

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

**Calendar**

- 12 January (Tuesday)**  
PTO Meeting  
8 am library  
NOTE: MORNING COFFEE 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  
8am 2nd floor conf room
- 5 February (Friday)**  
Family Fun Night
- 9 February (Tuesday)**  
Lawrence Kindergarten Registration  
7:30-9:00am
- 10 February (Wednesday)**  
Lawrence Kindergarten Registration  
12:30-1:30 pm

**Professional Learning at Lawrence**



The Lawrence faculty is collaborating on school improvement goals through a Professional Learning Community (PLC) model. According to Richard DuFour, to create a professional learning community, we need to "focus on learning rather than teaching, work collaboratively, and hold (our)selves accountable for results." Teachers are currently working in self-selected PLC groups.



Examples of these groups include:  
**Cohesive Primary (K-2) Team:** In an effort to enhance alignment and connections across our primary grades, teachers have begun the conversation with reading. Teachers have discussed how each grade teaches the five

components of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension). They will now focus on reading comprehension in order to align the teaching of skills and strategies and to identify common language that can will be emphasized year to year.

**Literacy in Grades 3-5:** Teachers at these grade levels are also collaborating to align and improve the teaching of reading and writing.

**Cohesive Middle School:** This group began last year and developed several changes implemented this year, such as electives, advisory

and an aligned schedule for grades 6-8. This year, teachers have broken into subgroups focused on:

- Assessing and continuing to develop the advisory program.
- Developing a service-learning theme for each grade level.
- Planning for next year's increase from five to six sections in 7/8, which will result in more than one full-time teacher in major subject areas. This in turn will create more complexity around scheduling and collaborating as a team.

**Inclusion:** This group is working on how to improve communication to specialists in visual and performing arts, library, physical education, and elementary world language about accommodations for students with special needs. The group also plans to continue work begun last year to improve the transition of student information from year to year.

**School Garden:** A small group is working to "plant the seed" that will get this project growing.

Richard DeFour suggests, "The powerful collaboration that characterizes professional learning communities is a systematic process in which teachers work together to analyze and improve their classroom practice. Teachers work in teams, engaging in an ongoing cycle of questions that promote deep team learning. This process, in turn, leads to higher levels of student achievement." This work is well underway at Lawrence.

—Rick Rogers, Principal

**It's that time of year again....**

Kindergarten Registration for the Class of 2023 begins February. Registration forms will be available January 25, 2010 in the elementary school offices, local pre-school programs, and on-line through the Brookline Public Schools website, [www.brookline.k12.ma.us](http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us).

Reference

On Common Ground: The Power of Professional Learning Communities Richard DuFour, Robert Eaker and Rebecca DuFour, Editors (2005)

## Mark Your Calendars: Family Fun Night is Friday, February 5th!

Come one, come all and volunteer for the truly spectacular Family Fun Night on Friday, February, 5th from 6:00–8:30 p.m. We need Lawrence parents to help set-up, run activities and clean up after the fun. We especially need some decorators to help make Lawrence shine for the big event.



Don't be shy! Share your special talents (juggling, magical tricks, musical talents, etc.) with the Lawrence community. You could be our next Lawrence Idol! Also please consider donating silent auction items such as tickets to a play, concert, museum or sporting event, gift certificates or any other creative offerings.

Regardless of how much time you can commit to helping make Family Fun Night a great success, be sure to come so you don't miss getting your fortune told, creating your own personal postage stamps or making some cool valentines for your sweetheart. And don't pass up the glamorous Lawrence cafeteria, serving yummy food donated by local restaurants and delectable baked goodies from the Lawrence family kitchens.

Contact Karlyn Grimes ([pkgrimes@rcn.com](mailto:pkgrimes@rcn.com)), Tina Manuel ([tinaymanuel@ymail.com](mailto:tinaymanuel@ymail.com)) or Barbara Hausman ([bhausman2002@earthlink.net](mailto:bhausman2002@earthlink.net)) to get involved or offer donations to the silent auction. We depend on you to make this a memorable event! Thanks in advance!

## Drama in the Afternoon with Beth Bankler and Leslie Prizer Returns!



Drama in the Afternoon with Beth Bankler and Leslie Prizer is Back! We begin with Grades 5-6 production this year of "Alice in Wonderland". Everyone is a star. No special talents required. Tryouts begin on January 20. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2:20 to 4:15 p.m. Registration forms have gone out and are due back today. If you would still like to sign up please contact Leslie Prizer ([leslie.prizer@verizon.net](mailto:leslie.prizer@verizon.net)) or Kathryn Link ([link-kathrynl@gmail.com](mailto:link-kathrynl@gmail.com)).

## Meetings and Resources for Parents

### What's Your Story?

Brookline Schools Staff Children's Center, BSSCC, serving the Brookline Community and specifically parents who work in the Brookline Public Schools is offering free classes to parents and teachers in the subject of storytelling. Two workshops designed for Brookline parents with children up to 5 and teachers who provide daycare for children in Brookline will be offered: January 16 "Oral Storytelling" and January 23 "Story

Acting". Classes will be held at the Brookline Public Library, Hunneman Hall from 10:30-11:30 p.m. Childcare teachers and providers will get 2 EEC credits (must attend both classes). Storytelling and an art activity is available for the children while you attend the class. Classes are funded through a grant from the Brookline Community Foundation. For more information contact : Margareth Olsson ([margaretholsson@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretholsson@yahoo.com)).

*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.*

## Art & Sports

### • BETCo Tackles Complex Issues

Brookline Educational Theater Company performs dramatic scenes that focus on some of the complex issues facing today's adolescents. The current show addresses the problem of students using attention deficit disorder drugs like Adderall without a prescription, often under the impression that these drugs will help them focus and enable them to study longer or more efficiently. Showtime: January 19, 7:30 p.m. Black Box.

### • Needs *Improvement* Makes You Laugh 'til it Hurts

BHS's talented improv troupe can make a mountain out of a molehill and turn a phrase inside out in the blink of an eye. The group's array of short and long-form improvisation skits require fast thinking and an ability to roll with the punches. Bring a canned donation or two for Needs *Improvement's* food drive to this benefit performance on January 15, 7:30 p.m. Studio 1, Tappan Gym. Admission is \$5, 8th Graders Free

### • Lend Me Your Ear, and I'll Sing You a Song...

Brookline Music School (BMS) hosts "Beatles Open Sing", in which exceptional young BMS instrumentalists and vocalists perform the classic Beatles album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, in its entirety. Beatlemaniac parents can expose their children to the Beatles as the audience sings along. The event will take place on Sunday, January 24th at 2:00 p.m. in the Lincoln School Auditorium. All ages welcome, \$5.00 admission. For more information visit [www.bmsmusic.org](http://www.bmsmusic.org) or call (617-277-4593). A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

### • Singers Needed!

Children's Opera Program in Brookline offers high quality music and drama instruction for children ages 6 and up. This year they will be performing Mozart's "Magic flute". Rehearsals begin next week January 13, Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. Also available are Dalcroze music classes for ages 4-6, and piano instruction. For more information contact Barbara Gawlick at the Dalcroze Center ([gausro@msn.com](mailto:gausro@msn.com)).

## Community Events

### No More Lazy Days of Summer

Go one-stop shopping for all your summer camp needs at **2010 K.I.D.S Summer Opportunities Fair** on Sunday, January 24th, 12 p.m.-3 p.m. at the Tappan St. Gym, Brookline High School. For more information contact Jessica Gray, Coordinator K.I.D.S. 2010 ([Jessica\\_Gray@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:Jessica_Gray@brookline.k12.ma.us)).