

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

### 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](mailto:mlmarcus@mindspring.com)

### 8 May (Friday)

Parents/Staff Night Out  
7–10 pm at school

### 11 May (Monday)

MCAS testing period begins for  
Gr 3–8

### 12 May (Tuesday)

- School Council Meeting  
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- “Carnival of the Animals”  
Kindergarten presentation  
8:30 am (families and community  
friends invited!)

### 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

### 2 June (Tuesday)

- PTO Book Fair
- Town-wide Spring 7/8  
Band Concert  
7 pm Pine Manor

## PTO Grants: Your Gift Giving Back



**D**o you remember getting the phone call back in December asking you to support the Lawrence School PTO? Well, thanks to your continued generosity, the PTO is able to enrich our school in many different ways. One example is the PTO Grants program. Twice a year (fall and spring), teachers have the opportunity to apply for mini-grants. The PTO recently awarded its spring cycle of grants. Projects funded included:

- **Earth Science:** Provide stream tables and related materials to enrich and extend the Earth Science unit in grades 7 and 8. (*Ryan Keser*)
- **“Moon” Sand for Kindergarten:** Special sand that is more hygienic and never dries for use in the sand tables in the classroom. (*Nora Carpenter, Dominique Ferdinand & Nao Rosenberg*)
- **Books on CD for Listening Centers in First Grade.** (*Suzanne Coyne, Kris Frye, Joanna Lampert*)
- **Literacy Center:** Expand collection of multiple copies of trade books used in our literacy program, with an emphasis on more math-related topics, as well as other non-fiction and multicultural books. (*Anu Advani, Rusty Browder, Kathy Lynch, Dianne Muendel & Pam Tully*)
- **Fourth Grade Classroom Libraries:** Expand the non-fiction offerings in classroom libraries given next year's increase in the number of fourth grade classes. (*Justin Brown, Karla Cunha-Cardoso, & Leanne Dellibovi*)

## Japanese Fun Fair, May 6



*The annual Japanese Fun Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2:20–3:30 p.m., in the school lobby. You can buy ever-popular rice-balls, origami crafts, Mother's Day gifts, and more. You can also enjoy a Japanese ball-picking game. Proceeds will help fund Lawrence PTO activities. For more information, please contact Rieko Nozawa or Satomi Takahashi.*

In addition, this year the PTO generously supported several special projects separate from the grant program, including:

- **Video Flip Minos for videotaping school activities.**
- **Portable sound system with wireless microphone for use at Lawrence Community Meeting and outdoor school events.**
- **Professional Learning Communities:** This project will enable the faculty to explore recent research on “PLCs” and support our work to cultivate a culture of reflective practice focused on student learning. Teachers will engage in a shared reading of a new book, “The Collaborative Teacher.”

The faculty and I are grateful for the generous support provided by Lawrence parents. Thank you.

*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/> \*

## Next Council Rep Decided

Joanna Lieberman was the only candidate to step forward for parent representative on the School Council, so no election will be necessary. Thanks very much to Joanna for volunteering to help in this important advisory role for our school. Here's what Joanna wrote in her statement of candidacy:

I am the parent of twin boys in the second grade. My professional background is in public education. Before moving to Brookline, I worked for eight years as a teacher and an instructional coach in New York City. I taught elementary, middle and high school there, and I had the privilege of helping to start a small alternative school. As a founding faculty member, I was able to contribute to the vision and the design of the school. I participated in shaping both the academic program and the culture of the school. I feel I understand the many complexities that make a school "hum," and I would be thrilled to contribute to that conversation at Lawrence—this time from the parent perspective.

To guide my work on the School Council, I would like to focus on Mr. Rogers' framing question: "What kind of a school do we want this school to be and how do we get there?" I am particularly interested in working with the Council to define, articulate and communicate a clear vision statement for Lawrence that reflects the values of its community members. I believe that carefully crafted vision statements can offer great focus for moving a school forward.

I also care deeply about equity issues in our schools. In my current work as a literacy coach in a nearby district, I am responsible for writing and implementing school improvement plans that address the literacy needs of all learners. I would be excited to work with other Council members on Lawrence's school improvement plan to explore more deeply how our community can best meet the needs of all its students.

*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.*

## Around Brookline

### Spotlight on Youth Doing Good Work

It's time once again for the Brookline Youth Awards! The Human Relations–Youth Resources Commission, with the cooperation of the Rotary Club of Brookline, will present awards to youths 18 years of age and under, whose volunteer activities, especially volunteer leadership activities, have made our community a better place. Please take a moment to submit your nominations for the 2009 Human Relations–Youth Resources Commission Youth Awards. All nominations will be recognized. To request a nomination form, e-mail Steve Bressler at [steve\\_bressler@town.brookline.ma.us](mailto:steve_bressler@town.brookline.ma.us) or call 617-730-2330. The deadline for nominations has been extended to May 13.

### Artists Needed

Historic First Parish invites all area artists—professional and amateur alike—to be part of the upcoming *Art For The Planet*. This festive community exhibit/party on June 6 will raise funds to support First Parish's commitment to "go green." In the fun spirit of an old-fashioned Yankee Swap, everyone who attends will have the opportunity to go home with one of the art works, which will be awarded by lottery. Donated pieces of art, reflecting your connection to our planet, should be no larger than 6 x 8 inches in size in any two-dimensional medium and be signed on the back. Contributing artists admitted to the June 6 party FREE! Call Nick Peterson at 617-232-2004 for more information. Deadline for drop off at First Parish, 382 Walnut St., is May 17.



## Arts & Sports

### Brookline High School's Spring Music Festival

One of Brookline High School's liveliest musical traditions, the Spring Music Festival, brings together, for two nights, all the school's faculty-instructed music ensembles: Concert Choir, A cappella Choir, Camerata, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra. Each night features a different program, with music ranging from classical favorites to today's hits. May 7 and 8, 7:30 p.m., Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium. Tickets \$5 (good for both nights). Elementary students get in FREE.



### Discounted Tickets to *Elmer* for Brookline Families

The Piti Theatre Company is offering half-priced tickets to BPS families for *Elmer and the Elder Tree*, a clown-dance-theatre nature fable for all ages, which runs May 1–17, at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Avenue. Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Sat. at 2:00 p.m., Sun. at 2:00 p.m. Purchase first or second weekend tickets online (<http://ptco.org/next.html>) or by phone (866-811-4111) with the promo code TREE and they're half off.



## Meetings for Parents

### *Treating Explosive Kids* Author to Speak

Dr. Stuart Ablon, co-author of *Treating Explosive Kids, the Collaborative, Problem-Solving Approach* and Beth Edelstein, OT/L, bring expertise from their Think:Kids program at MGH to present *Through a Developmental Lens: A New Approach for Understanding and Helping the Child with Behavioral Challenges*. Learn about an innovative, collaborative approach to helping children with challenging behavior develop the skills they need to solve problems, handle frustration and be flexible. Monday, May 18, 7:00–9:00 p.m., Heath School Auditorium, 100 Eliot Street. Approved for teacher professional development credit. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Education Foundation and Brookline Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC).