

THE

PTO PAPER

June 16, 2009

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 16 June (Tuesday)**
Teacher Retirement Party
5pm library
- 17 June (Wednesday)**
8th grade graduation
6pm auditorium
(music 5pm)
- 19 June (Friday)**
Field Day
- 24 June (Monday)**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Dismissal at noon

Principal's Corner: First Year Thank You

On a beautiful evening in June, the school community gathered for the annual Spring Picnic. Parents sat on blankets or stood chatting happily while the kids lined up for the Cake Walk or played on the field. SET-J sold delicious rice balls. METCO set up a table to help families meet as part of a new program to connect Boston and Brookline families. As I stood near the Circle Garden taking it all in, it hit me that my first year was coming to close. It feels very good to be part of the Lawrence School community.

I would like to pause and thank a few key people who have been particularly helpful to me in this first year. There are so many people who contribute to making Lawrence such a vibrant community, I couldn't begin to list them all. I begin with **the entire PTO**—an amazing organization that sponsors the many family events that strengthen the sense of community in our school, provides financial and program support, and convenes meetings and forums on topics of interest to parents. In particular, I would like to thank **PTO Co-Presidents Amy Luster and Kate Shea** for their guidance and support in navigating the culture of Lawrence. Beginning last July, we have met regularly,

exchanged countless emails, and touched base in the lobby. And they come to EVERYTHING—PTO meetings, principal's forums, and all the events! Thank you also to **Kelly Hardebeck, Louise van Aarsen and the entire Newsletter Team** for producing the *PTO Paper* every week. It's a vital link between home and school.

Thank you to **School Council parent members Sarah Axelrod, Kelly Hardebeck, Stephanie Leung, Kate Shea (PTO), Kate Silbaugh and Laura Walters (Community)**, who have met monthly all year to advise and work on school improvement goals. Their supportive questioning has challenged our Council to develop a strong plan for continuous improvement.

On the staff, I am grateful to **Secretary Maureen Lynch** for her tireless work in the office. She is helpful and responsive to a myriad of requests from children, staff and parents. She has been an invaluable help to me each and every day. I also appreciate **Guidance Counselors Carol Macey and Shaina Martinez**, whose strong relationships with students and families and detailed knowledge of our students' development are a tremendous resource for the school—and for me. Thank you to **School Nurse Karen Miller**, who plays an active role in supporting children in crisis and who has been an excellent source of Lawrence history (not to mention helping me find a route to shorten my long commute home). I appreciate **Vice Principal Monica Crowley**, who began at Lawrence with me. I have learned a great deal from her about working with early adolescents. I have appreciated her upbeat presence, her careful listening and her willingness to share the load. We have formed a close partnership as a leadership team. Finally, thank you to the entire **Lawrence Faculty**. I am struck every day by what a talented, dedicated and caring group of teachers work here.

Thank you for a wonderful first year at Lawrence! I look forward to many more. Best wishes for a safe and satisfying summer.

—Rick Rogers, Principal

P. S. Some Loose Ends

Spring Picnic Addendum: An aspect of the picnic I did not enjoy was the roving group of students with super soakers, which detracted from the family atmosphere and resulted in a trail of water and mud around water fountains and restrooms throughout the school as students refilled their water supply. I will ask that these be left home next year.

Changes in Number of Classes: No final decision has been made on adding a fourth kindergarten and/or reducing next year's fourth grade from four sections to three. Should anything change before school ends, I will send home a letter. I will rely on email should changes occur during the summer.

Class Assignments will be mailed by mid-July. If you have questions or concerns, I will be the primary contact during the summer.

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

* to download a copy of this newsletter visit <http://lawrencePTO.weebly.com/> *

Book Fair Bliss

Hooray for a great book fair! Thanks to all the people who helped make the new book fair such a fun and successful event. Thanks especially to Rusty Browder and Kathy Lynch for all their expertise, experience and support, Amy Luster, Carol Rosenstock, Paul Kirby, and all the dedicated parent volunteers who gave their time and support and strength: Mai, Satomi, Sohgra, Uta, Miki, Sonoka, Tina, Joan, Pamela, Barb, Lisa and Ryoko. Also, thanks to the used book fair leaders, KC Turnbull and Valerie Stone, for a successful first time coordination of the used and new book fairs!

