

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

**Calendar**

**5 January (Tuesday)**

- School Council Meeting  
8 am 2nd floor conf. room

**9 January (Saturday)**

- Family Skate Night  
Larz Anderson Park, 5:30 pm  
**FREE EVENT**

**10 January (Sunday)**

- Brookline 2010 Climate Change Campaign Kickoff  
Brookline High School, 3 pm

**11 January (Monday)**

- LSA Winter Classes begin

**12 January (Tuesday)**

- PTO Meeting  
8 am, library  
**NOTE MORNING TIME**

**13 January (Wednesday)**

- Gr 7/8 Town wide Winter Concert  
7 pm Pine Manor College

**18 January (Monday)**

- **SCHOOL CLOSED**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**28 January (Thursday)**

- Principal's Forum  
8 am library

**2 February (Tuesday)**

- School Council Meeting  
8 am 2nd floor conf room

**5 February (Friday)**

- Family Fun Night

*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.*

**The Classes Strut their Stuff**



The three weeks leading up to December vacation were jam-packed with performances and class breakfasts. One of the pleasures of my job is being able to attend these events and witness the learning they represent. While I believe the process of learning needs to be recognized and valued, it is the product or performance that is on display at these events. Children experience the satisfaction of creating a final, polished product and the power of sharing their product with an audience.

The most obvious and familiar examples of product and audience come from the performing arts. Our musical fifth and sixth graders performed twice on December 10. Grades 7 and 8 worked very hard on their play, "Into the Woods." Three performances were given on December 16 and 17. Both of these shows represented the culmination of weeks of preparation and practice.

The power of performance goes beyond the arts and extends into the classroom. Some highlights:

- 1C, 1L, and 1F had work on display in the classroom, including portfolios of work that students eagerly shared with their parents.
- 2N made a movie in which children read poems and displayed KidPix drawings that depicted their poems. Children learned the comprehension skill of visualization and practiced reading fluently.
- 2L used Readers' Theatre to share what they learned about nutrition and practiced their reading fluency.
- Three third grade classes demonstrated

what they had learned about the water cycle through skits with posters and science experiments. One class grade found a second audience by performing their play for their Kindergarten buddies.

- 4C used their breakfast to share their Native American legends, reading them in small groups to parents.
- Seventh grade science students demonstrated their learning by designing and teaching environmental science lessons to first grade classes.

Kudos to our students for demonstrating their learning so effectively! Kudos, too, to our teachers for facilitating the process of learning that led to these products. Thank you, parents, for providing your children with an important (and loving) audience.

**Come Learn about the Child Support Team Process at the January 12 PTO Meeting**

This month's PTO Meeting will feature Guidance Counselor Carol Macey and Special Education Team Facilitator Amy Nevis. Carol Macey will explain the Child Support Team process at Lawrence. When a teacher has a concern about a child's performance or academic progress, the teacher can refer the child to Child Support Team in order to discuss suggestions, receive advice and/or consider options for additional support. Amy Nevis will explain her newly changed role (now full-time), as well as review the process for determining if a student is eligible for special education. Please join us.

*—Rick Rogers, Principal*

## Celebrate your Love for Science - ScienceFest 2010 is coming!

This annual town wide celebration of Science will feature exciting hands-on science activities and demonstrations for children of all ages. It is sponsored by the Brookline Education Foundation and is open to the public.

ScienceFest 2010 will be held at the Devotion School on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Parent volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up, and lead activities. (You can create an activity of your own or use one of the "ready to go" activities that come complete with instructions and materials.) If you can help or would like more information, please contact Janet MacNeil, K-8 Science Coordinator, at 617-264-6403, or email (janet\_macneil@brookline.k12.ma.us.)



## Lawrence Family Skate Night

Lace up your skates. Sharpen your blades and come join your friends and their families at this Lawrence School winter tradition! It might even restore (or instill) love for winter in New England. Lawrence Family Skate night at the Larz Anderson rink is a great Lawrence school winter tradition.

Admission is free, skate rental is available, and the snack bar will be open from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m. on Saturday, January 9.

Questions? Please contact Kate Silbaugh (silbaugh@bu.edu) or Stacey Dogan (sdogan@bu.edu.)



## "Take Your Seat" for Some Wonderful Performances

The Boston Celebrity Series is a program dedicated to presenting the best in performing arts to the broadest possible audience. Their mission is to create new works that bring artists and audiences together, and to engage young audiences in artistic experiences through performing arts-based education and community service programs. The Take Your Seat discount ticket program provides students with \$10 tickets to some wonderful performances each year.

Interested? Sign up for tickets in the Lawrence Library or contact Melissa Mills (millsmelissa@hotmail.com.)

## Be Part of Our Home Grown Celebrity Series... Actors and One Drummer Wanted

The dramatic event of the spring season – the Lawrence PTO play -- is scheduled for March 17, 18, and 19 of this year. Any parent interested in acting in the show should come to the first read through of the script on January 13 in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Kelly Hardebeck (Kelly@Hardebeck.us) or Peter Rhodes (petermrhodes@comcast.net) for more information.



If your gift is in music, consider lending your rhythmic talent to the PTO band, for the experience of a lifetime! They need a drummer. Please email Dennis Whyte (whyte@psfc.mit.edu) if you're interested.

## Have fun doing your part for the Earth in 2010

A town wide initiative called Brookline 2010: a Community Climate Challenge is a yearlong awareness campaign presented by Climate Change Action Brookline and the Selectmen's Climate Action Committee of the Town of Brookline. Their kick off event is scheduled for January 10, 2010, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00p.m. at the new Brookline Access Television (BATV) headquarters at Brookline High School, 46 Tappan Street.

The afternoon will feature:

- A short green film by Jess Lerner of Green on the Inside and BATV programming that showcases Brookline residents and activists discussing climate change and Brookline 2010
- A special raffle for those who bring a recent electric bill
- Delicious gourmet food supplied by The Fireplace, Brookline's first certified Green Restaurant, as well as other local businesses
- Opportunities to learn your carbon footprint, get information about renewable energy, and home energy audits

This event also highlights and will include the work of Brookline 2010 partners who have signed on to reduce their carbon footprints; the Brookline High School a cappella group Perfect Pitch; a formal proclamation by the Brookline Board of Selectmen; live broadcast interviews with local climate leaders, and a chance to visit the brand new state of the art studios of Brookline Access Television on the top floor of the BHS Unified Arts Building.

Everyone in Brookline is invited to attend this fabulous, fun and informative event. Bring your friends and neighbors!

