

THE

# PTO PAPER

September 16, 2008

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

### 16 September (Tuesday)

- Principal's Forum  
7:45 am—Coffee Served!
- Fall Family Picnic  
6 pm Lawrence Park

### 17 September (Wednesday)

- Magazine Drive begins
- Fall Picnic (RAIN DATE)
- Public Input for School Facilities Master Plan;  
7–9 pm Old Lincoln School

### 22 September (Monday)

- LEDP Gift Wrap Sale begins
- LSA Classes begin
- Eighth Grade Fall Trip  
NOTE NEW DATE

### 23 September (Tuesday)

Grades K–2 Open House  
6:15 pm

### 24 September (Wednesday)

Grades 3–5 Open House  
6:15 pm

### 25 September (Thursday)

Grades 6–8 Open House  
6:15 pm

### 30 September (Tuesday)

NO SCHOOL  
(Day of Low Attendance:  
Rosh Hashana)

### 3 October (Friday)

Magazine Drive ends

### 6 October (Monday)

PTO Meeting 7 pm library

### 8 October (Wednesday)

ECS Parent Coffee 8:15–9 am  
NOTE NEW DATE

### 9 October (Thursday)

NO SCHOOL  
(Day of Low Attendance:  
Yom Kippur)\*

## It's the BIG FALL PICNIC

Welcome everyone, especially new families and staff to Lawrence School this Tuesday evening, September 16 at 6 p.m. We gather in Lawrence Park (rain date Wed., 9/17) to catch up, eat pizza (or bring your own), share stories, learn about SET-J, and meet new friends. Don't miss it! As always, volunteers are needed to keep things running smoothly. If you can help, contact Amy Luster (617-734-6818 or [atluster@rcn.com](mailto:atluster@rcn.com)) or Kate Shea (617-232-2606 or [kdshea@gmail.com](mailto:kdshea@gmail.com)). And don't forget to bring some goodies for the bake sale!



### Reminder: Help Shape the Future of Brookline's Schools

This Wednesday, Sept. 17, there will be a Public Charrette (a discussion of architectural planning) from 7–9 p.m. at Old Lincoln in the Auditorium with MGT of America, the firm conducting the Brookline Public Schools Facilities Master Plan. This is a meeting for the public to share thoughts about what kind of facilities the Public Schools will need over the next 10 years and beyond.

## Community, Belonging, and Safety

As a newcomer to Lawrence School, I can immediately feel and appreciate the strong sense of community that exists for students, families and staff. Students are clearly happy to be here and their connections to the school can unfold and develop over nine years. Also striking is the connection felt by families. Families care deeply about this school and are involved on many levels from caring about and showing interest in their own children's education to volunteering in a classroom or school event to chairing a PTO committee.



I value this bond and would like to support and strengthen it during my tenure here. I also take the safety of your children seriously. To a newcomer, the openness of this school feels unusual for a school in 2008. My question to the community is how to balance the special sense of belonging for families that is such a part of the fabric of Lawrence with keeping a school as safe and secure as possible.

Last year, the school experimented with different approaches to keeping the school secure during the school day. All of the doors were locked were except the front door which remained open.

This year, I chose to unlock the two side doors on the playground side of the school between 7:50–8:10 a.m. because it followed the natural traffic flow of many walking families. So far, this system seems to have worked well. We have also continued to keep the front door unlocked during the school day because of its proximity to the main office.

Beginning this week, I would like to reinstitute a policy for DURING the school day. In order to keep our building safe and to avoid interruptions to instruction, we ask that all parents and visitors sign in at the office if they enter school between 8:10 and 2:20. We ask that you not go directly up to classrooms during the school day. Are you bringing a forgotten lunch or backpack? Come to the office and we will be happy to be sure your child gets it.

I would also ask that parents remain outside or in the lobby until 2:20. When large groups of parents congregate outside a classroom at the end of the day, it can be distracting.

I thank you for your cooperation as we seek to implement an existing school policy more consistently.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Picnic on Tuesday! — Rick Rogers

email your stories by friday 4 p.m. to [newsletter@lawrencePTO.org](mailto:newsletter@lawrencePTO.org)

## Meetings & Resources for Parents

### SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)

Welcome to SEPAC 2008–2009!

