

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

- 27 January (Tuesday)**  
Principal's Forum  
7:45 am Library
- 31 January (Saturday)**  
Lawrence Family Skate  
6-8 pm Larz Anderson
- 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
- 6 February (Friday)**  
Family Fun Night  
6-8:30 pm at School
- 12 February (Thursday)**  
Superintendent's Forum  
7:45 am Library
- 16 February (Monday)**  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
*Presidents Day*

## Help Bring the Nightmare to Life

But in a good way. Crew members, costume help, and a drummer are needed for the PTO Play—"A Nightmare on Brook Street." It's a great way to be part of a very fun team. No experience necessary. Show dates are April 2-4. Contact Peter Rhodes at [petermrhodes@comcast.net](mailto:petermrhodes@comcast.net).

## A Moment in History

Lawrence School joined the rest of the country in pausing to take in last week's Presidential Inauguration. Students in grades 5-8 gathered in the auditorium to watch the swearing-in ceremonies and listen to President Obama's Inaugural Address. Students in the third and fourth grades watched in the library.

Our students were amazing! Their attention to and appreciation of this event was remarkable. Seizing a "teachable moment," our teachers (and you) prepared the students in advance of the ceremony. A special thanks to Technology Specialist Kirsten Alper and Librarian Rusty Browder (as well as Rusty's husband) for figuring out a way to make large group viewing possible, and to Rusty for preparing a detailed, thoughtful viewing guide

for teachers and parents.

When Associate Justice John Paul Stevens asked the crowd in Washington to rise for the Vice President's swearing in, a few of our students spontaneously got to their feet. After a moment's hesitation, the rest of the students and adults in the auditorium joined them in standing together. A few moments later, as Barack Obama prepared to take the oath as President, there was no hesitation. We proudly rose in unison. As I stood to the side of the auditorium, looking over our students' faces, I was deeply moved to be witnessing this historic event with them. It was a moment we will all indeed remember.

—Rick Rogers



## PTO NEWS

### January PTO Meeting Notes:

We highlighted all the upcoming breakfasts and forums. Babu Chavali also updated us on Janet MacNeil's effort (she's the Town Science Coordinator) to not only start a database of parents who work in science to be resources for the science department, but also training some parents who have already expressed interested in helping. The training is focused on how to teach/present to elementary age children. Kris Fry came to thank the entire community for all we do to help the SETJ trip happen. The bulk of the meeting was comprised of Rick Rogers' review of entry interviews and his plans for going forward based on his first couple months, as well

as input from the community.

Upcoming meetings: In addition to PTO planning for 2009/2010, February will focus on MCAS and answer parents' questions, discuss how to prepare your children, and more. The March meeting will cover the Class Placement Process.

If you have topics you'd like to see covered, please email Amy Luster ([atluster@rcn.com](mailto:atluster@rcn.com)) or Kate Shea ([kdshea@gmail.com](mailto:kdshea@gmail.com)).

### • Newsletter

Starting with the next issue of the newsletter, each household should receive only one copy of the newsletter and any other all-school announcements. Hopefully there will be no glitches, but if there are, please email Kate Shea or Amy Luster. (And please be patient with us.)

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Also, if your family only wants an electronic copy, please email Amy Luster ([atluster@rcn.com](mailto:atluster@rcn.com)), and we can add that change to our distribution list in the next couple weeks.

• **Volunteer Opportunity:** We need someone to help with the web site maintenance and email newsletter distribution. If

you're interested, please contact Kelly Hardebeck ([kelly@hardebeck.us](mailto:kelly@hardebeck.us)).

• **Send Your Best Wishes**

Peggy is out for medical reasons—if you'd like to send a card, please drop it off in the office and they will get it to her.

## SADD is Back

The first 2009 meeting of 8th Grade Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) will be Wednesday, January 28, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in room 385A at Brookline High School.

SADD meetings give 8th graders an opportunity to meet BHS peer leaders and discuss their perceptions about the high school social scene, including the variety

of situations that often arise on the week-ends. These meetings are an opportunity to become familiar with the Brookline High facility and meet 8th grade students from all the elementary schools. Feedback from past attendees indicates that the program has been very helpful. Drop-in meetings will be held once a month, through May. If you need more information, please contact Hope Schroy at 617-713-5149 or at [Hope\\_Schroy@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:Hope_Schroy@brookline.k12.ma.us).

## SEPAC Event on Social Communication

Ruth Levine Arnold, Speech and Language Pathologist, will discuss helping students improve social communication in an inclusive environment, with a focus on making friends in the inclusive classroom. Tuesday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m., Runkle School Library, 50 Druce St. For more info contact Ben Norton ([brndakine1@yahoo.com](mailto:brndakine1@yahoo.com)), or visit [brooklinesepac.org](http://brooklinesepac.org). (SEPAC is the Special Education Parents Advisory Council.)

## Drama in the Afternoon for Grades 2-4

If you have a budding young actor, don't miss the Drama in the Afternoon program for kids in grades 2–4. The program begins on. The correct cost is \$150 and registration is due by January 28 (there was a typo in some of the registration papers that already went out). For more information contact Leslie Prizer at [leslie.prizer@verizon.net](mailto:leslie.prizer@verizon.net).

## Don't Miss Family Fun Night Next Friday, February 6, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm!

We have tons of fun events planned this year, and there will be oodles of raffle items. A new mini silent auction will include items such as 2 weeks at Chestnut Hill Creative Arts and Sports Summer Program and Beaver Country Day Summer Camps, 1 week at Soccer Doctor Camp at Park School, tennis camp at NETResults and Northeastern soccer clinics, and more.

Good restaurant in Brookline will grill-up some healthy hamburgers and veggie burgers, pizza will be on hand from

various local pizza shops, and don't miss out on delicious Japanese fare in the Lawrence Café. And please don't forget to bring along one of your favorite desserts for the Family Fun Night Bake Sale.

Thanks to all who have volunteered! Volunteers can expect to hear where and when they are scheduled at the beginning of next week. We still could use a few more able bodies to help, especially serving food in the cafeteria. If you are available, please contact Karlyn Grimes ([pkgrimes@rcn.com](mailto:pkgrimes@rcn.com)).

## Arts & Sports

### Exercise for the Mind

The Perl Chess Academy will run a chess class for kids in grades K–4 at the Soule Recreation Center, 652 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Wednesdays, January 28–April 1. The cost for Brookline residents is \$88. For more information or to register, call 617-730-2069 or visit [www.brooklinerec.com](http://www.brooklinerec.com).

### Kick Start Spring

Brookline Youth Soccer spring 2009 registration is now underway. Any child in grades 1–8 who lives in Brookline or attends a school in Brookline is eligible. The season runs from April 18 through June 13. No previous soccer experience is required. The registration deadline is March 8, but register early, because spaces fill up quickly. Cost: \$60. To register, visit [www.brooklinerec.com](http://www.brooklinerec.com), or you can call 617-277-3722, to request a registration form be mailed to you.

## Science Resources at the Library

On Thursday, January 22, Townwide Science Curriculum Coordinator Janet McNeil shared numerous science education strategies and resources with Lawrence parents at a presentation sponsored by the Brookline Education Foundation. Copies of her K–8 Science Resources for Parents list are available in the Lawrence library along with a display of books from the list. The recommended resources also appear on the library's "K-8 Science Resources" Visual Search link on the library catalog.