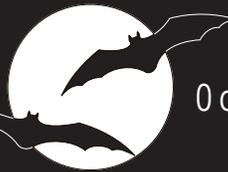


THE



October 28, 2008

PAPER

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

**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  
Focus on Parent-Teacher Conferences  
7 pm library

**6 November (Thursday)**

- EARLY DISMISSAL  
12:30 pm Grades K-6
- Ms. 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  
NOTE NEW DATE

**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)**

Ms. Frye returns from Japan

**17 November (Monday)**

Pie Sale begins

**18 November (Tuesday)**

Principal's Forum  
7:45 am

**19 November (Wednesday)**

Lawrence Reads  
6:30-8 pm

**20 November (Thursday)**

EARLY DISMISSAL  
12:30 pm Grades K-8



## Parent-Teacher Conferences

**P**arent-teacher conferences begin in November. Conferences play a key role in maintaining a strong home-school partnership. They provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to take stock of how a child is doing, and are a time to identify goals for a child's continued learning and development.

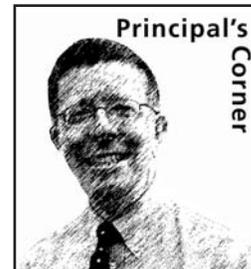
Parents and teachers may have some anxiety around conferences. Parents may worry about what the teacher is going to say about their child. Teachers may worry about how parents will receive information if a child is struggling academically or having an adjustment difficulty. As parents and teachers, we give much of ourselves to the children, which can lead to strong feelings.

How can we help keep these conversations productive and helpful? The November PTO meeting will be devoted to this topic. Here are a few examples of ideas we will discuss:

- Both teachers and parents care deeply about children. We need to start with an assumption of good intentions and work to build mutual trust and respect.
- We have different perspectives. Parents and teachers see children in different settings. How a child functions in a large group or responds to the demands of school may be different than how a child acts at home.
- Good communication begins with listening, using a respectful tone, and asking questions before drawing conclusions. Consider this example: A parent who asks, "My child is unhappy at school. What have you observed?" versus a parent who demands, "My child is unhappy. I want her seat moved tomorrow." Or a teacher who asks, "I noticed your child is having difficulty completing homework. Is there something that is making it difficult for him to get it done?" versus a teacher who insists, "Your child is missing many homework assignments. You need to make sure your child is completing his homework."

I hope you will join us for the PTO Meeting on November 3 at 7:00 p.m. as we engage in a discussion about effective parent-teacher conferences.

—Rick Rogers



Principal's  
Corner

### Readers, Please RSVP

Interest in the upcoming Lawrence Reads evening on November 19 is booming! Please register in advance by emailing parent Melanie Marcus ([mlmarcus@mindspring.com](mailto:mlmarcus@mindspring.com)) or contacting the Lawrence library. Thanks so much!



## Directory Listing Changes

It has come to our attention that an emergency contact may have been included in the directory listings for several households. This was due to a database conversion that occurred over the summer. This will be corrected next year, but unfortunately a few families may have an unwanted name in their listing. Please look carefully at the Directory Listing Verification form that was sent home last week and submit any changes to the office by Friday, October 31. You may also check your listing in the office and make any changes directly on the mock directory that is available on Peggy's desk. If you have questions, please contact *Joanne Liautaud* (617-232-5690 or [joanneliautaud@botmail.com](mailto:joanneliautaud@botmail.com)).

email your stories to [newsletter@lawrencepto.org](mailto:newsletter@lawrencepto.org). by Friday 4 p.m.  
To download a copy of this newsletter go to <http://www.lawrencepto.org>

## Visual Arts Council Needs Your Help

The Visual Arts Council needs some enthusiastic members. Throughout the school year, the Visual Arts Council (VAC) coordinates a special program for each grade to enrich and add inspiration to the classroom curriculum. Some wonderful examples of these programs from last year are the Early American Art program in fourth grade, the fifth grade pinhole photography project, the sixth grade Art of China unit, and the eighth grade digital self-portrait project.

