

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

- 2 March (Tuesday)**  
School Council Meeting  
8 am, 2nd floor conf room
- 8 March (Monday)**  
•BEEP Food Drive begins  
lobby
- 9 March (Tuesday)**  
•PTO Meeting  
Superintendent's Forum  
8 am library  
•Gr 5 & 6 Author Night  
6:30–8 pm 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)**  
•Gr 8 Art Breakfast  
8–8:50 am Rm 216  
•EARLY DISMISSAL  
Gr K-6, 12:30 pm  
•CleaT Collection  
12:30–12:50 pm lobby
- 17 March (Wednesday)**  
•CleaT Collection  
2:20–2:50 pm lobby  
•PTO Play  
7 pm auditorium

*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.*

## Superintendent's Forum & Proposed FY2011 Budget



I hope you will attend the Superintendent's Forum at Lawrence (Tuesday, March 9 at 8:00 a.m.) for an opportunity to meet and talk with Superintendent Bill Lupini. This is an open forum so parents can ask questions about any topic. However, next year's budget is sure to be discussed. Dr. Lupini recently presented his budget message to the School Committee. The entire budget message provides context as well as a district-wide perspective. Here is a brief synopsis of how the Superintendent's proposed budget plays out at Lawrence:

- Increase of 1.0 FTE for middle level staffing due to the addition of a third section in grade 8. This staffing will provide .2 FTE World Languages and .8 FTE for other academic areas (.2 FTE each for English, Math, Science and Social Studies). Rather than hiring or sharing 4 part-time teachers, however, we are considering hiring a grade 6 English teacher and enabling current grade 6 teachers to teach one section of grade 7 Math, Science, or Social Studies. I will provide additional information on this proposal once details are finalized.
- Increase Special Education Learning Center teachers by .5 FTE—from 2.5 to 3.0. This is a response to our increased enrollment over the past 4–5 years.
- Reduce Japanese ELL teachers by .4 FTE from 1.4 to 1.0 due to declining enrollment in our Japanese program.
- Add grade 7 Health (currently only in Grade 8) as recommended last year by the district's Program Review.
- Add a second day of Strings to grade 6 Conservatory. Currently Band students

meet twice weekly, but Strings students meet once and then attend Chorus once.

- Additional support in first grade classrooms. The district is developing a new partnership with Wheelock College that will provide K–2 interns and help make it possible to provide additional support in every first grade classroom. This is part of the Superintendent's commitment to phase in additional support in K–2 over three years. Full-time aides were added to Kindergarten this year.

I encourage you to stay informed as the budget process moves ahead this month.

### Art Long-term Substitute Teacher Appointed

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Callie Hastings as the long-term substitute for Shelly Magno's upcoming maternity leave. Callie holds a B.F.A. from Alfred University and completed the Mass. College of Art Teacher Preparation Program. For the past two years, she has taught in the Lincoln Extended Day program. She completed a yearlong art internship at the Patrick O'Hearn School in Boston (now William Henderson School), a school that is very well known for its full inclusion model. She also taught middle school students at Mass College of Arts Saturday Studios.

Callie's anticipated start date is March 29. She will do two transition days in early March.

My thanks to Visual Arts Coordinator Alicia Mitchell for working with me on the hiring process! We wish Shelly well at this special time in her life.

—Rick Rogers, Principal

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/> ★

## Can You Help?

The Brookline Emergency Food Pantry will host a Food Drive March 8–12 in the Main Lobby for families in need within the Brookline Community. Check out flyers posted around the school for info on what to bring. Questions? Contact Ms. Frye in Rm 122.

## Tom, Jerry, Woody & You

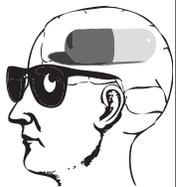
Tom & Jerry, along with Woody Woodpecker and Friends, are gearing up for the Early Release Movie on Thursday, March 11, 2010 from 12:30–2:20 p.m. The cost/donation is \$5.00 per child. Return registration forms (in an envelope with payment) to the “Lawrence Cinema” box in the school office. Checks are preferred and should be made to “Lawrence PTO.”

## Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun

On March 17, 18, & 19 at 7 p.m. witness a pair of fantasy worlds come alive onstage, in *Secret Life*, written by Lawrence parent Tom Rubenoff, and *The Pen Is Mightier than the Sandwich*, written by Lawrence 5th grade teacher Jon Weinberger. This year's all-star cast includes Mr. Weinberger, Mr. Greiner, Mr. Keser, Mr. Porter, Mr. Ward, Miss Ellis, Miss Kern, and Mr. Rogers (as well as a few parents). You'd be crazy to miss it.

## The Teen Brain vs. Our Chemical Culture

Parents and teens are invited to a presentation and discussion of “The Teen Brain and Today's Chemical Culture,” on March 4 at 7 p.m. in the BHS auditorium. Presenters, including McLean Hospital brain expert Dr. Marisa Silveri and Former MA First Lady Kitty Dukakis, will offer insight into the intricacies and landmarks of adolescent brain development in the context of today's “a pill or a drink will make it better” culture. For more information, contact June Harris ([june\\_harris@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:june_harris@brookline.k12.ma.us)).



## The Cleat Exchange Cometh

The Annual Brookline Cleat Exchange is here. Get a new (used) pair of soccer cleats for each pair you give—or just donate your old cleats (shin guards, too)!

### COLLECTION TIMES:

Tuesday 3/16 7:45–8 a.m. / 12:30–12:50 p.m. in Lawrence Lobby

Wednesday 3/17 7:45–8 a.m. / 2:20–2:40 p.m. in Lawrence Lobby

Please secure each pair with a rubber band or tie shoelaces together with a single bow that is easy to untie.

### EXCHANGE/SALE TIMES

Thursday 3/18 7:45–8:00 a.m. / 2:20–2:40 p.m. in Lawrence Lobby

Thursday 3/18 6:30–8 p.m. & Saturday 3/20, 9–11 a.m. at the Tappan St. Gym (gym #2, 2nd floor).

Present ticket to get a free pair of cleats for each pair donated or buy a pair for \$5 (shin guards \$2/pair).

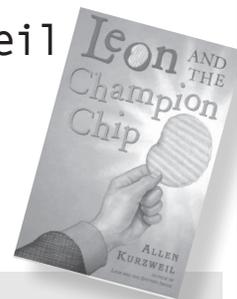
The Brookline Cleat Exchange is a Brookline 2010 Climate Action Partner. Watch for our helpful hints for reducing the soccer family carbon footprint!

Questions? Contact Tina Manuel ([tinaymanuel@gmail.com](mailto:tinaymanuel@gmail.com)).



## Meet the Author: Allen Kurzweil

Grade 5 and 6 students and parents are invited to attend the first annual Author Night, with Allen Kurzweil, author of *Leon and the Champion Chip*, on Tuesday, March 9 from 6:30–8 p.m. in the library. Pizza will be available in the lobby at 6 p.m.



## 1000 Thank You's!

It has already been a year since I was selected to represent the Lawrence School as our teacher representative in Japan. How quickly time flies! I will never forget the brief but poignant time I spent with the Japanese families and friends of Lawrence School.

My memories of Japan I keep with me each and every day, as my trip has opened my eyes as a teacher. It has helped me see my Japanese students in a new way, having experienced what it must be like for them, struggling to keep up in a world that is speaking a different language.

It has also helped me to see that part of my role is to open my students' eyes to the world beyond Brookline, to be willing to take a chance and become an explorer and adventurer.

I want to thank the Lawrence PTO for their support throughout the process, and the SETJ committee for preparing such an incredible experience. I am forever in your debt.

It is my sincerest hope that as a community we maintain this extraordinary program. SETJ is part of what makes Lawrence such an amazing place to learn and to teach. It is an essential part of our community, and I am deeply grateful for having been given this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Greg Porter

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