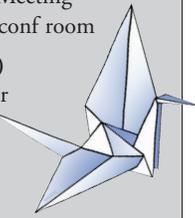


A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 25 March (Thursday)
EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K-6, 12:30 pm
- 30 March (Tuesday)
EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K-6, 12:30 pm
- 1 April (Thursday)
Gr 6 Parent Discussion, 7 pm
- 2 April (Friday)
NO SCHOOL
*Day of Low Attendance
(Good Friday)*
- 5 April (Monday)
LSA Spring Classes Begin
- 6 April (Tuesday)
 - School Council Meeting
8 am, 2nd floor conf room
 - PTO Meeting
7 pm library
- 14 April (Wednesday)
Gr 5/6 Play
9 am and 6 pm, auditorium
- 19 April-23 April (Monday-Friday)
NO SCHOOL
April Vacation
- 29 April (Thursday)
PTO Poetry Night
7 pm library
- 4 May (Tuesday)
School Council Meeting
8 am, 2nd floor conf room
- 6 May (Thursday)
Japanese Fun Fair
- 11 May (Tuesday)
PTO Meeting
7 pm library
- 19 May (Wednesday)
 - Staff Appreciation Luncheon
 - Gr 2-4 Play
9 am and 6 pm, auditorium



MCAS ELA Testing Schedule

- Grade 3:** Monday, March 22 & Wednesday, March 24
- Grade 4:** Tuesday, March 23 (Long Composition) and March 25-26
- Grade 5:** Monday, March 22 & Wednesday, March 24
- Grade 6:** Monday, April 5 & Tuesday, April 6
- Grade 7:** Tuesday, March 23 (Long Composition) and March 25-26
- Grade 8:** Monday, April 5 & Tuesday, April 6

PTO Notes

The PTO is looking for a new co-president, and for anyone interested in chairing an event or getting involved next year. Please contact Katherine Ingraham (*kaingraham@yahoo.com*).

Coming up at the April 6 Meeting:

- Brookline Mental Health will present "Organized Family, Organized Child," which focuses on how to help children get and stay organized, as well as what expectations we can have for our children in this area depending on their developmental level. It is geared toward a K-8 parent audience.
- School Garden Vote: we will be voting on whether to allocate \$5000 toward the construction of a school garden. The school garden has been designed with input from teachers around uses that support the curriculum at various grade levels and is the result of a collaboration among—and financial support of—the Town, Friends of Lawrence Park and the PTO. The \$5000 needed before construction can start this spring is the final portion needed for construction.



School Council Parent Representatives Needed

Lawrence School has three open seats for a two-year term as School Council parent representative next year. Nomination statements are due by May 7, and all candidates will be invited to speak at the May 11 PTO meeting. Elections will take place the week of May 17.

What is School Council? School Councils were established in all Massachusetts schools as part of the 1993 Education Reform Act. They include an equal number of parents and educators and may also include a community representative appointed by the principal. Four parent representatives are elected by the parents. At Lawrence, a fifth parent representative is one of the PTO co-presidents. Our School Council meets once a month from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. with some subcommittee work in between.

I see School Council as the place where we focus on the "big picture" of the school community: What kind of school do we want this school to be and how do we get there? School Council is a place where parents and teachers can talk together about educational matters. The School Council is intended to act in an advisory capacity to the principal on matters related to school improvement and helps to identify school goals and develop an annual school improvement plan. The Council usually breaks off into subcommittees to work on some of these goals. A copy of our current school improvement plan is on the Lawrence section of the Public Schools of

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Brookline website: <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/SCHOOLS/Lawrence/>.

I would like to thank **Kelly Hardebeck**, **Stephanie Leung** and **Kate Silbaugh**, who are stepping down from School Council next year. Their thoughtful questions and insightful suggestions helped us develop a stronger plan. Thank you also to **Joanna Lieberman**, who will continue next year for her second year, and **Kate Shea**, who has served as the PTO co-president representative. If you have questions about serving on School Council, please feel free to contact one of them, Vice Principal Monica Crowley or me for more information.

Women Who Inspire Us

Congratulations to sixth graders **Sol Espinosa** and **Ronique Williams** for their winning entries in the annual "A Woman Who Inspires Me" essay contest sponsored by the Brookline Commission for Women! Sol's essay about her mother, Laurie, tied for second place—sixth grade, and Ronique's essay about her mother, Angela Claiborne, tied for third place—sixth grade. Both girls will be recognized at the "Woman of The Year" Awards Ceremony on March 25 at 6:45 p.m. at the Brookline Main Library.

—Rick Rogers

Three of a Kind!

The Lawrence community celebrates three new arrivals!

Congratulations to **Nora Carpenter**, **Maureen Houston** and **Shelly Magno** on the births of their daughters, on March 16, 17 and 18, respectively.

Arts and Sports

The strings are the thing, as Brookline High School's acclaimed String Orchestra joins with the town-wide Brookline Youth Orchestra for a **family friendly All Town String Concert**.

The music ranges from Handel and Haydn to Mozart and Bartok. March 25 at 7:00 p.m., at the Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium at Brookline High School. \$5 at the door (8th graders free!).

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.

Movie Credits

Another successful Early Release Movie took place on March 11. The money raised can help fund special project grants for teachers, performing arts presentations, or a field trip for several classes. We are grateful to all of the parent and student volunteers—we couldn't have done it without your help!

Boys Learning Parent Discussion Group



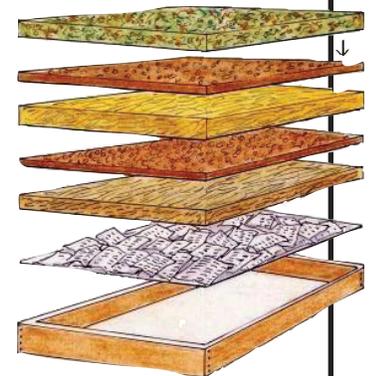
Please join us for the second meeting of the parent discussion group formed to explore learning challenges and opportunities specific to boys. We will meet this Friday, March 26, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in the Computer Lab (in the first grade hallway), to view an excerpt from the documentary *Raising Cain: Boys in Focus*. The documentary is hosted by child psychologist Michael Thompson, Ph.D., who consults with some of the nation's top psychologists, social activists, researchers and educators to probe the issues facing boys and find solutions. Following the video, we will discuss key issues and identify topics for upcoming meetings. All are welcome! Questions? Please contact Amy Kershaw (aakershaw@hotmail.com).

The PTO and School Council seek to encourage other parent discussion groups on topics of interest to Lawrence families. If you'd like to see or lead a group on a particular topic, please contact Kate Shea (kdshea@gmail.com) or Kate Silbaugh (silbaugh@bu.edu).

Calling all GREEN 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders!

On Sunday, March 28, Bountiful Brookline will host *Spring into Gardening*, starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Pierce School.

Bountiful Brookline is committed to seeing food grown throughout Brookline: at our homes and schoolyards, and throughout the community on roofs, walls and fences. We need your help to make this event a success! If you're a kid who sees a GREEN FUTURE, please volunteer one hour of your Sunday to staff one of our tables. For information contact Jenn Meader (jkmeeper@comcast.net).



Eat Pancakes, Help LEDP!

The Brookline Rotary Club annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast takes place this Saturday, March 27, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at the Brookline High School cafeteria. Admission is \$5.00; children 5 and under eat free! Tickets are being sold at the LEDP office, and **LEDP will receive half the value of every ticket sold!** In addition to the food, families can expect great music, face painting, balloon twisting, fire engines and more!