—*Jamie Lee and Carie Leung*

Community Exchange

LOST: a small, floral, Hannah Andersson jacket with the initials SSG on the inside tag. Also looking for a child's brown sweat jacket with a fleece lining. If found please return to the principal's office, Sara Scanlon's BEEP classroom, or email AAGESQ@comcast.net.

Picnic Heaven

What a wonderful evening! Last Monday the sun shone, the kids danced around the Cake Walk, and families and friends took a break from their hectic schedules to toast the end of another school year. Lots of pizza and rice balls were consumed, and we hope a good time was had by all at the Lawrence Spring Picnic. Thanks to everyone who brought a cake; to METCO, SET-J, the Used Book Sale and Ms. Hsu's third grade class; and special thanks to all the volunteers who made the night go so smoothly: Donna Rubenoff, Jen Barrett, Tina Manuel, Pamela Iguchi, Judith Wine, Aliza Dash, Sydney Fuller-Jones, Amos Jones, Sara Egan, Kelly Hardebeck, Ellen Meara, Jan Nagler, Martha Lowry, Stephanie Ruty, Rui Albuquerque, Melanie Marcus, Yvette Yelardy, Chris Leonard, Alex Borns-Weil, Peter Rhodes, Linda Louie, Terry Sass, Lisa Viola, Carol Rosenstock, Jen Mahoney, Phil St. Pierre, Michael Mosbrooker and Elizabeth Lee. Extra special thanks to Dan Bowden for the many years of music making, and congratulations to the EPs (August Ramos, Jonathan Eber, Ben Fletcher, Michael Salmikov, and their roadie, Barton Ramos) on your graduation.

—*Nancy Gerber and Sam Whyte*

Field Day This Friday

Due to last Friday's bad weather, Field Day will take place this Friday, June 19. Please note that times have been changed due to a Gr. 2 concert scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Eighth graders who would like to come and help will be most welcome! New Schedule:
8:30–10:00, Gr. 3–5
10:30–11:30, Gr. K–2
12:00–1:30, Gr. 6–7
1:30 School-wide gathering for popsicles

Arigato from SET-J

Thanks to all who stopped by the SET-J (Sending Educators To Japan program) table at the Spring Picnic. We raised \$184, which will support the PTO. We are now in the process of planning Mr. Porter's trip to Japan in the fall. Your suggestions are welcome! For more information, please contact setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp.

Last Chance for Lost and Found!

Please remember to check the Lost and Found, in the cubbies across from the cafeteria, before the end of school. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Lawrence
congratulates
our class of
2009.
Good luck at
BHS!



Jancarlos Aguasvivas Lacen
Ramesses Abeja Akamefula
Emma Aneshansley
Francesca Bass
Chloe Bowden
Aden Brown
Cody James Casey
Daniel Caso

Nicole Chin
Ali Demby
Jonathan Eber
Chloe Fishman
Daniel Fleishman
Benjamin Fletcher
Zev M. Fogelman
Kira Gabridge

Matthew Gilman
Marshall Greene
Julia Grimes
Caitlin Hickey
Kentaro Kaneki
Sakura Kodama
Noah Krawitz
Myles Lafrance

Joon-Yeop Lee
Camille Long
Kimihiko Nakamura
Ashley Olafsson
Avichai Peretz
Samuel Pratt
August Ramos
Kate S. Rhodes

Lance Riley-Ned
Shun Sakai
Mikhail Salmikov
Gabrielle St. Pierre
Katherine Walt
Jonathan L. Yuan

**For Kathy Lynch & Mary Sodano
June 16, 2009**

by Rebecca Stone, on behalf of the Lawrence PTO

Another year draws to a close, the hallway din dies down
Another group of students dons its 8th grade cap and gown.
With whirls of parties and events we hail all that's been learned,
And to the teachers bid a restful break that's certainly well earned.

Amidst this hubbub we must pause to say a special fare thee well
To two whose talents here in rhyme we'll now proceed to spell.

They're friends to parents, warm peers to staff—
of course their names you know!

It's none other than our Kathy Lynch and the winning Ms. Sodano.

Ms. Lynch is found behind a desk, but never has that defined
Her lively talent for picking books or reading Rusty's mind.
She may be one of the only ones who understands the drill
Of marking every single book with barcodes—it's a skill!

