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PAPER

February 2, 2010

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

5 February (Friday)
Family Fun Night
6-9 pm

9 February (Tuesday)
PTO Meeting
7 pm Library

15-19 February (Mon-Fri)
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 Movie
EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K-12, 12:30 pm

An Important Note from the Guidance Office

Financial aid for family events like FAMILY FUN NIGHT is available for families through the PTO. If parents would like to take advantage of this support, please contact the guidance office. All inquiries and needs will be kept confidential.

Bringing School Vision into Focus

"The personal vision of school (community members) is a kind of moral imagination that gives them the ability to see schools not as they are, but as they would like them to become."

—Roland Barth (*Improving Schools from Within*)

What kind of school would you like Lawrence School to be? What is your personal vision for Lawrence School?

These questions form the basis of work begun by the Lawrence School Council this fall to develop a new vision for Lawrence. The School Council engaged in a process to reflect on and discuss key elements of our own personal visions. In January, the entire faculty engaged in a similar process. Now it's parents' turn. At the February PTO Meeting, parents will be provided time to reflect on their personal vision for Lawrence. It is the collection of these personal visions that will help us craft a shared vision for our school.

Consider these two prompts:

1. The kind of school I want my child to attend would....
2. When my child leaves Lawrence School, I would like him/her to have learned...

We are not looking for a polished statement, but rather your ideas. Jot down a few notes in response to these two prompts and bring them

to the meeting. Or come on your own and we will provide time and space to reflect on these questions before launching our discussion.

Why vision? According to John Kotter, author of *Leading Change*, a good vision can clarify the general direction for change, motivate people to take action in the right direction, and help coordinate the action of different people.

Why Lawrence and why now? I believe that a school's vision emerges from the combination of the personal visions of community members. Our school is always changing. Given new leadership, a large number of teachers new to the school in the past five years, and given that many new families enter our school each year, it seems a logical time for us to have this conversation.

Please join us on February 9 to help develop a shared vision for Lawrence School. If you are not able to attend, feel free to jot down your ideas and send them to me on an index card or in an email.

—Rick Rogers

"A shared vision is not an idea...it is rather, a force in people's hearts...at its simplest level, a shared vision is the answer to the question 'What do we want to create?'"

—Peter Senge (*MIT Sloan School of Management*)

Don't Miss Family Fun Night – This Friday at 6

A week from now, Family Fun Night will be a wonderful memory – maybe you'll think about the karaoke songs you sang or crafts you made, while gazing fondly at your tattoo or pink hair. Come on Friday night to make great memories and more! Don't miss an opportunity to make your own professional postage stamps or stationery in the Art room (for a small additional fee).

Tasty fare (dinner and snacks) will be sold all night in the Lawrence café. Any tasty treats for the bake sale that you would like to donate can be dropped off on Friday, February 1st in the front lobby at drop-off and in the cafeteria anytime after school and throughout the evening. Admission is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$20 per family. Raffle tickets will also be sold in the front lobby. Visit

the library hallway to check out the wonderful offerings. Please don't miss this fabulous Lawrence community event. We still need a few people to help with set-up and clean up. Please contact Karlyn Grimes (pkgrimes@rcn.com) or Tina Manuel (tinamanuel@gmail.com) if you'd like to help.



Lawrence helps Haiti

There will be a bake sale every day this week in the lobby. The proceeds will go to help Lawrence's effort to help the people of Haiti. If you're interested in baking or making a donation to this important effort, please contact Kim Swartz (kim.doug4@verizon.net)

Thanks for the Music!

Thanks to the PTO for sponsoring the visit of Toronto-based a cappella group Cadence on January 28 to Lawrence. Students in grades K-6 were treated to impressive performances by the quartet. Some students were convinced that there was a secret soundtrack because of their amazing vocal talents. For more information about the group or to hear their music, visit: www.cadence-unplugged.com.

Have a child on the autism spectrum?

The Coalition for Brookline ASD Parents (COBAP) is holding its second PARENTS meeting of the 2009-2010 school year

When: Sunday February 7th at 7:30 pm
Where: Village Family Chiropractic, 126 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446
What: A wine & cheese social to get acquainted and discuss parent issues.

Questions? Email Beth Kaufman (bkpubservices@yahoo.com) or Pam Palmucci (ppalmucci@rcn.com).

You can join the COBAP Yahoo Group by visiting <http://www.yahoo.com/groups> and entering "COBAP" under "Find a Group".

Support LEDP (and the world) deliciously

This Valentine's Day, give a gift that makes a difference! You can buy fairly traded organic Equal Exchange chocolates, coffees, teas and gifts at Family Fun Night or by filling out the forms that should have come home this past week with your child. Not only will you be supporting small independent farmers around the world, but you'll be helping the LEDP scholarship fund. See some of the delicious products this week at drop-off.

Volunteer Opportunity



LSA Leadership Team

Lawrence After-School Activities (LSA) is looking for two new parent volunteers to join its management team in 2010-2011. LSA now features over 20 enrichment course offerings each session for grades K-8. We are looking for two new members join our team this spring. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Joanne Liautaud (joanneliautaud@hotmail.com).

Help with the Town-Wide Soccer Cleat Exchange

The Brookline Town-Wide Cleat Exchange is planned for March 30-April 1, 2010. The Cleat Exchange, based at each elementary school, will provide the opportunity to donate used soccer cleats, exchange used, or buy donated cleats at a very affordable price in time for the spring soccer season. Undistributed cleats are donated; monetary receipts go to the Brookline Recreation soccer scholarship program. Volunteers are needed to supervise the Cleat Exchange in each school. For more information or to volunteer, write to pueda@comcast.net.

Here comes the class of 2023!

Kindergarten Registration will take place in the Lawrence Library on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 from 7:30-9:00 a.m. for students whose last name begins with A-L and on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 from 12:00-1:30 p.m. for students whose last name begins with M-Z. Registration packets will be available starting on Wednesday, February 3rd for your convenience. Please call Maureen Lynch at (617) 879-4301 with questions.

Brookline Solo Parent Family Gathering

Please join us

- ~ To meet, laugh & talk other Brookline solo parent families
- ~ To share information & support each other

We welcome you, your children (we split child care), and any appetizers you'd like to bring for the group at Julie Dollinger's house at 20 Warwick Street on Sunday, February 7th from 4:00-5:30 pm
We will also meet on March 14th, April 11th, May 16th and June 13thG

Any questions, please contact Lawrence Parent: Betsey Dalbeck, bdalbeck@freshtrack.sinc.com or join us on the Brookline Solo Parent Families Group website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/brooklinesp>

Directory Update

From time to time, the PTO Newsletter will include updates to the Lawrence School Directory.

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