

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 21 **October (Tuesday)**
Japanese Food Fair
- 22 **October (Wednesday)**
Math Game Evening
5:30–6:30 pm
- 30 **October (Thursday)**
SCHOOL CLOSED
Professional Development Day
- 2 **November (Sunday)**
Daylight Saving Time ends (set
clocks BACK one hour)
- 3 **November (Monday)**
PTO Meeting
7 pm library
- 4 **November (Thursday)**
 - EARLY DISMISSAL
12:30 pm Grades K–6
 - Mrs. Frye leaves for Japan
- The PTO Parents Dance**, which
was scheduled for November
7, has been rescheduled for the
spring.
- 10 **November (Monday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 11 **November (Tuesday)**
SCHOOL CLOSED
Veterans Day
- 12 **November (Wednesday)**
Evening Parent-Teacher
conferences
- 13 **November (Thursday)**
EARLY DISMISSAL
12:30 pm Grades K–8
After-School Movie
- 16 **November (Sunday)**
Mrs. Frye returns from Japan
- 17 **November (Monday)**
Pie Sale begins

Inclusion Specialist Joins Lawrence

Welcome to Maureen Houston, who joined the Lawrence faculty in early October as a half-time Inclusion Specialist. Maureen comes to us from the Boston Public Schools where she worked in a variety of special education roles, as well as a middle school language arts teacher.

Maureen’s role will initially focus on three main areas. First, she will consult with both classroom teachers and special educators to improve inclusion support for students with special needs. The initial focus of this work will be in grades 6–8, where inclusion work can pose challenges due to working with multiple teachers. Second, she will participate in both Child Study Teams (K–3 and 4–8). Child Study is a multi-disciplinary team that provides consultation to teachers about students who are experiencing difficulty in one or more areas. CST offers recommendations for classroom modifications and support. Maureen will be part of the team and will be able to provide in-class follow-up—observing students and modeling strategies. The goal is to expand our repertoire of classroom accommodations, as well as to help CST make better decisions about when students should be referred for special education evaluations. Third, Maureen will provide training for the special education paraprofessionals who are working in classrooms.

This new position is being piloted in three schools in Brookline this year. I appreciate that this additional resource has been provided to Lawrence in a year when we are examining our special education program. All children benefit when we expand our instructional repertoire and improve our delivery of special education support.

—Rick Rogers

Principal’s



Corner

Please note new date

Math Fun for Everyone

Math Game Evening will be Wednesday, October 22, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Lawrence School Library. Parents, students, and teachers in grades K–8 are invited to play fun grade- and curriculum-appropriate math games. If you have any questions, please contact Anu Advani (Anu_Advani@brookline.k12.ma.us or 617-879-4321). Volunteers should please come to room 124 at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22.



Change to the Directory Verification Deadline

Directory Verification forms for the PTO Directory will be due on October 24, not October 17, as stated in the previous newsletter. If you need to make any changes to your listing for the Directory, or wish to “opt-out” please make changes in writing on the verification sheet (this should have come home with your youngest child) and return it to the office.



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

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

Arts and Sports

Sharpen Those Skates for Hockey

The Brookline Youth Hockey (BYH) instructional program, designed for children in grades K–4, will begin in November for advanced beginners and in December for real beginners.

For more information, visit the BYH web site

(www.brooklineyouthhockey.org).

BYH does not offer a Learn to Skate (LTS) program. For LTS information, contact the Brookline Recreation Department at 617-730-2069.

Around Brookline

The Brookline Recreation Department offers two doubles tennis courts at the Main Gym Facility on 66 Tappan Street. Play is limited to one hour a week per rental, with fees payable in advance of play. Call 617-730-2069 for more information.

Two Different Ways of Looking at the Fall Colors

Brookline Rec will sponsor a Fall Foliage Kayak Trip on Saturday, October 25, 9 am–12 pm on the Concord River. No experience or equipment is necessary. All ages welcome. Cost: \$75/per person for ages 15 and up, \$40 for ages 6–15, and free for 5 and under.

On Sunday, October 26, they will offer a stroll through Hall's Pond Sanctuary with Mass Audubon Sanctuary Director and wildlife photographer, Bob Speare, approaching the scene with a photographer's eye. Beginners (with a working knowledge of their cameras) are welcome.

Call 617-730-2076 for information about either program.

Lawrence Reads is Right Around the Corner

Mark your calendars for the first Lawrence Reads of the year: Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 6:30–8 p.m. With the theme “Animals Indeed,” students and their parents are cordially invited to read the selected book in advance and come together at school for lively discussion. Books are available in the library. Says one of the Lawrence Reads teacher facilitators: “Being a part of a multi-generational discussion about a book really brings out perspectives that you don’t always get in the classroom.” And a frequent parent participant in Lawrence Reads said: “It was terrific to learn about and read books I hadn’t known from my childhood.”

Questions? Email Lawrence librarian Rusty Browder at Rusty_browder@brookline.k12.ma.us

Grades 3/4: *Rabbit Hill* by Robert Lawson. The animals of Rabbit Hill wonder if the new people in the Big House will plant a garden and thus be good providers. Winner of the Newbery Medal.

Grades 5/6: *Time Cat* by Lloyd Alexander. Gareth, a talking time-traveling cat, and his human friend, Jason, travel to the past, visiting nine different eras all over the world. Award-winning fantasy writer Lloyd Alexander’s first novel.

Grades 7/8: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. In this now-legendary political satire published in 1945, the animals take over running the farm but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship.

Eighth Graders Run for Their Money

It’s only October, but our eighth graders are already planning their spring trip to New York City! The trip is one of Lawrence’s most cherished traditions, but it comes with a price tag. Each year the graduating class organizes events to raise money to offset the cost of their trip. This year the kids are adding something new: they’re organizing a team to participate in Brookline High’s 21st Century Fund 5K Walk/Run. The event, planned for Sunday, November 30, is open to any team raising money for a legitimate non-profit organization (in this case, the Lawrence PTO), and each team gets to keep 80% of the pledge funds it collects (with the remaining 20% going to the 21st Century Fund). All Lawrence runners and walkers are welcome to join the team. If you or your child would like to run, walk, sponsor, or help give our team a name, please contact Karen Aneshansley (kaneshansley@rics.bwh.harvard.edu).



Parent Volunteers Needed for the Understanding Disabilities Program

The Understanding Disabilities Program is a town-wide curriculum enrichment program for 4th graders. Each unit in the program focuses on a different area of impairment (visual, hearing, physical and intellectual) and students participate in interactive, awareness-raising activities. Parent volunteers are needed—no experience is necessary (there are comprehensive parent training sessions prior to each unit). The dates/times of the program and the parent training sessions are as follows:

Unit	Parent Training	Program
	8:15–9:30 a.m., in library	9:15–11:45 a.m., in classrooms
Visual Impairments	Wed., October 22	Friday, October 24
Hearing Impairments	Wed., November 19	Friday, November 21
Physical Impairments	Wed., December 3	Friday, December 5
Intellectual Impairments	Wed., December 17	Thursday, December 18

New and returning volunteers are welcome! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Babu Chavali at brooklinefamily@yahoo.com or 617-734-5015.

Letters and essays included in this newsletter are based solely on the opinion of each author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the PTO or school community.