We are a volunteer organization and are looking for parents who care about improving special education in Brookline. CO-CHAIRS and Committee Chairs are needed for SEPAC. If you are interested in serving as co-chair please email: [brooklinesepac@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinesepac@gmail.com)

SEPAC holds speaker and administrative meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7–9 p.m. in the Runkle School Library. All parents of children with IEPs are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings. First two meetings are Tues., September 16 and Tues., October 21.

SEPAC Monthly Meetings with Brookline Schools Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Candace McCann, are the 2nd Thursday of every month starting on October 9, 2008. We meet from 8:30–10:30 a.m. to discuss various special education topics. Location: Old Lincoln School (temporary town hall) Room 208.

## Greetings from the Art Room!



I am excited to introduce myself as Ms. Carpenter's long-term substitute for the 2008–2009 school year. I was Ms. Carpenter's student teacher last year. I hold a BFA from The Rhode Island School of Design and recently completed the Teacher Preparation Program at The Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

In the spirit of Brookline's curriculum, I have planned studio-based units with an emphasis on art history and community involvement. Please feel free to contact me via email, phone, or in person.

Sincerely yours,  
Ms. Lynn Plymale



*Thank You to our PTO Meeting child care providers Jane J., Sara L., and India who made it possible for those with younger children to attend our first PTO meeting! Special thanks to parent Owen Edwards who filled in until the girls arrived. Child care is provided free by our older Lawrence students at PTO meetings, so come one, come all! Next Month's Meeting: Monday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m., in the Library.*

## Lawrence PTO 2008 Magazine Drive

It's time to kick off this year's drive! Never ordered through a magazine drive before? It's easy! Get your holidays taken care of early; re-subscribe to your favorite magazines; find great magazines for kids; donate a magazine subscription to your child's classroom; and help us raise money for Lawrence at the same time!

**Starts:** September 17

**Ends:** October 3

Look for the packets in your child's backpack, or for more info, contact:

Jordan Shaughnessy at 617-232-1628;  
[jordanshaughnessy@verizon.com](mailto:jordanshaughnessy@verizon.com)

Jennifer Barrett 617-383-5162;  
[jenniferbarrett@earthlink.net](mailto:jenniferbarrett@earthlink.net)

## Arts & Sports

**Celebrity Series of Boston** provides world-class performances at a low cost to children and families through "Take Your Seat" program. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Arts with our children. Each ticket is just \$10! Order deadline is October 8th!

October 19

**Isabel Bayrakdarian, soprano, with The Manitoba Chamber Orchestra at NEC's Jordan Hall**

November 1

**Tokyo String Quartet at NEC's Jordan Hall**

November 2

**Sweet Honey in the Rock at Symphony Hall**

November 15

**Rob Kapilow's What Makes It Great? with violinists Chee Yun & Jennifer Frautschi and Boston Musica Viva; J.S. Bach's Double Concerto for Two Violins in D minor at NEC's Jordan Hall**

To order, or for more information, contact Lawrence parent Melissa Mills at 617-442-1821 or [millsmelissa@hotmail.com](mailto:millsmelissa@hotmail.com).



## Lawrence Special Activities

*Registration Continues till Wednesday!*



LSA is still accepting registration forms this week, so don't delay. Space is still available in several of the classes, so bring your registration and check into the office this week. Parents will be notified by Friday as to which classes their child is in, room location and what day of the week and time the class will be offered. Classes will begin the week of September 22nd. Questions? Please contact: Joanne Liautaud at [joanneliautaud@hotmail.com](mailto:joanneliautaud@hotmail.com) or 617-232-5690.

**NEW AFTER-SCHOOL CLASS FOR FALL:** This LSA class did not make it into the Catalog. If you are interested in this class, please add it to your registration form and turn it into the office with your check for \$100, made payable to Lawrence Special Activities (LSA) by Wednesday, Sept. 17th.

### Scrapbooking — Monday 2:30–3:30 (Grades 5–8); Room TBA

Learn how to make your own Memory Book that will last forever! Students will create their own scrapbooks centered on a theme (such as my summer vacation, my family, a hobby). Students will use photos, drawings, collages, patterned paper and stickers to decorate each page. The end product will surely be a keeper!

*This class is being offered by Susan Fermin, a Learning Center teacher at Lawrence School. It is her third year working in the Brookline School system. Susan is a Columbia University graduate, and the proud mother of two girls. She enjoys art, photography, reading and of course scrapbooking!*

*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.*