

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

9 February (Tuesday)

PTO Meeting
7 pm library

15 February–19 February (Monday–Friday)

SCHOOL CLOSED
February vacation

23 February (Tuesday)

BEF Breakfast
8 am library

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

14 March (Sunday)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
Set clocks ahead one hour

16 March (Tuesday)

EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K–6, 12:30 pm

17 March (Wednesday)

PTO Play
7 pm auditorium

18 March (Thursday)

- Principals Forum
8 am library
- PTO Play
7 pm auditorium

19 March (Friday)

PTO Play
7 pm auditorium

25 March (Thursday)

EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K–6, 12:30 pm

A Vision for Lawrence – Tuesday Night

Please join us for the February 9 PTO Meeting 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. Consider these two questions:

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...

Try A Little Kindness

Last fall, I accompanied one of the seventh grade groups on their trip to the Farm School. When we first arrived, we huddled in a circle in a drafty shed. I watched with interest as Reed, a quietly charismatic farmer and educator, spoke to the students about the school's expectations during our stay. "We have one rule," he said softly, "Be kind." He then deftly engaged the students in a discussion about what this looked like at the farm. Over the course of the next two days, this simple rule worked well for our students as they worked the farm, prepared meals, and lived together.

Over the past three weeks, Monica Crowley and I have needed to give attention to responding to and educating groups of students from different grade levels who were involved in varying degrees of teasing, speaking meanly, or treating peers poorly. In some cases, this behavior could be called harassment. Whatever we call it, issues will be addressed and dealt with and harassment will not be tolerated.

This flurry of incidents has caused me to think back on the Farm School. Our school-wide rules call for a "safe, just and caring community" in which we "respect others." Maybe we need to simplify our words.

We tried out "be kind" with one grade level this week. As we asked students what it meant to be kind, they easily rattled off positive examples. They knew and could say the right things. The challenge comes in *doing the right thing* in the moment. An example of doing the right thing is to move from being a bystander to becoming an ally. An ally has choices. An ally can *speak up* to the person doing the teasing or name-calling. An ally can *support* the student being targeted by offering to do something with him/her and moving away. And an ally can *report* repeated or serious problems to a trusted adult. Reporting such a violation is getting help, not tattling.

There is no quick fix or no one program that will address these issues. Our work to help young people develop the skills of working and playing with others needs to be proactive and ongoing. Home and school must work together. So, let's try out some new language together. Try talking with your children about becoming an "ally." But most of all, let's try, "Be kind."

Black History Month Display

Many of you have asked about the beautiful and informative display in the lobby in honor of Black History Month. The display is the handiwork of Lawrence parent Sydney Fuller-Jones and her friend Celeste Payne. We thank them very much for such a fine job. Be sure to check it out when you're in the main lobby (and pick up a copy of some delicious recipes!). —Rick Rogers



Around Brookline

Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is sponsoring *From School to Work and Independence: Practical and Legal Information for Effective Transition Planning* on Thursday, February 11, 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the Martin Luther King Jr. Room at Brookline High School. Transition planning is a required part of IEPs for high school students who receive special education services. Participants with Professional Licenses can earn PDPs if the content aligns with one of their IPDP goals. For information visit www.brooklinesepac.org.

Arts and Sports



A Step Ahead basketball is running a **February Vacation Basketball Clinic** for boys and girls ages 8–15. February 15–19, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mackenzie Center, 1337 Centre St., in Newton. For more information please visit www.asahoops.com or contact coach Smith (617-909-5990 or coachb@asahoops.com).

Cookie Time!



The 6th grade Lawrence Girl Scout troop is selling cookies again. The varieties are Caramel Delights, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Thin Mints, Shortbread, Lemonades, Thanks-a-lot (shortbread with chocolate on one side), and Daisy-go-rounds (Low-fat Cinnamons). Each box is \$4.00. If you would like to order some, email MMDobroth@aol.com.

BEF Breakfast

The Brookline Education Foundation is sponsoring a breakfast for parents on Tuesday, February 23, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the Lawrence Library. Come see first-hand how a BEF Collaborative Grant is put into action as Justin Brown, Danielle Kent and Leslie Fagen share how they are applying Differentiated Instruction techniques in the classroom. Bagels and coffee will be served. Feel free to bring toddlers.

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.

Family Fun Night Was Fantastic

The Lawrence PTO would like to thank all of the wonderful parents, teachers and students who volunteered this year to continue Family Fun Night's winning streak. Give yourself a hand. If you bought raffle tickets but were not present at the raffle, or you bid on a silent auction item, you will get a call if you were a lucky winner. When you collect your raffle prizes or enjoy your silent auction items, please thank the retailer or organization who went out of their way to make Family Fun Night extra special.

* Anna's Taqueria * Art with Amy Solomon * b.good * Barb Hausman * Beaver Country Day Summer Programs * Bodyscapes * Boston University Fitness and Recreation Center * Brimmer and May Summer Camp Program * Brookline Spa * Chestnut Hill Creative Arts and Sports Program * Clayroom * Comella's * Dexter Summer Programs * Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Clinic * Inner Space Yoga Studio * Joelle Garfi * J.P. Licks * Kim Swartz * KooKoo's * Kumon Math and Reading Centers * Lyn Paget * Marathon Sports * Museum of Science * MY Oilcloth * Nashoba Valley Ski Area * NETResults Tennis Program * New England Comics * Northeastern Soccer Camps * Park School Summer Programs * Party Favors * Pear Tree * Puppet Showplace Theater * Serenade Chocolatier * Shiki Restaurant * Spike's Junkyard Dogs * Studio 11 * Theo Epstein for the Red Sox Tickets * Trader Joe's * Wearable Art by Rimma * Wheelock Family Theater * Whole Foods Markets * Zaftig's *

Also, a very special thank you to **Anna's Taqueria** for their yummy burritos, chips, salsa and guacamole, **b.good** for their house-ground, hand-packed Black Angus beef mini hamburgers, **Golden Temple** for their delicious chicken and noodle dishes, **Clear Flour Bakery** for the scrumptious bread, **Trader Joe's** and **Stop & Shop** for the mouth-watering bake sale items, and **When Pigs Fly**, which has left many families looking forward to a loaf of delicious bread. Yum!!

An extra special thanks is due to the teachers who made the silent auction extra FUN this year: Rick Rogers, Kris Frye, Marylee Malandrakis, Sharon Kiernan, Jeremy Ward, Alicia Hsu, Zoe Kern and Anu Advani. Your auction items were awesome and very thoughtful!

And last but not least, we'd like to thank Karlyn Grimes, Tina Manuel and Barb Hausman, without whose stellar organizational skills and energy none of this would have been possible. Be sure to contact the PTO if you are interested in being a key player in organizing Family Fun Night in the future. See you next year!!

"April Is the Cruellest Month"

It's time to start thinking like a poet! Lawrence School Poetry Night will wrap up Poetry Month this year on April 29. Parents and children can read their own poetry or poems by others, or simply listen and enjoy. There will be cookies. Tom Rubenoff will be hosting the event for the last time, since the youngest Rubenoff will be graduating this year. He would love to pass the baton to another parent for next year. If you are interested or would like to help out in the planning and execution of this year's Poetry Night, please contact Tom (tomr@rubecom.us).

