

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

**5 May (Wednesday)**  
Special Ed Open Forum with  
Dr. Lupini  
6:30 pm Town Hall, Rm 103

**6 May (Thursday)**  
• Japanese Fun Fair  
2:20 pm, main lobby  
• Supporting Boys and Learning  
Speaker  
6:30 pm auditorium

**7 May (Friday)**  
School Council nomination  
statements due  
2:30 pm office

**10 May (Monday)**  
Incoming Gr. 6 Parents  
Meeting  
6–7 pm auditorium

**11 May (Tuesday)**  
PTO Meeting  
7 pm library

**19 May (Wednesday)**  
• Staff Appreciation Luncheon  
• Grade 2–4 play  
9 am and 6 pm, auditorium

**20 May (Thursday)**  
Principal's Forum  
8 am library

**26 May (Wednesday)**  
Gr. 5–6 Track Meet

**28 May (Friday)**  
Gr. 7–8 Track Meet

**31 May (Monday)**  
NO SCHOOL  
*Memorial Day*

**1 June (Tuesday)**  
• School Council Meeting  
8 am, 2nd floor conf room  
• PTO Book Fair  
• Town-wide Chorus/Orchestra  
7 pm, Pine Manor

## Moving to the Third Floor at Lawrence

**S**ixth grade marks a transition year in the PK–8 continuum at Lawrence. Students move to the third floor and go from a self-contained classroom with one primary teacher to having different teachers for some subjects. Report cards with letter grades also begin.

We invite current fifth grade parents to an informational meeting on Monday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium to meet the sixth grade team and to learn more about the sixth grade program, curriculum, and expectations.

As we continue our work to develop a more cohesive middle school program within the context of a PK–8 school, we will be making some adjustments to our program and organization next year that will also help us address our enrollment growth as our last two-section grade graduates. Next year, we will have three sections each in grades 6, 7 and 8.

Students in sixth grade will continue to have a primary homeroom teacher who will be a parent's first point of contact. Sixth graders will have at least two periods each day with their homeroom teacher.

Students in all three grades 6–8 will participate in Homeroom/Advisory three times a week, which will provide time to work on building community, social skills and readiness for learning. Thanks to a BEF grant obtained by Monica Crowley, teachers will participate in training and planning work this summer in a program called Developmental Designs to support this work. This program is especially geared to meet the needs of young adolescents. This model will replace the advisory program conducted on Friday afternoons this year.

For the past two years, sixth grade students have rotated among three teachers for Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies and then remained with one of these three teachers for English Language Arts. Next year, students will continue to rotate, but we will add a fourth teacher who will teach English Language Arts to all three classes. We believe this change will strengthen our English curriculum.

Meanwhile, the sixth grade teachers who teach Math, Science, and Social Studies will each teach one section of seventh grade in their content area. This will enable us to have current Lawrence teachers teach all six sections in grades 7/8, rather than hire part-time teachers to pick up one class. (A full-time 7/8 teacher's load is 5 classes).

Current sixth grade parents will receive a more detailed letter explaining these changes next week. Current sixth grade parents who have questions about how these changes affect seventh grade are encouraged to attend the next Principal's Forum on Thursday, May 20 at 8:00 a.m.

## School Council Parent Representatives

**L**awrence School has three open seats for a two-year term as School Council parent representatives next year. Nomination statements are due by May 7 at 2:30 p.m.—forms are in the office and should be left in the School Council election envelope in the PTO mailbox—and all candidates will be invited to speak at the May 11 PTO meeting. Elections will take place the week of May 17. If you have questions about serving on school council, please feel free to contact one of the current parent representatives (**Kelly Hardebeck, Stephanie Leung, Joanna Lieberman, Kate Shea and Kate Silbaugh**), Vice Principal Monica Crowley or me for more information. —Rick Rogers