The students know she's always there to lend a helping hand
With finding facts or searching the stacks for books on frogs or sand.
We don't know how we'll manage it; we know it won't be fun.
The library will seem half-full when Kathy's year is done.

And up one floor another door will close on a Lawrence idol.
For there Ms. Sodano has always made the fifth grade year so vital.
Egypt's mummies, pharaohs and streets, they come to life each year.
And with the wolves our children learn they needn't live in fear.

There's so much else makes up the tale of Ms. Sodano's class:
The Sea Monster's Rage, E.M.A. prizes, and marbles in a glass.
Ginko leaves, puzzler lines and always an open door;
Her students forever coming back to tell her one thing more.

A school is made of many things, but at its heart is this:
The teachers are the ones who are remembered and most missed.
At Lawrence we've been honored to be tutored by the best,
With Kathy and with Mary S. we certainly were blessed.

So with me now please raise your voice and all together say:
We thank you both and wish you well as you go on your way.

Dear Lawrence Students + Families,

It is with a VERY heavy heart that I write to you. After a great deal of consideration I have decided not to return to Lawrence.

Shortly after Henry's birth, we moved to New Hampshire for a job my husband took to give us more time together as a family. We thought it would just be for one year, but things have fallen into place here and we are enjoying the pace and natural surroundings. We are in a beautiful part of New England and think that Henry will flourish here. I cannot begin to express how very much I will miss the Lawrence community. You have all been so incredibly supportive, appreciative and involved in making the art and myself feel like a valuable and important part of the school. I hope that dedication and energy continues in my absence.

I am so proud to have been a part of the Lawrence family and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Best wishes,

Tessa Carpenter



In addition to saying goodbye to Ms. Lynch, Ms. Sodano and Ms. Carpenter, Lawrence bids farewell to Dianne Greco, Alexandra Leszczynsky, Meghan Merna, Alessia Odell, Edith Pipier, Mito Ueno, and Karen Passe Wolfson. We wish you all the best!

The newsletter team also extends a heartfelt thanks to retiring/graduating team members Rebecca Stone, Karen Aneshansley and Roberta Warshaw. Your contributions through the years have been most sincerely appreciated. We'll miss you!



Lawrence Reads This Summer!

The new, annotated Brookline Public School Summer Reading lists, with a letter to parents, are in the hands of students. The lists are also available online at <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/TEACHING+AND+LEARNING/Libraries/>. They're full of excellent suggestions in different genres to inspire delicious hours of reading for students and families.

Lawrence School strongly encourages students and families to include pleasure reading as a summer activity. It's a fact that young people's reading interests and skills flourish when they read regularly. Good books and audiobooks can be found wherever you may be—public libraries, local bookstores, your own shelves at home, yard sales, trading with friends! Local libraries and bookstores have received copies of our lists and are ready to help.

The Brookline Public Library has two full-fledged 2009 summer reading programs with online reading logs: "Starship Adventure @ Your Library" for young people (K–6) and "Express Yourself @ Your Library" for teens (entering Grades 7 and 8). Information is available at www.brooklinelibrary.org. Other recommended summer reading ideas can be found at <http://www.hbook.com/resources/books/summer.asp>.

We hope Lawrence students will keep a Reading Log of titles and authors to share with their teacher and our library in the fall; we will acknowledge all students who give us a copy of their log. We strongly encourage students to read five or more books this summer, setting their own personal goal for reading.

We also invite students to send us a picture postcard during the summer, letting us know about a good book they are reading or where they read a good book. Postcards should be sent to Lawrence School Library, 27 Francis St., Brookline MA 02446. We will display all postcards when school begins!

Here at Lawrence we have selected a featured book for students entering each grade level, a special invitation to enjoyable reading. We hope students will participate enthusiastically as it will support a common conversation about books in the fall.

Enjoy good books this summer!

- Into K *Bob*, by Tracey Campbell Pearson
- Into 1 *Wemberly Worried*, by Kevin Henkes
- Into 2 *Henry and Mudge in the Green Time*, by Cynthia Rylant
- Into 3 *The Year of the Dog*, by Grace Lin
- Into 4 *The World According to Humphrey*, by Betty G. Birney
- Into 5 *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, by Katharine Paterson
- Into 6 *The Rainbow People*, by Laurence Yep
- Into 7 *Tangerine*, by Edward Bloor
- Into 8 *The Schwa Was Here*, by Neal Shusterman

