

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

11 February (Wednesday)

School Committee meeting:
Facilities Master Plan
6 pm Town Hall

12 February (Thursday)

- * Superintendent's Forum
8:00 am library
- School Committee meeting:
FY2010 Budget Proposal
7 pm Town Hall

16 February (Monday)

SCHOOL CLOSED
Presidents Day

17–20 February (Tue–Fri)

SCHOOL CLOSED
February Vacation

24 February (Thursday)

Eighth Grade Family
BHS Orientation, Part 1:
Academic Disciplines
7 pm BHS

3 March (Tuesday)

Brookline Mental Health
Parent Workshop:
“Setting Limits with Love”
6:30 pm library

5 March (Thursday)

- PTO Meeting *note morning*
8 am *←----- time*
- Eighth Grade Family
BHS Orientation, Part 2:
Freshmen Electives
6:30 pm BHS

6 March (Friday)

Lawrence International
Dinner

Two important School Committee meetings this week will feature discussions of the impact of rising enrollments and the economic recession on the future of the Brookline schools. On Wednesday, February 11, a specially scheduled meeting will feature the presentation of the Facilities Master Plan. The next night, Dr. Lupini will deliver his FY2010 budget message, which will include initial proposals for meeting the challenges of state budget cuts and local revenue shortfalls. School Committee meetings are open to the public.

PTO Notes

- * Mark your calendar for Brookline Mental Health's parent workshop: “Setting Limits with Love,” March 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.
- * The March 5 PTO meeting has been designated a “Special Meeting,” at which several updates to the PTO By-Laws will be proposed (for example—change from one vote per family to one vote per parent or guardian). We will also go over timing/procedures for School Council elections. Rick Rogers's focused topic will be class placement.
- * The PTO is looking for two parents to join the nominating committee, which will identify candidates for PTO Board openings (Co-President, Assistant Treasurer). Please contact Amy Luster (atluster@rcn.com) or Kate Shea (kdshea@gmail.com).

* Last but certainly not least, the PTO would like to thank Kate Silbaugh and Stacey Dogan for organizing another wonderful outing at Larz Anderson Park. It was great to see so many rosy-cheeked Lawrence families out on the ice.



* **Superintendent's Forum, Thursday at 8:00 a.m.**

I invite you to meet with Superintendent of Schools Bill Lupini this Thursday morning in the library. Dr. Lupini holds parent forums annually at each school and welcomes the opportunity to hear from parents and guardians and answer any questions you may have. Last year, much of his time at Lawrence was focused on the search for a new principal. This year, I am sure he would welcome the opportunity to discuss other educational issues and questions. Please join us.



Lawrence Reads

In January, I had the pleasure of participating in my first “Lawrence Reads.” Students and parents agree to read a book in advance and then meet for an evening of discussion facilitated by volunteer teacher leaders. The theme for this session was courage. Third and fourth graders read a biography of Louis Braille. Fifth and sixth graders read a work of historical fiction called *The Breadwinner*, set in Afghanistan during the rule of the Taliban. I joined a group of eight fifth and sixth grade students and their parents for an insightful discussion ably led by fifth grade teacher Jonathan Weinberger and librarian Rusty Browder. Teachers Justin Brown, Alicia Hsu and Marie Leman and retired Literacy Specialist Linda Goldman led two groups of third and fourth graders. A remarkable example of how Lawrence learns together! I encourage you and your child to participate in our next “Lawrence Reads,” scheduled for May 6.

—Rick Rogers, Principal

Third Floor News & Views



Transition to High School Begins!

Last week the families of all graduating eighth graders should have received a letter from BHS Headmaster Robert Weintraub regarding Spring Semester Transition Events. On Tuesday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m., families are invited to hear presentations on the academic disciplines (English, World Languages, Math, Health and Fitness, Science and Social Studies); on Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m., families can hear about the freshman electives (including Fine and Performing Arts). Finally, on March 30 at 7:00 p.m., the headmaster, dean of students, guidance counselors and a panel of students will talk about life at BHS. If you have any questions or did not receive the letter, contact the Office of the Headmaster (617-713-5003) or the Office of the Dean (617-713-5192).

Essay Contest: “A Woman Who Inspires Me”

Kids: do you know an extraordinary woman? A teacher, your coach, your mother or grandmother? In celebration of National Women’s History Month, the Brookline Commission for Women is sponsoring the 17th annual essay contest to honor the women who inspire us most. The contest is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth graders who attend school in Brookline, and the deadline for submissions is March 5. For submission guidelines and entry details, contact the Brookline Commission for Women (BCW@town.brookline.ma.us) or Casey Hatchett (617-730-2734).



Family Fun Night Was Fantastic

The Lawrence PTO would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who helped continue Family Fun Night’s winning streak. An extra special cheer goes out to Karlyn Grimes, who bested herself this year to bring us a more fabulous event than ever before. If you see her in the hallway, be sure to show your appreciation.

If your raffle ticket was a winner but you were not present at the raffle, you will get a call. When you collect your prize or enjoy your silent auction item, please thank the retailer or organization who went out of their way to make Family Fun Night extra special.

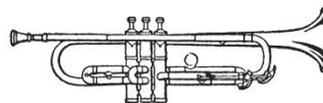
* Anna’s Taqueria * Art with Amy Solomon * b.good * Baja Betty’s * Bay State Skating * Beaver Country Day Summer Programs * Boca Grande * Boloco * Boston University Fitness and Recreation Center * Brookline Spa * Brookline Police * Brookline Youth Hockey * Brookline Booksmith * Chestnut Hill Creative Arts and Sports Program * Children’s Book Shop * Children’s Technology Workshop * Clayroom * Coolidge Corner Theater Foundation * Dedham Country Day Summer Programs * Eureka * Finagle-A-Bagel * Henry Bear’s Park * Inner Space Yoga Studio * Kim Swartz * KooKoo’s * Magic Beans * MY Oilcloth * NETResults Tennis Program * Northeastern Soccer Camps * Park School Summer Programs * Party Favors * The Puppet Showplace Theater * Serenade Chocolatier * Theo Epstein for the Red Sox Tickets * Trader Joe’s * Village Fare Pizza * Village Smokehouse * When Pigs Fly Bakery * Whole Foods Markets * Zaftig’s *

Special thanks to * Anna’s Taqueria * for their yummy burritos, chips, salsa and guacamole; to * b.good * for their house-ground, hand-packed Black Angus beef mini hamburgers; and to * When Pigs Fly * for heaps of extra delicious bread. Yum!

Be sure to contact the PTO if you can help organize Family Fun Night next year.

Music Academy to Visit Lawrence

Students in grades 3–8 will enjoy an educational and entertaining performance on Thursday, February 12, when musicians from the Berkshire Hills Music Academy present an “ability awareness” concert. The group, made up of young adults with Williams syndrome—a rare neurodevelopmental disorder—will perform standards and popular songs, and will speak to the audience as well. Performances are at 10:30 a.m. (3–5) and 1:00 p.m. (6–8). Parents are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Lisa Viola (lviola@rcn.com).



How Low Can Our Print-Run Go?

Online better than paper for you? If you’d like to stop receiving your paper copy of the *PTO Paper*, please email Amy Luster (atluster@rcn.com). As long as we have your email address, you will continue to receive weekly emails that include a link to the newsletter online. Newsletters are posted on the PTO’s website: www.lawrencepto.org.

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.