## Arts and Sports

### Summer Art with Amy Solomon

Amy Solomon, Lawrence after school art teacher, is offering full week art camps July and August. This is for all who love to paint, draw, sculpt, and collage. For more info, call 617-566-2667 or email [solomonamy@yahoo.com](mailto:solomonamy@yahoo.com)

### Let Us Entertain You

Artbarn Community Theater's 7th and 8th Grade Rafters Company presents *Starmites*, a youthful, high-energy fantasy wherein humans and heroes battle the sinister inhabitants of Innerspace and discover friendship, loyalty, inner strength, and a great doo-wop beat along the way. Shows are Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Maliotis Center at Hellenic College. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, call 617-975-0050 or email [info@artbarn.org](mailto:info@artbarn.org).

PALS Children's Chorus announces its Spring Musicals. On Thursday, May 6, the younger performers of Circle PALS will present "Save Our Animals, A through Z." Half of the proceeds from the show will benefit Endangered Species International. On May 13, 14, 15, Junior PALS will perform "The Pajama Game." And on June 3, 4, 5 join Senior PALS for "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." All shows are at 7 p.m. at the Lincoln School. Tickets (\$5/children and \$10/adults) are available at the door or by calling 617-835-2242.

## CORRECTION: April PTO Meeting Notes

**Principal's Update—Please note a correction to the PTO Meeting Notes published on page 2 of the April 27 PTO Paper:**

Kindergarten teacher Nao Rosenberg is NOT retiring. As was reported by Rick Rogers at the PTO meeting, a long-term substitute has been hired to cover Nao's medical leave of absence from April 28 through the end of the school year. Nao happily intends to return to Lawrence in September. We wish her a speedy recovery!

*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.*

## Help Improve Special Ed

If you have a question or comment, or ideas to improve special education in Brookline, let Superintendent Lupini know at his annual Special Education Parent Open Forum on Wednesday, May 5, 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Brookline Town Hall, Room 103. Come discuss what's working now and what areas need further consideration, development, and funding to ensure every child reaches their full academic and personal potential. Dr. Lupini is listening—show up, speak up, and be heard!



## Understanding Boys

On May 6 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Lawrence auditorium the author Dr. Anthony Rao, Ph.D., a nationally recognized psychologist with more than 20 years experience, will be speaking about "Boys and the Elementary years." The event, sponsored by Lawrence's Supporting Boys and Learning Parent Group, is free and open to the public. Come hear Dr. Rao share his experience helping families to support boys to succeed at home and school. He'll discuss how to handle healthy aggressive play, shyness, struggles in social groups, and the importance of channeling high activity levels. There will be a Q&A period, so bring your questions!

*Dear Incoming Sixth Grade Parents,*

*There will be a parent evening on Monday, May 10, 2010 from 6–7 p.m. for those who have children entering sixth grade in the fall. The teachers, Mr. Rogers, and I will host a discussion in the auditorium to discuss the transition to middle school. We hope you can make it to learn strategies to help your children prepare for the move to the third floor.*

*Sincerely, Monica Crowley, Vice Principal*

## Here Comes the Fun

Mark your calendars! The annual Japanese Fun Fair will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2:20 p.m., at the school's main entrance. (If it rains, we will announce different place.) You can buy popular rice balls, fancy Japanese goods, and more. You can also enjoy a Japanese-style ball-picking game. All students and parents are welcome! Proceeds will help Lawrence PTO activities. For more information, please contact Maiko Nosho ([maikonosho@dream.com](mailto:maikonosho@dream.com)), Yuki Seto, or Hiroko Wakai.



## Celebrating Teachers!

Please join in celebrating the talent, enthusiasm, and creativity that Brookline's educators bring to our schools each day, by attending the Brookline Education Foundation's "Celebrating Teachers" event at 3:30 p.m. on May 18, 2010 at the Newbury College Student Center. The highlight of the event will be the introduction of the Caverly Award winners for outstanding teachers in Brookline. It's a great opportunity to show your appreciation for our inspiring and dedicated teachers. For more information, see [www.brooklineeducation.org](http://www.brooklineeducation.org).