

October 13, 2009

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 13 October (Tuesday)**
 • LEDP Gift Wrap Sale begins
 • School Photo Day
 • PTO Meeting, 7 pm library
- 15 October (Thursday)**
 Town-wide Cross Country Meet
- 22 October (Thursday)**
 Principal's Forum
 8 am library
- 27 October (Tuesday)**
 School Council Meeting
 8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 1 November (Sunday)**
 Daylight Saving Time ends (set clocks back one hour)
- 3 November (Tuesday)**
 SCHOOL CLOSED
Professional Development Day
- 5 November (Thursday)**
 Japanese Food Fair
- 9 November (Monday)**
 Grade 7 Overnight
 Farm School
- 10 November (Tuesday)**
 8 am library
 NOTE MORNING TIME
- 11 November (Wednesday)**
 SCHOOL CLOSED
Veterans Day
- 12 November (Thursday)**
 • Mr. Porter leaves for Japan
 • Grade 7 Overnight
 • EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30 pm Grades K-6
- 13 November (Friday)**
 International Night
- 16 November (Monday)**
 ECS Program Parent Info Meeting
 8:15 am library

Instructional Rounds Coming to Lawrence

Brookline Public Schools are embarking on a system-wide initiative to participate in a process called "Instructional Rounds." The term "rounds" is usually associated with medical school and teaching hospitals. Richard Elmore, Lee Teitel and others from the Harvard Graduate School of Education have been working with educators around the country to develop a process that applies to education.

In the model, a school identifies a "problem of practice" or focus for a visit. Members of the Instructional Rounds "network" spend the day in the school, visiting classrooms, observing and taking notes on what they see. The network group then convenes to debrief the observation—describing what they saw, analyzing the information, and looking for patterns. As a final step, the network makes recommendations for "next levels of work."

Brookline's goals for this project are to identify approaches the system is using to eliminate the achievement gap, and to develop a common understanding of what high quality learning and teaching should look like to better serve all students.

Lawrence has volunteered to be the first school to be visited for instructional rounds. Five schools will be visited this year and five

Peace Crane Project Update

The Lawrence community flocked together to fold one thousand beautiful origami peace cranes last week. The cranes will be on view in the lobby before they are shipped to Japan, where fifth grade teacher Greg Porter will deliver them to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park next month. SET-J (Sending Educators To Japan program) would like to thank everyone who helped with this project. For more information about SET-J or Mr. Porter's trip, contact setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp.

next year. Next Monday (October 19), 45 administrators and teachers from around the district will spend the day at Lawrence. Traveling in teams of four, they will spend two hours visiting classrooms in 20-25 minute blocks and collecting data. They will then meet to debrief what they observed.

The faculty at Lawrence is committed to continuous improvement. We welcome this opportunity to reflect on our teaching practice as seen through the eyes of our colleagues from around the district. I will report on our findings later in the fall.

ThinkEARTHursday

Last Friday, students received a green flyer announcing a new environmental initiative sponsored by Brookline's Green Team. We are hoping that students will choose a carbon reducing activity from the flyer for one day each month. Students may report on their activity by handing in their flyer on the third Thursday of the month (October 15) in a box under the easel in the lobby. I will be recognizing students who participate during Lawrence Community meeting on October 16. ThinkEARTHursday!

— Rick Rogers



PTO Directory

Verification forms for the PTO Directory were sent home with students last week (one per family). Please confirm your family's information and make any necessary changes. Forms with changes are due back in the main office by Friday, October 16. Please contact Kathy Prelack (kprelack@gmail.com) with questions.

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

To download a copy of this newsletter visit <http://www.lawrencepto.org>



Gift Wrap Sale Starts This Week

Get a head start on your holiday planning with the Lawrence Extended Day Program's (LEDP's) Sally Foster fundraiser. When you make a purchase from the wide array of quality gift wrap, gourmet chocolates and baked goods, you help LEDP serve the needs of many Lawrence families. LEDP earns nearly half the price of every item sold, and the money raised goes directly to fund LEDP activities and scholarships.

Sally Foster is going online this year, making it quicker and easier for you to place your order and share this opportunity with family and friends. Watch for the Sally Foster memo in your child's backpack this week. You'll find all the information you need to go online, view this year's offerings and place an order. A limited number of hard-copy catalogs can be found in the school office and at LEDP.

The top 10 sellers (minimum sales of \$50) will win two free tickets to the Stars on Ice figure skating show.

Thanks for your participation in this important LEDP fundraiser. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Lowry (617-794-9524 or martha@marthalowry.com).



The Popularity Pandemic

Artnarn Community Theater brought some excitement to Lawrence last Thursday with their thought-provoking show, "The Popularity Pandemic." The cast, made up of Lawrence and Pierce School students in grades 4-6, sang and danced and raised some interesting



Fantasy Food Court

Where can you find bulgogi, couscous, chilaquiles, dolma and dal all under one roof? Well, maybe somewhere in Vegas . . . but also right here at Lawrence! Last year over 20 countries were represented at Lawrence School's International Night, and event organizers expect an equally impressive spread this year. This year's extravaganza is scheduled for Friday, November 13. In addition to a dazzling array of foods, there will be performances and displays celebrating the wide range of cultures and nationalities represented at Lawrence, as well as a chance for you and your child to show off your family's heritage in a fun parade. As always, your help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact one of the event coordinators and let them know how you'd like to participate. If you're not much of a cook, you can help with decorations, taking tickets, or set-up/clean-up. Please contact Pearl Singhakowinta (pear.sing@yahoo.com), Teresa Martinez (teremar3000@aol.com) or Mariana Merida (mariana-merida@hotmail.com).

questions about popularity and the desire to fit in. As the kids became obsessed with what is and isn't cool, they lost sight of the things they really care about. After the show, audience members had a chance to ask questions of the young actors, and the Artnarn folks brought along a "teachers guide" with suggested activities and questions for teachers who wanted to continue the discussion in their classrooms. For more information about the show, ask your child . . . or visit www.artnarn.org.

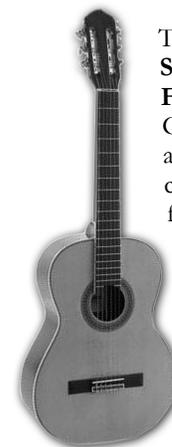
Around Brookline

The Friends of the Brookline Public Library Annual Book Sale offers bargains galore, and proceeds support children's and teen programming at the libraries, among other good works. Come browse and buy at the Main Library, 2nd floor, Saturday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., and Sunday October 25, 1:00-4:30 p.m. Volunteers are also welcome; please call 617-277-6608 or email jonathan_allen@juno.com.



Don't miss the Brookline Green Expo, Sunday, October 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at

Brookline High School's Schluntz Gym. Come learn about environmentally friendly products and services, enjoy demonstrations, entertainment and great food, and see how some of the school Green Teams are making a difference. Kids, get your picture taken with Wally the Green Monster (12:00-2:00 p.m.)! Admission is FREE! For information visit www.brooklinechamber.com.



The Brookline Music School's Guitar Faculty

will celebrate Guitober with an afternoon of free guitar clinics on October 18 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the school's Bakalar Recital Hall. These open master classes will provide opportunities to play and learn more about the guitar.

Bring your guitar, or bring your love for the instrument. Clinics are free and open to the public. For more information visit www.bmsmusic.org or www.guitober.com.