

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 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 & Used Book Sale
 - Town-wide Spring 7/8 Band Concert 7 pm Pine Manor
- 3 June (Wednesday)**
 - PTO Book Fair & Used Book Sale
 - [• PTO meeting 7 pm library]
- 4 June (Thursday)**
PTO Book Fair & Used Book Sale
- 4-5 June (Thu-Fri)**
8th Grade New York City Trip
- 8 June (Monday)**
Spring Picnic
- 9 June (Tuesday)**
 - School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 11 June (Thursday)**
(Spring Picnic RAIN DATE)
- 12 June (Friday)**
Carnival/School Spirit Day
- 16 June (Tuesday)**
Celebration for Departing Staff 5-6:30 pm Library
- 17 June (Wednesday)**
8th Grade Graduation
6 pm Auditorium

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.

Used Book Sale Needs You

The Book Fair and Used Book Sale are joining up at Lawrence the first week of June!! We are looking for more volunteers to sell books at the Used Book Fair on June 2 (Tuesday) and June 3 (Wednesday) from 7:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. We will have lots of fun together, kids, teachers and parents will get books, and the PTO will get much needed funds! Please contact *Valerie Stone* at vhstone@comcast.net or 617-731-6832 to volunteer.

Last call for all those no-longer-treasured books gathering dust on your bookshelves!

The Used Book Sale is fast approaching and we need your donations. We appreciate your being selective: children's and young adult books are especially welcome, as are adult books with wide general appeal e.g. (please no outdated technical manuals). Donations should be left outside the main office. Questions? Contact *K.C. Turnbull* at bergbull@yahoo.com.



Last PTO Meeting & School Improvement Presentation

Wednesday June 3 at 7 p.m. in the Library will be the last PTO meeting of the year. We will vote on next year's budget and PTO Board members. In addition, *Rick Rogers* and the School Council will be presenting the School Improvement Plan. Child care provided, as usual!

LEDP Walk-A-Thon

LEDP will be holding it's annual WALK-ATHON on Wednesday, May 27 this year to benefit One Home, Many Hopes, an orphanage in Africa that we have been supporting this year. Please feel free to cheer our walkers and join in the bake sale and raffle prizes! If you would like to donate to our cause, please see *Mary Gardiner*, LEDP Director or *Kelley Cabral*, LEDP Assistant Director at 617-879-4379; elawrence@brookline.k12.ma.us.

Grade 7 Families: Sign Up Please

If you have not sent your graduation reception response back to *Lakisha Scott* (*Nicholas Scott's* Mom), please remember to contact her as soon as possible at 617-505-6053 to say how you can participate in this year's graduation reception. Thank you!

Staff Farewells June 16

Please NOTE the new date for our staff farewell party, featuring a special tribute to *Mary Sodano* and *Kathy Lynch*, is Tuesday, June 16 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Library. If you can help with plans or volunteer on that day, please contact: *Vicki Skoler* vicskol@yahoo.com or *Melanie Marcus* mlmarcus@mindspring.com.



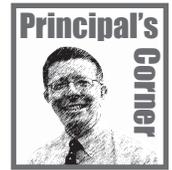
Thanks, Thanks, and Thanks

Thank you to *Kim Swartz* and *Laura Ziouani* for producing the wonderful staff appreciation lunch last week. It was a fabulous feast.

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

To download a copy of this newsletter go to www.lawrencePTO.weebly.com

Brookline Education Foundation Grants



Part of what drew me to return to work in Brookline is a strong professional learning culture. Brookline is an intellectually stimulating place to work and provides many opportunities for renewal and continued growth. When I was a teacher in Brookline in the late 1980's, the Brookline Education Foundation was in its early years. I remember how appreciative teachers were for the professional learning opportunities that the BEF made possible. Twenty years later, this feeling is very much alive – and strengthened because the work of the BEF is closely woven into the tapestry of the Public Schools of Brookline.

Last week, at the annual "Celebrating Teachers" event, the BEF announced this year's grant recipients. Each year, Lawrence School teachers are able to step outside the classroom to attend a seminar, collaborate with other educators, become immersed in another culture, or otherwise develop their professional skills. When they return to the classroom, your children reap the benefits of their renewed enthusiasm and refined expertise.

The following Lawrence educators have received Foundation grants for the 2009-10 school year:

JUSTIN BROWN, LESLIE FAGEN, and DANIELLE PAFUNDI KENT will attend a summer conference on Differentiated Instruction. They will share what they learn and work collaboratively throughout the school year with KARLA CUNHA-CARDOSO, GREG PORTER, JON WEINBERGER, and JILL PULEO DEMSEY to expand the group's expertise in meeting the needs of all students.

LEANNE DELLIBOVI will explore best practices in literacy instruction and effective techniques for curriculum development and planning at the Summer Writing Institute of Teachers College at Columbia University.

TAM JOHNSON, LESLIE FAGEN and other members of the Brookline Enrichment and Challenge Support team will attend a Learning and the Brain conference as part of their effort to better understand high achieving students who may think and learn in unique ways.

DANIELLE PAFUNDI KENT and MARIE LEMAN will

collaborate with 23 other Brookline teachers to apply Schools Attuned theory in their classrooms. Schools Attuned is an innovative method for recognizing, understanding, and managing students with learning differences.

MARIE LEMAN will learn to use the Understanding by Design approach to teaching science to help students achieve deep, enduring understanding of key skills and concepts. RYAN KESER, who participated in the first year of this grant, will assist in training others in this method.

Special educator DANIELLE PAFUNDI KENT and other teacher supervisors in the Brookline-Lesley Internship Program will focus on enhancing their mentoring capabilities through collaboration and sharing of best practices in inclusive classrooms.

ALICIA HSU and approximately 25 Brookline educators will participate in a literature study group focusing on Asian American stories and authors in order to better understand issues relevant to the experiences of Asian American students. This grant received the Adam Russell Gelfand Award.

In addition, Lawrence School educators will be given the opportunity to participate in the following SYSTEMWIDE INITIATIVES also funded by the Foundation:

- Summer institutes to learn new content areas in Social Studies
- Training in instructional processes and assessments to support inclusion
- Annual Principals Retreat
- Mentoring for second and third year teachers
- Training in Understanding by Design methodology for Science teachers
- Development and access to a K-12 Social Studies interactive website

On behalf of the Lawrence faculty, I would like to thank the Brookline Education Foundation, as well as the parents and community members who support them, for their continued support.

—Rick Rogers, Principal

Evaluation of the Superintendent

As part of its annual evaluation of the Superintendent, the Brookline School Committee invites comments from the community on the Superintendent's performance. The Committee uses this information as one important aspect of the overall evaluation. A feedback form for this purpose is available

at all schools and on the School Website: <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/>. Community feedback remains confidential and is presented to the Superintendent only in aggregated, anonymous form. Please submit completed forms no later than June 15.

Psst...Newsletter Jobs Are Easy and Fun!

Looking for a way to get involved at school but don't have a lot of time? The PTO PAPER is for you! Because the PTO Paper is produced by teams of parents, each volunteer works only one newsletter per month. Good with layout? Join the Graphics Team and make the newsletter look good! Have a knack for writing? Join the Writing Team and turn the notes and announcements into pithy copy and catchy headlines! Want

to meet the staff? Join the Distribution Team and put the newsletter into teachers' mailboxes so they can get it to students. Want to hear more? Contact one of our 24/7 Coordinators (ok, not everyone gets to take 3 weeks off each month): Louise Van Aarsen-Koopman (louise.vanaarsen@gmail.com) or Kelly Hardebeck (Kelly@hardebeck.us).

