the Woods*  
Dress Rehearsal 8:30 am;  
Performance 7 pm
- 17 December (Thursday)**  
Grades 7/8 Play:  
*Into the Woods*  
8:30 am (please note that the *Principal's Forum* scheduled for this morning has been cancelled)
- 23 December (Wednesday)**  
EARLY DISMISSAL  
12:00 pm Grades K-8
- 24 December-1 January (Thursday-Friday)**  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
*December Break*

*The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Lawrence PTO or Lawrence School.*

**Parents Invited to "Think Math!"**

Lawrence families are deeply committed to supporting their children's learning. We as a school try to support that commitment by providing opportunities to learn about programs and approaches to teaching. We would like to invite you to a parent forum to learn more about our current K-5 mathematics program, *Think Math*, to be held on **Friday, December 11, at 8:00 a.m.** in the Library Media Room.

The purpose of the forum is to help you help your children with mathematics by familiarizing you with recurring models used in *Think Math*. Do you want to know more about how math concepts are introduced? Do you

find that your child is bringing home math homework that you do not understand? Does it look totally different from what you did in school? Then this forum is for you.

You will have a chance to try out some important curriculum components (or models) used in *Think Math* so as to better understand how the math your child brings home connects to what you may have learned as a student. You will also have a chance to see the books and resources used in the *Think Math* curriculum and will receive a list of websites you can visit with your child.

The forum provides an opportunity to meet and work with our team of talented Math Specialists:

- Anu Advani: Gr. K, 1 & 2N (.8 FTE)
- Malia Scott: Gr. 3 & 2L (.4 FTE)
- Katy O'Reilly McGraw: Gr. 4, 5 & 2D (.6 FTE)

Anu is a familiar face at Lawrence, having worked here for several years and having built our Math Resource Center with its collection of games to support mathematical learning. Malia and Katy are new to Lawrence this year, but are both experienced Brookline math specialists who bring strong knowledge of both mathematics content and differentiation of instruction.

The Public Schools of Brookline updated the K-5 mathematics learning expectations in the spring of 2007. *Think Math* was selected as the core program because it aligned with these new learning expectations.



**Into the Woods on the Lawrence Stage!**

This year's 7/8 Play is *Into the Woods*, a musical intertwining of famous fairy tales. Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Cinderella meet up with characters from *The Baker's Man*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and more, making wonderful music as each tries to make their own wish come true. Performances will be Wednesday, December 16, at 8:30 a.m. (dress rehearsal) and 7:00 p.m., and Thursday, December 17, at 8:30 a.m. The talented cast has been working since September with Director Tam Johnson and Accompanist Caitlin Hickey (a former Lawrence student now at Brookline High School). This is a tale for all ages. You won't want to miss it!





The program was piloted in the district in 2007–08 and then adopted in 2008–09. Most teachers are in their second year working with the program, with the pilot teachers in their third year.

I hope you can join us. Come do some math, ask some questions, and get a better handle on our current practices in mathematics instruction. We look forward to seeing you.

—Rick Rogers, Principal

## Honor a Teacher, Support the Brookline Education Foundation

**W**ith the holidays upon us, what better way to celebrate your children's teachers than with a gift of appreciation? During this season of giving, consider making a gift to The Brookline Education Foundation in honor of the special people who spend countless hours nurturing and educating your children.

Recent Grant Recipients share their thoughts on endeavors made possible through the BEF:

"Allows me to be the kind of teacher I have always wanted to be."

"Helped me to put my philosophy

for teaching into action."

"Improved my ability to meet the needs of all students."

With your donation to the Foundation, Brookline educators can accomplish even more!

*The Brookline Education Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of education in the Brookline Public Schools. To find out more visit [www.BrooklineEducation.org](http://www.BrooklineEducation.org).*



## Meetings and Resources for Parents

Brookline Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) is hosting a **Meet the Administrators** night Wednesday, December 9, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Town Hall Room 103. This is an opportunity for Brookline parents to hear directly from the new administrative leaders of special education in Brookline, ask questions and offer comment. Light refreshments served.

*Brookline SEPAC is a Brookline 2010 climate action partner; please bring your own cup.*

## Art & Sports

- **The Coolidge Corner Theater** is hosting a special series for parents/caregivers entitled Sanity Cinema. Once monthly, on the first Tuesday of the month, they'll show a film at 11:00 a.m., making timely pick-up possible! Check the theater website for more information: <http://www.coolidge.org/showtimes>.
- **Artbarn Community Theater's** Duck Soup Troupe (grades 1–3) presents *Nate the Great* on Saturday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 13, at 4:30 p.m. at the Maliotis Center at Hellenic College, 50 Goddard Ave., in Brookline. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Visit [www.artbarn.org](http://www.artbarn.org) for more information.
- **The BHS Freshman Play is *Lord of the Flies***, a provocative story about a group of American students stranded on a deserted tropical island. Left to their own devices, they come together in survival mode, but as they try to govern themselves, primal instincts stir up their worst impulses. December 9 at 3:30 p.m.; December 10 & 11 at 7:30 p.m., December 12 at 3:30 & 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box. Tickets are \$5; FREE for teachers and 8th graders!
- **Brookline High School's annual Winter Concert** is the single best introduction to the wealth of music going on at BHS, and it's one of the liveliest concerts of the year to boot. Jazz Band, Orchestra, Camerata, Concert Choir, A Capella Choir, Concert Band—this one has it all! It's a fabulous showcase for Brookline

High School's top musical ensembles performing repertoire ranging from classical masterworks to jazz/pop tunes and original student compositions. This accessible and inexpensive family evening also offers Brookline's elementary students an inspiring glimpse of what they have to look forward to at BHS. December 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$5; FREE to all elementary students.

- **Girls Winter Vacation Soccer Clinic at Boston College** for girls 6–14. The program runs December 28–31 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. The focus is on fun and development. For information and registration please visit: [www.bceagles.com/camps](http://www.bceagles.com/camps), call 617-552-0982 or email [soccer.clinic@bc.edu](mailto:soccer.clinic@bc.edu).

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