

THE

100

PAPER

April 14, 2009

A newsletter from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 16 April (Thursday)
 - Grades 5/6 Play
 - 9am and 6pm
 - Note: one day only!
 - EARLY DISMISSAL
 - 12:30 pm Grades K-6
- 20 April (Monday)
 - SCHOOL CLOSED
 - Patriots Day
- 21-24 April (Tue-Fri)
 - SCHOOL CLOSED
 - April Vacation
- 30 April (Thursday)
 - Principal's Forum
 - 7:45 am library
- 4 May (Monday)
 - PTO Meeting
 - 7 pm library
- 6 May (Wednesday)
 - Japanese Fun Fair
 - Lawrence Reads
 - Gr 3/4: *Abel's Island*
 - Gr 5/6: *The Talking Earth*
 - RSVP to mlmarcus@mindspring.com
- 8 May (Friday)
 - Parents/Staff Night Out
 - 7-10 pm
- 11 May (Monday)
 - MCAS testing period
 - begins for Grades 3-8
- 12 May (Tuesday)
 - School Council Meeting
 - 8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 13 May (Wednesday)
 - Incoming Kindergarten Visitation
 - 1:00-1:45 A-L
 - 2:00-2:45 M-Z
 - (Note: Current Kindergarten will dismiss at 12:00)
- 20 May (Wednesday)
 - PTO Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 20-21 May (Wed-Thur)
 - Grades 2-4 Play
- 25 May (Monday)
 - SCHOOL CLOSED
 - Memorial Day
- 28 May (Thursday)
 - MCAS testing period ends
- 1 June (Monday)
 - Town-wide Spring 7/8
 - Orchestra/Chorus Concert
 - 7 pm Pine Manor



Nobody Beats the Wiz!

The Lawrence fifth and sixth graders will knock your ruby slippers off! Come see *The Wizard of Oz* this Thursday, April 16. A school performance for grades 3, 4 and 5 at 9:00 a.m. will be followed by a 6:00 p.m. show for parents, friends, and community. All are welcome!

REMINDER:

Parent Placement Forms Are Due Wednesday, April 15.
Budget Update for Lawrence

On April 2, the Brookline School Committee approved the Superintendent's proposed budget for next school year. Superintendent Bill Lupini revised his original proposal after putting to use new federal funding targeted for special education from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Additional funding sources may become available later. For more information see Dr. Lupini's updated budget, which is available on the Public Schools of Brookline homepage: <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/>.

How does the revised budget proposal affect Lawrence? The most significant change is the restoration of reductions to Literacy and Math Specialist staffing. The restoration results in an allocation of 4.0 FTE for Lawrence, an increase of 0.7 FTE from this year. Lawrence is eligible for this increase due to an updated staffing formula that reflects our increased K-5 enrollment. Principals have the discretion to decide how to split the allocation between Literacy and Math Specialists. After consulting with the coordinators for these two areas and considering the needs of the school, I am recommending that Lawrence have 2.2 Literacy Specialists (.2 increase) and 1.8 Math Specialists (.5 increase). We plan to utilize the increased time in math to provide more direct intervention support to students who need it, similar to the way we do in literacy.

Why not use this increase to restore the Library Assistant position? I certainly recognize the library's key role in our school and we value and appreciate the work of our current assistant, Kathy Lynch. However, our increased staffing comes because our enrollment warrants it. Part of this increase is coming at the expense of other schools that are losing time due to reduced enrollment. I do not believe it would be appropriate to take funding intended for reading and math services and use it for something else.

While the School Committee has approved a budget based on the funds we have received so far, there remains the possibility of additional revenue or stimulus money coming in. The Superintendent has outlined possible future restorations, including: school-based funds to support school improvement plans, a METCO social worker, library assistants, and/or Gr. 7 Health.

I encourage parents to stay informed as the budget process continues.



Principal's Corner

—Rick Rogers, Principal

email your stories to newsletter@lawrencepto.org. by Friday 4 p.m.
To download a copy of this newsletter go to <http://lawrencepto.weebly.com/>

Save the Date

and Leave the Kids at Home

It's time for the **Second Annual Lawrence Parents Staff Night Out!**

Party planning is in full swing, and the PTO Band is ready to do the Time Warp again!

