

THE

FOOD PAPER

January 6, 2009

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

JANUARY

- 5 January (Monday)
LSA classes begin
- 6 January (Tuesday)
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 9 January (Friday)
SET-J presentation by Ms. Frye
8-8:30 am, library
(parents only)
- 12 January (Monday)
PTO Meeting
7 pm library
- 14 January (Wednesday)
Town-wide 7/8 Winter Concert
7 pm Pine Manor
- 19 January (Monday)
SCHOOL CLOSED
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 21 January (Wednesday)
Lawrence Reads
- 27 January (Tuesday)
Principal's Forum
7:45 am library
- 31 January (Saturday)
Lawrence Family Skate
6-8 pm Larz Anderson
(Note Date change)



FEBRUARY

- 3 February (Tuesday)
 - School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
 - Kindergarten registration
A-L, 7:30-9 am
- 4 February (Wednesday)
Kindergarten registration
M-Z, 12-1:30 pm

Minutes from the PTO Meetings

November featured updates on PTO events, confirmation that the budget is on track, and the principal's report, which detailed World Language hires, workshops that teachers attended on professional development day and upcoming evacuation drills.

December focused on the Phonathon, which is on track to come in as budgeted, as well as the goal to green the newsletter, with the first step of having only one copy go home to families with more than one child at Lawrence. We also highlighted upcoming Town Meetings, especially the January meeting on the facility plan for schools. Dawn Carney, Town World Language Curriculum Coordinator, detailed the roll-out of the language program coming in January.

Next meeting: Monday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. Rick Rogers will give an update on his first six months.

Report from Japan

Ms. Frye will present a talk about her SET-J sponsored trip to Japan, for parents only, on Friday, January 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. There will also be a display in the lobby about her trip, starting on January 12.

Cutting the Cost of Paying for School Lunch



Do you like the convenience of PayPAMS, but feel you are spending too much on fees? Consider these facts about PAMS:

- You can check your child's balance-Free!
- You can check your child's purchases-Free!

- You can set up automatic emails triggered by a low balance-Free! You can use all of these functions of PayPAMS, and if you make deposits directly to the Cafeteria Manager at your school (rather than through the web site) you will not incur any fees. Go to www.paypams.com and set up an account. You will need to attach your child's name to your account using name and either his/her student ID or birthdate.

If you deposit money online to your PayPAMS account, there is a charge of \$1.95 per deposit. However, making fewer, larger deposits will save you money (e.g. make a one-time deposit of \$100, rather than four \$25 deposits).

The schools have implemented weekly, automated calls home for students with negative lunch balances. If you receive a call, please bring your child's account into a positive balance.

For more information, contact Ann Johnson, Director of Food Service, 617-730-2499, ann_johnson@brookline.k12.ma.us.

A Musical Start to the Year



Students in Grades K-5 will be treated to a special musical performance on Thursday morning, January 8. Lawrence parent and BSO violinist, Lucia Lin, will be

joined by visiting composer Gabriela Frank to talk about composing music and to perform works by Ms. Frank and composers who have influenced her. Performances will be at 9:30 a.m. (K-2) and 10:30 a.m. (3-5) in the auditorium. Parents are welcome to attend. For more information, contact K.C. Turnbull at 617-739-7118 or bergbull@yahoo.com.

email your stories to newsletter@lawrencepto.org by 4 p.m. Friday
To download a copy of this newsletter visit <http://www.lawrencepto.org>



Win a New Car (maybe) and Help the Schools (definitely)

BEF announces its Win-A-Mini Raffle! Only 600 raffle tickets will be sold and all proceeds support the important work of the Brookline Education Foundation. You can buy your ticket from Joanne Liautaud or Kate Silbaugh. The drawing for the car is March 6, so be sure you get your ticket before they're all sold. For more information, visit www.BrooklineEducation.org or call 617-232-3846.



Beware Wild Instruments

The Brookline Music School will offer an "Instrument Petting Zoo," Saturday, January 10 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., to offer children (and adults) the opportunity to listen to and play a wide range of instruments. Spring term at the Brookline Music School runs January 25 to June 8. Classes fill up fast! Visit www.bmsmusic.org or call 617-277-4593.

Arts & Sports

Music, Dance and Improv at the BHS

The Brookline High School offers a variety of arts and music performances this time of year. Check out:

- The annual *Winter Concert*, January 7, 7:00 p.m. Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium, tickets \$5, free to elementary students. Featuring Jazz Band, Orchestra, Camerata, Concert Choir, A Capella Choir, Concert Band.
- *ReVisions*, featuring student dance and a capella groups. January 8, 7:30 p.m. and January 9, 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Studio 1, Tappan Gym. Admission \$5, 8th graders free.
- *Needs Improvement*, BHS improv troupe gives a benefit performance. January 15, 7:30 p.m., Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium.



Happy New Year, Everyone!

Principal's

Corner



The December break provided me with a welcome opportunity to rest and renew, as well as to reflect on my first six months at Lawrence School. After plunging into a new community last summer, I am finally "coming up for air." At this month's PTO meeting (January 12, 7:00 p.m.), I will summarize the results of faculty interviews and parent meetings I conducted as part of my entry into the school community and share some of my observations from the first 15 weeks of school. I will also propose some short-term goals to be addressed during the remainder of this school year, as well as some potential areas for long-term growth.

Elementary World Language Begins This Month

On January 21, Spanish classes will begin in grades K–6. Students in grades K–2 will have Spanish three times per week for 20 minutes. Students in grades 3–6 will have Spanish three times per week for 30 minutes.

At December's PTO Meeting, Dawn Carney, the Coordinator of Elementary World Languages, provided an overview of the program. The program will use a "content enriched immersion" approach, meaning that all lessons will be conducted in Spanish (immersion) and that connections

have been made with the rest of elementary curriculum (content enriched). For example, third grade Spanish will include a focus on weather vocabulary to link with their science unit on weather. At the same time, work has begun on "FLES 2016"-outlining what the program will need to look like when this year's kindergarten students reach seventh grade.

Our teachers Zoe Kern (1L, Gr. 3–6), Edith Pieper (K, 1C, 1F) and Rachel Stein (Gr. 2 & 7/8) were introduced to parents at the PTO meeting. They were introduced to students at Lawrence Community Meeting in November and have been visiting classrooms to get to know the children.

Spanish Support for Parents

A group of parents who are heritage speakers of Spanish are organizing to provide support for parents who would like help with vocabulary and pronunciation. Initial plans call for regularly scheduled drop-in sessions offered at 8:00 am and/or 5:00 p.m. If you are a Spanish speaker and would like to help, please contact Delia Barrientos Piken (maya_emily@hotmail.com) or Elena Fernandez (elena_fernandez@us.ibm.com).

–Rick Rogers



Click and Help

At a recent grade 6–8 community meeting, student teachers and grade 6 Student Council Reps talked about volunteering and listed some simple ways we can take action to help others. One suggestion was to visit the web site, www.freerice.com—check out this easy way to help fight hunger while expanding your knowledge of vocabulary and language, science, math, and geography all at the same time.

Babysitters at the Ready

Congratulations on the successful completion of the LSA babysitters training course to:

Emma Bessire
 Amelia Elliot
 Nadya Healy
 Joanna Kasogiannis
 Sara Luster
 Camille Newsom
 Maya Piken
 Sophia Ramsey
 Sophia Vos
 Akane Wakai