

THE

EDP

PAPER

January 13, 2009

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

- 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
- 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
- 9 February (Monday)**  
PTO Meeting, 7pm
- 12 February (Thursday)**  
Superintendent's Forum  
7:45 am
- 16 February (Monday)**  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
*Presidents Day*
- 17-20 February (Tue-Fri)**  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
*February Vacation*

*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.*



### Inauguration Plans

The upcoming Presidential Inauguration will be an historic moment for our nation. On Inauguration Day itself, students in Grades 5 through 8 will gather in the auditorium to watch the swearing-in ceremony and hear the inaugural address. Librarian Rusty Browder will prepare a viewing guide for teachers and parents. Teachers in younger grades will address the inauguration in age-appropriate ways.

### Extended Family Vacations Discouraged

I'm afraid I need to get on my soapbox about extended vacations. In one classroom, I know three students who missed five, six, and 14 days respectively before vacation, and a fourth student who missed five days the week we came back. This situation is not unique to this classroom. It's disruptive for both the students involved and the class as a whole.

We want your children in school every day, unless they are ill. Yes, we understand the value of family time together. Yes, we understand that learning and enrichment can come from travel. There are certainly exceptions (major life events or family emergencies), but overall, children should be in school.

*If you are going to be away, I ask that you put this information in writing to me for our attendance records.* We will provide some make-up work when your child returns, but cannot provide work in advance. Please keep in mind that classroom learning is made up of much more than paper and pencil tasks. Your child will not be able to make up missed instruction provided by the teacher, class discussions, interactions with peers, and hands-on activities such as science experiments.

Teachers at Lawrence believe that meaningful and important learning happens every day in their classrooms. Would you want it any other way?

### Please Do Not Park in Faculty Parking Zones

From the bully pulpit to traffic cop... With winter snow banks, parking becomes even tighter and, in inclement weather, more families drive to school. We ask for your cooperation in observing posted faculty parking areas.

—Rick Rogers



Dear Lawrence Community,

*Thank you for giving me the chance to represent the Lawrence School on such an amazing journey. It was an incredible experience traveling around Japan's beautiful cities. I do not know how I can ever thank you enough for granting me such a prestigious opportunity. Capturing the full experience of my trip to Japan with words would not do the trip justice, but please know how truly thankful I am for being chosen to represent the Lawrence community. I had such an amazing time in Japan and I will forever hold the special memories from my travels. I greatly appreciate the endless efforts and hours of work that must have been performed to ensure that my trip would be a success. It was more than I could have ever imagined! My days were filled with vibrant scenery, increased cultural awareness, and rich experiences that I will always remember.*

*Please know that you provided me with a wealth of memories. You gave me the experience of a lifetime! I will always be thankful to you for the dedication and support you have always given me throughout this journey.*

Sincerely,  
Kris Frye



## Sweet Success



LEDP would like to thank everyone who visited our bake sales in the lobby before the holidays. Due to everyone's support, we raised more than \$280 for Toys for Tots. Way to go!

email your stories by friday 4 p.m. to [newsletter@lawrencePTO.org](mailto:newsletter@lawrencePTO.org)

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

## Arts & Sports

### Children's Opera Auditions

Singers are needed to take on lead roles in the exceptional opera "Brundibar." If your child is in Grade 3 or higher and has some singing experience, contact Barbara Gawlick, music director at [gawsro@msn.com](mailto:gawsro@msn.com) to schedule an audition. Classes take place in Brookline, with a performance in May.

### See the Boston Ballet

Friday, February 27 is Brookline High School's annual Night at the Boston Ballet. Students, faculty, and friends of Brookline High School are invited at a special group rate to enjoy a performance of George Balanchine's superb masterpiece, "Jewels." The 8:00 p.m. performance is preceded by an informative pre-curtain talk at 7:00 p.m. Special discounted tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. Send your order to the BHS PTO by Friday, January 30. Find an order form and more information at <http://bhs-ptd.org/pdf/bostonballetflyer.pdf>. Drop off ticket orders in the BHS main office or mail them to: PTO-Ballet Tickets, Brookline High School, 115 Greenough Street, Brookline, MA 02445.