Friday, May 8, 7:00–10:00 p.m.
\$20 per person includes beer, wine, soft drinks, hors d'oeuvres and desserts from local restaurants.

Teachers and staff get in **FREE!**
More details coming soon.

Want to help?

Contact **Joanne Liautaud**
(joanneliautaud@hotmail.com or
617-232-5690).

PTO Notes

- ❖ At the May 4 PTO meeting, a draft of the budget and the slate for the PTO Board will be presented. Also, School Council Candidates will be present.
- ❖ The School Council will need **one new parent representative** in the fall. School Council advises the principal on the development of a school improvement plan and supports the work to address these goals. The council comprises an equal number of elected parents and teachers, as well as the principal. Parents on the council provide a valuable and welcome perspective. Any interested parent should contact Rick Rogers (Rick_Rogers@brookline.k12.ma.us) or Kate Shea (kdshea@gmail.com) before May 1. Candidates are required to submit a statement (form will be provided) no later than May 1, and should plan on attending the May 4 PTO meeting. Voting will start after May 6 and end on Friday, May 15.
- ❖ The PTO nominating committee is looking for a **Co-President** and **Assistant Treasurer** for the 2010–2011 school year. If you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Joanne Liautaud (joanneliautaud@hotmail.com) or Laura O'Brien (LOBRIEN186@msn.com). Next year's team will also need a **PTO Website Manager** (60 minutes per week uploading the newsletter and other information), a **New Family Contact** (welcome new, non-Kindergarten families), and an **International Dinner Night Co-Coordinator**. Your help will mean so much! Please contact Amy Luster (atluster@rcn.com) to learn more.

Around Brookline

Is your child at risk for dyslexia? The Gaab lab is currently investigating early language characteristics in pre-reading children (ages 4–6). Because reading problems tend to run in families, we aim to look at how young children with or without family members with dyslexia or reading problems use their brains. The main goal is to identify children at risk for developmental dyslexia at a very early age, before reading skills are even present. For more information please visit <http://www.childrenshospital.org/research/gaablab> or contact Nora Raschle (nora.raschle@childrens.harvard.edu or 857-218-4629).

A fun-filled Trivia Night is being held this Wednesday, April 15, in honor of **Autism Awareness Month**, and in support of **Brookline QUEST and COBAP**, two Brookline organizations supporting children with special needs. Join us from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Vineripe Grill, 1281 W. Roxbury Parkway, Chestnut Hill (on the Lynch Golf Course). Test your trivia knowledge, win prizes, relax with other parents and enjoy a buffet dinner for a cost of \$15. A suggested donation of \$5 is much appreciated. All donations collected will go to support programs sponsored by Brookline's QUEST and COBAP. For more information email Pam Palmucci (ppalmucci@rcn.com).

Arts and Sports

Brookline Rec is pleased to introduce **Adaptive Aquatics**, for children with special challenges (physical, emotional, behavioral, or any combination). Classes for children 5–12, and 13 and up will be on Sunday mornings between April 19 and June 14. Preregistration and prepayment (\$75) are required. Call 617-713-5435 or stop by the pool.

The innovative and accomplished **BHS Jazz Band** will perform at 7:30 p.m. on April 15 and 16. Come enjoy free food and drink (non-alcoholic), and the chance to win a brand new ipod shuffle. The high-energy ensemble covers a range of music from Count Basie and Duke Ellington to adventurous fare by Radiohead, The Dirty Projectors, Mouse on Mars and more. Great entertainment for the entire family. BHS Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium; \$5 General Admission, \$3 Students (8th graders FREE). Nearly 100 students and faculty from **The Brookline Music School** will perform the last in the School's Beatles Concert Trilogy: **Abbey Road**. Come hear exciting new arrangements of the songs from one of The Beatles' most successful and beloved albums, including "Here Comes the Sun," "Something," "Golden Slumbers," and "Octopus's Garden." The event takes place at Pine Manor College, Ellsworth Theater (400 Heath Street, Chestnut Hill) on Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission; \$30 for preferred seating. Discounts are available for groups. Call 617-277-4593 or email tickets@bmsmusic.org, with "Beatles Tickets" in the heading. For more information, visit www.bmsmusic.org.

