

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

22 September (Tuesday)
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room

23 September (Wednesday)
Grades K–2 Open House
6:15 pm

24 September (Thursday)

- Brookline SEPAC Welcome Breakfast 8 am library
- Grades K–2 Open House 6:15 pm

28 September (Monday)
SCHOOL CLOSED
Day of Low Attendance
(Yom Kippur)

1 October (Thursday)
Grades 3–5 Open House
6:15 pm

6 October (Tuesday)

- School Council Meeting 8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- SET-J Paper Cranes Project 2:20 pm Main Lobby

7 October (Wednesday)
Magazine Drive ends

12 October (Monday)
SCHOOL CLOSED
Columbus Day

13 October (Tuesday)

- LEDP Gift Wrap Sale begins
- School Photo Day
- PTO Meeting 7 pm library

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.

It's Open House Week!

I believe that learning is enhanced by effective communication between home and school. Open House is an important first step in establishing collaboration between teachers and parents. The purpose of Open House is to provide parents and guardians an opportunity to meet their child's teachers, to obtain an overview of the curriculum, and to learn how things work in their child's classrooms. ***Please remember that Open House is not a time for individual parent conferences.***

The schedule for Open Houses:
Wednesday, September 23 — Grades K–2 6:15-7:15 p.m.
Thursday, September 24 — Grades 6–8 6:15-7:45 p.m.* *Note longer time frame
Thursday, October 1 — Grades 3–5 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Parents in K–5 should report to their child's classroom at 6:15 p.m. The evening runs an hour. At this writing, we are finalizing a change in format for grades 6–8. A separate notice will be sent home on Tuesday with details. Plan to be here for a longer time frame—about 90 minutes.

Child Care at Open House

Recently, Lawrence has offered child care at two of the Open Houses (K–2 and 3–5 only). Usage has increased, and last year it was overcrowded in the cafeteria. To ensure a more manageable environment, we are instituting the following changes:

- No children under three, please. The space and group size are not appropriate for toddlers and babies.
- Aides have been assigned to oversee and support the middle school-age babysitters.
- We are increasing the cost to \$5 per child

(\$10 Family Maximum). Proceeds will be used to cover staffing with remaining funds going toward the 7/8 class trips.

We ask that you use this service **only if you need it**. This is intended to help parents who had difficulty arranging child care, not as a fundraiser. If you have other options, please use them.

Morning Hallway Traffic Flow in the First Grade Hallway: Speaking of overcrowding, the first grade hallway continues to be an early-in-the-year traffic congestion issue. To reduce the crowds, I ask families whose children are not in first grade to avoid that hallway and to enter and exit the school by the front door or the side rear door.

Hallways Open at 7:50: A reminder that students are not permitted in hallways before 7:50 a.m. Those arriving between 7:30–7:50 must remain in the lobby or in the cafeteria.

Grade 8 Thompson Island Trip

Last Wednesday, the eighth grade embarked on their fall trip to Thompson Island Upward Bound. Leaving school at 7:00 a.m., they traveled by bus and then ferry to Boston Harbor. Once there, they broke into groups and participated in team-building, problem solving, and adventure exercises. While strong winds closed the high climbing tower, the trip was still rated a big success. Returning to school at 5:00 p.m., students devoured 15 boxes of pizza before heading home. Thanks to chaperones *Kirsten Alper, Monica Crowley, Kate Goldring, Jon Greiner, and Andrew McCorkle.*

—Rick Rogers, Principal



A Sweet Success for Family Connections

The METCO Family Connections Program would like to thank the whole of the Lawrence community for their support of the first Fall Picnic Family Connections Bake Sale. It was a huge (and sweet!) success that could not have happened without the help of everyone who pitched in. A round of applause for all!

Also, on the afternoon of the picnic the METCO Family Connections Program hosted its first productive playdate session. All of the children in attendance had a great time with the families that they've been paired with. Family Connections, which began during the spring of 2009, is a wonderful collaboration that seeks to build connections between METCO families and the Lawrence community and develop supportive partnerships between families to enable greater participation in School/PTO events.

If you're interested in being paired with a family or have other questions or concerns about the program, please contact Sydney Fuller Jones (Sydney.Fuller-Jones@state.ma.us or 617-680-4588), Gina Edge (eye911@hotmail.com or 617-892-5383), or Cira Bagwell Cira (Bagwell@brookline.k12.ma.us). We look forward to a very engaging year of making connections!

Volleyball, Cross Country, and Morning Fun with Mr. D

Extramural Co-ed Volleyball (Grades 7-8) starts TODAY, Tuesday, September 22. Regular season practices will be held on Tuesday and games on Wednesday. Interested participants should see Mr. M for more details.

Cross Country (Grades 5-8) will be starting up this Thursday, September 24, after school at 2:30-3:30 p.m. The first meet will be held on Thursday, October 15. Please check out the P.E. board (in front of the big gm) for a full schedule.

"Fun with Mr. D" starts TODAY, Tuesday September 22, as well. Mr. D will be hosting morning activities in the big gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00-7:50 a.m. for grades 3-8.



Your PTO Paper Team

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A Thousand Thanks and a Thousand Cranes



Thank you to all in the Lawrence community who stopped by the SET-J (Sending Educators To Japan program) table at the fall picnic. We raised \$321.50 to help fund Mr. Porter's SET-J trip this November 12-22.

Next month SET-J will oversee the annual thousand paper crane project in the school lobby between 2:20 and 3:20 p.m. on October 6, 7, and 8. Your origami cranes will be taken to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park by Mr. Porter when he visits Japan.

SET-J, which is funded by the Lawrence PTO, began in 2002 to help teachers at the Lawrence School understand more about Japanese education by visiting schools in Japan. For more information, please contact setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp.

PTO Meeting Highlights

Thirty people attended last Tuesday night's PTO Meeting kick-off in the library. Topics discussed included last year's PTO budget surplus, the spike in enrollment (now 600+), changes in faculty and staff (21 new faces!), along with summer building projects, library schedule cuts, the Landmark School partnership, the new school garden, and more. Come join in the discussion at next month's meeting, on Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m. in the library.

Lawrence Magazine Drive Now Underway!

Don't miss out! Now is the time to order your favorite magazines, renew existing subscriptions, or give that perfect gift. A portion of each subscription sale will go to support our wonderful school. Remember to check your child's backpack for the fundraising packet and return the completed order forms to homeroom teachers by Wednesday, October 7th. Any questions? Contact Jordan Shaughnessy (jordanshaughnessy@verizon.net).



Interested in Cub Scouting?

The first- through fifth-grade Lawrence boys who are members of Brookline Cub Scout Pack 6 invite you to come learn more about the fun and purpose of Cub Scouting at an Open House on Wed, Sept 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth St. For more information, go to www.pack6brookline.org.