## Lawrence Reads!

Planning to participate in the upcoming Lawrence Reads (January 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m.)? Please RSVP to librarian Rusty Browder ([rusty\\_browder@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:rusty_browder@brookline.k12.ma.us)) or parent Melanie Marcus ([mlmarcus@mindspring.com](mailto:mlmarcus@mindspring.com))—or come by the library.

### The chosen books are:

GRADES 7 AND 8

#### **Code Talkers** by Joseph Bruchac

During World War II, Navajo marines were crucial to the war efforts of the United States, engaged in top-secret activities. Bruchac brings their stories to life through the riveting fictional story of Ned Begay.

GRADES 5 AND 6

#### **The Breadwinner** by Deborah Ellis

Parvana lives with her family in war-torn Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. When her father is arrested, she must transform herself into a boy in order to become the family's breadwinner.

GRADES 3 AND 4

#### **Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind** by Margaret Davidson

At the age of 12, Louis Braille became passionate about inventing an ingenious method of reading and writing for people who are blind. This is his story.

## Get Set for Family Fun Night!

Come one, come all and volunteer for the truly spectacular Family Fun Night. This Lawrence tradition will swing into town on Friday, February 6 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. We are currently recruiting Lawrence parents to volunteer to help set up, run activities, and clean up after the fun. We especially need decorators to help make Lawrence shine for the big event.

Don't be shy! If you have special talents (juggling, magical tricks, musical abilities, etc.) you'd like to share, let us know. But regardless of how much time you can commit, be sure to come so you don't miss getting your fortune told, learning a few Japanese dance moves, making some cool valentines for your sweetheart, dining on authentic Japanese food and delectable baked goodies, or just jamming with the DJ.



Contact Karlyn Grimes ([pkgrimes@rcn.com](mailto:pkgrimes@rcn.com)) to get involved. We depend on you to make this a memorable event.

## Meetings & Resources for Parents

### Adoptive Families Together (AFT)

Our parent-run confidential groups share personal concerns and needs around adoptive parenting. AFT provides education, advocacy, support, and more. We also welcome adopted individuals, birth parents, foster parents, and all those with a connection to adoption. Ongoing groups meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Brookline Public Library, Main Branch, 2nd floor conference room. For more information call 617-587-1563 or e-mail [nofarrell@mspcc.org](mailto:nofarrell@mspcc.org), or visit [www.mspcc.org](http://www.mspcc.org).

### Plan Your Summer

The Brookline Summer Opportunities Fair brings together representatives from summer camps and activity programs from across New England (and beyond). Come to the Tappan Street Gym at Brookline High School on Sunday, January 25, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. to find out more.



## Science for Breakfast

The Brookline Education Foundation is sponsoring a "Breakfast and Conversation" with Townwide Science Curriculum Coordinator Janet MacNeil on Thursday, January 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Lawrence Library. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn about science education in grades K-2. You can also try out the microscopes that the Brookline Education Foundation donated to all Lawrence second grade classrooms! For more information about the Brookline Education Foundation, go to <http://www.brooklineeducation.org> or contact Lawrence parents Joanne Liautaud and Kate Silbaugh.



## Got Extra Office Clothes?

The fourth annual Dress for Success drive will take place on January 30 (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and January 31 (8 a.m. and 11 a.m.) at the Brookline Police Headquarters Community Room at 350 Washington Street in Brookline. Dress for Success is a not-for-profit organization that offers services to help women enter the workforce and stay employed. Each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a week's worth of separates when she gets the job. Please limit donations to winter coats and accessories (gloves, scarves, shoes and handbags/briefcases, etc.). This is NOT a general clothing drive. All donated coats and accessories should be appropriate for the workplace. If possible, please have the coats dry-cleaned prior to donation so they are ready to wear.

