

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

5 April (Monday)

LSA Spring Classes Begin

6 April (Tuesday)

- School Council Meeting
8 am, 2nd floor conf room
- PTO Meeting
7 pm library

12 April (Monday)

Optional Student Placement
Form Due

14 April (Wednesday)

Grade 5-6 play
9 am auditorium

15 April (Thursday)

Grade 5-6 Play
6pm 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

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.

Landmark School Outreach Partnership Continues

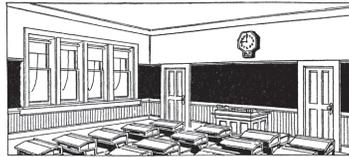


Introduction

Six months ago, I first wrote about our new partnership with the Landmark School Outreach Program. I would like to provide an update on our first year of work together. As a reminder, Lawrence School is the pilot site for a partnership between the Public Schools of Brookline and Landmark School, a private school in Beverly specializing in educating students with language-based learning disabilities and differences. Landmark School's Outreach Program provides professional development to teachers in other school settings that includes "appropriate learner-centered pedagogy; systematic, skills-based content materials; and models for adapting instruction to learner needs."

Format

In our first year, teachers, special educators, and administrators serving grades 4-6 made up the core group of 18 staff members working with Landmark. Two lead consultants have been on-site at Lawrence for a total of 12 days this year with other content experts in writing and mathematics brought in to lead some sessions. The on-site work has included a series of workshops, classroom observations, collaborative planning, and consultation. Inclusion Facilitator Maureen Houston served as the liaison between school and Landmark staff, planning, scheduling, and supporting follow through.



The Content

Teachers developed their repertoire of instructional strategies that have been found to be most effective in supporting students with learning differences and can be adapted to benefit all students. Among the areas addressed this year:

- Understanding the complexities of language demands placed on students in general education settings
- Graphic organizers and reading maps to guide comprehension
- Two-column note-taking incorporating varying degrees of language scaffolding
- Sentence and paragraph frameworks as strategies for scaffolding the writing process
- Notebooking as an organizational strategy
- Creating a scope and sequence of study skills with a goal of determining what skills each grade level is responsible for teaching and how they will be implemented.

Plans for Next Year

The work will continue next year and be expanded to include other grade levels (K-3 and 7/8). While the focus will shift to these grades, some follow-up time will be included for grades 4-6.

(continued on next page)

email your stories by friday 4 p.m. to newsletter@lawrencePTO.org

★ to download a copy of this newsletter visit <http://www.lawrencePTO.weebly.com/> ★

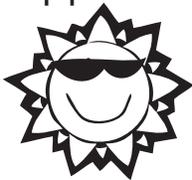
Virtual Library Resources

The Lawrence Library has great on line resources. Check out the Lawrence Library page, by clicking on the "Library" link on the Lawrence School home page (<http://lawrence.brookline.k12.ma.us>), or go directly to <http://catalog.brookline.k12.ma.us/common/welcome.jsp?site=104>.

You can view the library catalog, curriculum project links, library news and blog pages. You can access Authoritative sources such as World Book Online using the usernames and passwords provided on a handout from our library (please come by to pick one up or request a copy via email by asking Rusty Browder (rusty_browder@brookline.k12.ma.us)).

Plan Ahead for Summer and Support Lawrence

Summer camp is just around the corner! Check out <http://www.lawrence.mabel.ca> for all your labeling needs. This is a great site to order labels, stationery, and gear for summer camp. Anything ordered through this site through May 31st will raise money for our school!



(Principal's Corner-continued from first page)

To help set the stage for next year, Landmark consultants addressed the entire Lawrence faculty in March to provide an introduction to Landmark's philosophy and approach. A panel of classroom teachers from this year's core group also spoke about what they had learned and how their teaching practice had changed as a result of their learning.

Conclusion

This model provides an opportunity for general education and special education teachers to learn from and apply Landmark's expertise in a context that is firmly grounded in daily classroom work. ALL students will benefit from the use of common language and strategies as teachers hone their ability to "adapt instruction to learner needs."

—Rick Rogers, Principal

Green Eating in the Cafeteria- b.good, Brookline!

The Brookline Public Schools food service is proud to announce two exciting (and tasty) new initiatives to help us think about sustainable eating. Sustainable eating involves choosing foods that are produced using methods that are not only safe for the environment, but respect workers, treat animals humanely and support farming communities. To this end, the food service announces Meatless Mondays to help us reduce our carbon footprint in a delicious way and reduce our risk of many chronic diseases. In addition, to help our students eat locally, Brookline Food Services has partnered with b.good restaurant to serve local sourced beef at each of our schools during the rest of the year. Lawrence's turn for b.good burgers will be Thursday, May 27.



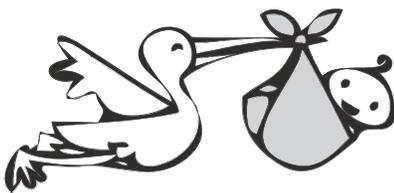
May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

This is a time to honor the contributions, diverse cultures and traditions of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. If you are interested in helping create an educational display in the lobby, please contact Pearl Singhakowinta (pearl.sing@yahoo.com) or Vivien Hoey (eyhoey@yahoo.com) for further information.



Welcome Baby Kent

The Lawrence community warmly welcomes Addison Ann Kent, daughter of Danielle Pafundi Kent, born on March 28.



Art for Art's Sake- Lincoln School Fundraiser

The 4th annual Art for Art's Sake fundraiser will be held on Thurs. April 8th 7-10pm in the Lincoln Gym. It is an adults-only event. There will be 40 artists selling their original work. A cash bar and live classical music. A percentage of all sales go to AFAS - which helps fund the 1st grade Gardner trip and other art related projects. Support the arts!