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# PTO PAPER

A newsletter

May 25, 2010

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

### 25 May (Tuesday)

Gr. 7 Academic Exhibitions  
Gr. 8 Specialists Exhibitions  
8 am, 3rd floor classrooms

### 26 May (Wednesday)

Gr. 5–6 Track Meet

### 27 May (Thursday)

- Gr. 4 Chorus
- Gr. 4–5 Band
- 6:30 pm auditorium
- Supporting Boys and Learning group
- 8 pm library

### 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 Fairs
- New: 7:45 am–7 pm library
- Used: 7:45 am–3:30 pm lobby
- Town-wide Chorus/  
Orchestra
- 7 pm, Pine Manor

### 2 June (Wednesday)

- Gr. 8 Academic Exhibitions
- Gr. 7 Specialists Exhibitions
- 8 am, 3rd floor classrooms
- PTO Book Fairs
- New: 7:45 am–7 pm library
- Used: 7:45 am–3:30 pm lobby
- Town-wide 7/8 Band/Jazz Band
- 7 pm, Pine Manor

## Brookline Education Foundation Grant Recipients

Principal's



Corner

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the annual "Celebrating Teachers" event sponsored by the Brookline Education Foundation. The BEF says this event is intended as "*a special opportunity to celebrate the talent, enthusiasm, and dedication that Brookline's educators bring to our schools each day.*" Lawrence School had several faculty members who were recognized as grant recipients. We are grateful for the support of professional learning that the BEF provides. The BEF plays a key role in strengthening our core value of excellence in teaching by "*supporting a professional community that creates and sustains an atmosphere of intellectual excitement, innovative instruction and personal growth.*"



—Rick Rogers

### Teacher Grants

**Rusty True Browder (Librarian)** *Uncovering Primary Services in Children's Book Illustrations.* Rusty will visit three landmark collections to research original art and manuscripts of children's books. She intends to develop illustrator kits or teaching guides on diverse illustrators, their art, and their creative processes. The kits will guide children in discovering the craft of writing/illustrating.

**Kate Goldring (P.E. and Gr. 8 Health)** *Yoga K–8 Instructor Certification.* Kate works in three schools and will receive training and be certified to teach yoga to elementary school students. She hopes to use yoga to help students achieve physical, mental, emotional and social fitness.

**Ryan Keser & Greg Porter (Gr. 7/8 Science and Gr. 5)** *National Science Teachers Association Conference.* Ryan and Greg are part of state grant to develop K–8 engineering curriculum and technology integrations. They will attend this national conference in search of methods to more effectively teach engineering and technology.



### Collaborative Grants

#### *Developmental Designs for Middle School*

Monica Crowley leads this grant with our 6/7/8 teachers. A team of teachers (**Kirsten Alper, Pam Charpentier, Charles Deily, Maxine Hunter and Margaret Randall**) will attend a week-long summer workshop on Developmental Designs, an approach that provides practical strategies for creating classroom communities in which each student is engaged in learning and has a sense of belonging and safety. Following the workshop, the team will work with seven other teachers to develop plans for our restructured advisory program.



### System-wide Grants

#### *Public Private Partnership with Landmark School*

This system-wide grant (year two of a three-year grant) will support part of our continued work with the Landmark School Outreach Program. The partnership provides opportunities for general and special educators to learn from and apply Landmark's expertise in the classroom. In year three, the program will be extended to other Brookline schools.



Don't miss the last PTO meeting of the school year! Join us in the library on June 8 at 8:00 a.m. We'll have coffee, do some voting and planning for next year, and get a formal update from Rick Rogers. Hope to see you there!

## Library Notes: Book Sales Next Week!



Lawrence School families have a wonderful opportunity to support the PTO and select enjoyable summer reading at our upcoming book sales! Book sales will happen during the first week of June in two places: used books will be sold in the front hall and new books, provided by Scholastic Book Fairs, will be featured in the library, with all proceeds benefiting the PTO. Please see the calendar for sale days and times. All Lawrence students are scheduled to come through the fair with their classes; we encourage parents to visit at any time and hope you will note the extended hours on Tuesday and Wednesday.

We are especially pleased to offer the book fair at this time of year as a kickoff for summer reading. All students will soon receive Brookline Public Schools' Summer Reading Lists, which are compiled by Brookline's school librarians and are full of suggestions for summer reading fun. We expect many titles on the reading list to be featured at the fair.

Why do we talk so much about summer reading? It's a fact that young people's reading interests and skills flourish when they read



regularly, and they are sustained over summer vacation when reading takes place. Reading-related activities can be woven into family life all summer by sharing

reading experiences (perhaps a classic book or finding funny articles in the local newspaper), talking about words, telling original stories, keeping a family journal perhaps . . . So start your summer reading library with a visit to the book fair!

—Rusty Browder

### Save the Date!

The PTO will host a "Thank You Celebration" for retiring/departing teachers and staff before the Spring Picnic on June 10. Come and help us express our appreciation to Carol Macey, Jeannie Chin, Chris Thompson and Ginger Watkins. We'll gather in the library from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

## Picnic Time Approaches!



Just off your picnic baskets—the Lawrence Spring Picnic is almost here! Come play, eat and socialize on June 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The famous cake walk will start promptly at 6:15. Don't forget to bake or buy a cake to donate; the more cakes we have, the longer the cake walk can go, and the longer your children can have fun! There will also be pizza from Papa Gino's, sandwiches from Sandwich Works and homemade rice balls available for purchase.

This year, we hope to designate a special meeting place for each grade to make it easier to find your friends. If you can volunteer to be the "meeting place family" (you'll just need to bring a blanket and sign), please contact Nancy Gerber [nancy@rcn.com](mailto:nancy@rcn.com). Can't wait to see everyone! (Rain date is Tuesday, 6/15.)



## Pinhole Photography Workshop



The PTO was pleased to be able to support the fabulous 5th grade pinhole photography workshop again this year. In conjunction with the optics curriculum, students turned oatmeal containers into functioning cameras, and came up with some surprising and beautiful images. As usual, the students approached this project with a spirit of experimentation, and were amazed to see how their images appeared in the darkroom. We are grateful to former Lawrence parents David Leifer and Anne Pfaff for keeping this project going! For more information or to get involved with the Visual Arts Council next year, contact Christy Gordon [crgordon@vzvenue.net](mailto:crgordon@vzvenue.net).