

THE

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PAPER

January 19, 2010

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 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
6:00–8:30 pm
- 9 February (Tuesday)**
•Lawrence Kindergarten
Registration
7:30–9:00 am
•PTO Meeting
7 pm Library
- 10 February (Wednesday)**
Lawrence Kindergarten
Registration
12:30–1:30 pm
- 15 February–19 February**
SCHOOL CLOSED
February Vacation
- 2 March (Tuesday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am, 2nd floor conf room
- 9 March (Tuesday)**
PTO Meeting
8 am library
- 11 March (Wednesday)**
•EARLY RELEASE
Gr K–12, 12:30 pm
•Early Release Movie

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.

Anti-Defamation League Works with Lawrence Advisory Groups



We were very fortunate to participate in a presentation by the Anti-Defamation League during advisory period on Friday, January 8. Students in grades 6–8 attended with their advisor and advisory group (mixed groups of sixth, seventh and eighth graders who meet weekly). The presentation addressed bullying and harassment, particularly comments, put-downs or threats directed at one's race, color, religion, sex, natural origin, age, sexual orientation or disability.

Jennifer Smith from the ADL quickly engaged the students' attention with an exercise called "Stand Up, Sit Down" which emphasized that we all belong to different groups and that diversity goes beyond what we see on the outside. We also identified areas we had in common. We were asked to reflect on what it felt like to stand up in a group that only had a small number of members.

We saw a video developed by ADL that featured middle school-aged students talking about the names and put-downs they have been subjected to and how it made them feel. Jennifer then reviewed four possible roles in a bullying/harassment situation: Target, Ally, Perpetrator, and Bystander. Jennifer reminded us that the largest group of these four roles is "Bystander." This portion of the presentation connected well with prior work we had done during advisory in December on bullying, including role playing scenarios and identifying what it would mean to be a bullying-free school. Jen made a memorable point that the

"Target" is the only person who does not choose his/her role. Whether to be an ally, bystander or perpetrator is a choice.

To wrap up, Jen listed the three most common put-down names used by middle school students. She asked how many students had used or been called those names in the past week. Over half of our students stood up. It was a sobering moment. Jen challenged us to change. It's not acceptable to say, "That's just the way we talk." She asked us to fold our hands and look at which thumb was on top (some had left and some had right). She directed us to switch thumb positions. It felt unnatural. She reminded us that change could feel uncomfortable, but that, with conscious effort, not using these names would become natural.

The Lawrence School Handbook states, "Every member of our community has the right to feel physically and emotionally safe at school in order to learn and grow." The ADL presentation provided a powerful reinforcement of this right and how we all have a role in maintaining it.

We are grateful to the Anti-Defamation League for making this program available to our school. Thank you also to Guidance Counselor Shaina Martinez for coordinating with the ADL.

—Rick Rogers, Principal



email your stories by friday 4 p.m. to newsletter@lawrencePTO.org

★ to download a copy of this newsletter visit <http://www.lawrencePTO.weebly.com/> ★

GreenTeam Corner

This month's focus for thinkEARTHursday is energy. The U.S. is at the top of the list worldwide for energy use per person, which also means the highest per capita production of CO₂. This month, we are asking students to see what they can do to reduce their family's energy use. You can join in, too. The Climate Change Action Brookline website (www.climatechangeactionbrookline.org) lists a number of energy-saving steps, including keeping your car well-tuned and your tires properly inflated, and combining errands to reduce car trips. A spreadsheet that helps you calculate your family's carbon footprint can also be downloaded from the site. By learning and practicing new, more environmentally friendly ways to go about our daily lives, we will make a difference.



Japan Travelogue

On Friday, January 22, fifth grade teacher Greg Porter will present a slide show and talk about his SET-J-sponsored trip to Japan in November. Come hear about his animal safari, his visit to Peace Memorial Park, the wonderful Lawrence family reunion, and more. The presentation to grades K-5 will be from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the gym. Grades 6-8 will gather from 1:30 to 2:20 in the auditorium.

Arts and Sports

- **Brookline Music School's Instrument Petting Zoo** offers children the opportunity to try out a wide range of instruments from woodwind and brass to strings and percussion. Saturday, January 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call 617-277-4593 or visit www.bhsmusic.org.
- **Artbarn Community Theater** offers a fun-filled **February School Vacation week**, with four days of tropically inspired music, dance, drama, theater games and visual arts. February 16-19, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Maliotis Cultural Center in Brookline. Visit www.artbarn.org or 617-975-0050.

Library Notes

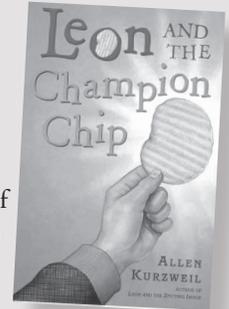
State Book Award Pending

Have you noticed students in grades 4 through 6 finding great new paperbacks to read? They have been invited to vote for the Massachusetts Children's Book Award by reading at least five out of 25 nominated books, and then casting a vote for their absolute favorite. There is an MCBA book cart in the Lawrence library, and students are busy checking out and returning books, to meet the voting deadline of March 4. The statewide winner will be announced on April 3! You can learn more about the process by picking up a brochure in the Lawrence library or by visiting <http://archive.salemstate.edu/education/mcba/>.



Author Visit Announced for 5/6 Families

The First Annual Lawrence School Author Evening for students in grades 5 and 6 and their parents will be held on Tuesday, March 9, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Families are encouraged to read, discuss and get excited about our book of choice, and then get together for a visit with the author. This year we'll be reading *Leon and the Champion Chip* by Allen Kurzweil. In this delightful book, a boy named Leon has a fabulous science teacher who conducts experiments using an uncommon material: potato chips! Mr. Kurzweil will talk to us about his inspiration for this book and his passions: writing and tinkering. The book is fun, and Mr. Kurzweil is a great speaker. Copies of the book (one per family, please) are available for signing out from the Lawrence library.



Only Two Weeks Left Until Fun Rolls into Town!

Come join the Lawrence community at Family Fun Night on Friday, February 5, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Volunteers are still in high demand for this great event. Don't fret, even volunteers will have plenty of time to get a tattoo, sing some karaoke songs, visit the funky hair salon, or make their own postage stamps.

Be sure to scoop up plenty of raffle tickets for a chance to win a dinner for two or other fun items donated by local restaurants and retailers. Also, our silent auction has reached new heights with generous donations including Red Sox tickets from Lawrence's own Theo Epstein; a summer membership to Park School Pool and Tennis Club or the Museum of Science; a two-week session at Chestnut Hill Creative Arts and Sports, Beaver Country Day or Brimmer and May Summer Camp Programs; tubing at Nashoba Valley; tennis camp at NETResults; Northeastern Soccer Clinics, and MORE!

It will be a fun-packed night, and all for just \$5 admission at the door (\$20 maximum per family). Please note that dinner, desserts and a few selected activities are not included in the admission price.

Even if you can't commit to volunteering during the event, you can help tremendously by donating BAKED GOODS TO BE SOLD ALL NIGHT LONG! Drop off your goodies before or after school on Friday, February 5, or at any time during FFN in the cafeteria. Please contact Karlyn Grimes (pkgrimes@rcn.com), Tina Manuel (tinaymanuel@gmail.com) or Barbara Hausman (bhausman2002@earthlink.net) to get involved.