The VAC needs help coordinating with teachers to ensure that every grade takes advantage of this amazing opportunity. Ask your teacher what program might be planned for this year. If you can help with the Visual Arts Council, please contact *Christy Gordon* ([ccgordon@vzavenue.net](mailto:ccgordon@vzavenue.net)).

## EARLY RELEASE DAY AHEAD!

Support the Lawrence PTO by sending your kids to the movies!

**Thursday, November 13**

### CLASSIC CARTOON DOUBLE FEATURE

**You're Not Elected Charlie Brown** The Peanuts gang takes on the electoral process. Linus's campaign for class president falters when he mentions the Great Pumpkin in a speech, but campaign manager Charlie Brown helps him win by a single vote. Once Linus is elected, however, the pressures of his office prove tougher than expected.

**Pink Panther Classic** The Pink Panther is one hip cat. The sly pussycat spawned a series of award winning movies, an Oscar-winning short film, and a series of 6-minute cartoons from 1964 to 1969.

- The program will run from 12:30 to 2:20 p.m. The cost/donation is **\$5.00 per child**.
- **K-2 will be escorted from their classrooms** to the auditorium by upper school chaperones.
- **All other grades are welcome** and encouraged to come directly to the auditorium.
- It will be possible to pay at the door, however **we prefer that you register in advance**.
- **Registration forms** are available in the school office or by e-mailing [ptomovie@gmail.com](mailto:ptomovie@gmail.com).

## New Life for Old Mitts

Do you have an oven mitt in your kitchen that you never use because it's half-burned, eaten by your dog, or lost its cooling effect? Send it over to the Lawrence Art Room. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will begin a unit in printmaking next week and I want to provide the safest possible carving studio. An oven mitt on the opposite carving hand will help protect and control each hand and the materials.

—Lynn Plymale

## Fantastic Food Fair

Thank you to the Lawrence community for supporting the Japanese Food fair. We raised \$2,155 for the PTO. We would also like to thank Costco for donating our ingredients. And a most grateful thank-you to all of the mothers who prepared the delicious food! Arigato!



## P.E. Notes: Cross Country

What are all those kids doing running around the school at 7:00 a.m.? Why are there Lawrence kids running up Summit Avenue chanting "Up the hill and down the street, Lawrence runners can't be beat"? Well—it's your Lawrence 5-8 Cross Country team training and working hard. We had an amazing

season of getting fit and having fun, and we want to congratulate all the runners who participated throughout the season.

The season culminates at the Annual Town-wide Cross Country Meet at Larz Anderson Park. This year it was on Friday, October 17, and it was a beautiful day for running. There are eight races. Overall we had a runner in the top fifteen of every race. In five out of the eight races we had runners in the TOP FIVE! Congratulations to all runners.

### TOP TEN FINISHERS AND PLACE

#### 5th Grade

John Elcock (5th); John Carr (6th); India Blake (9th)

#### 6th Grade

Yuta Kobayashi (2nd); Sara Luster (3rd); Arinze Obiora (4th); Ishi Aron (10th)

#### 7th Grade

Anna Lin-Schweitzer (3rd); Alex Loden (3rd)

#### 8th Grade

Michael Salnikov (6th)

A BIG thanks to the parent helpers/chaperones who marshaled and assisted with team spirit/"crowd control": Nobuko Kodama, Michael Blake, Sharon Sandalow, Priscilla Karnovsky, Phil St. Pierre, and Kay Kobayashi.

## Library Notes

New to the Parenting and Professional Collection in the Lawrence School Library are two books by Susan Linn: *Consuming Kids: Protecting Our Children from the Onslaught of Marketing & Advertising* and *The Case for Make Believe: Saving Play in a Commercialized World*. Linn spoke at Baker School library on October 14, conveying the enormous impact of marketing on young children and suggesting that ready-made consumer products often shortchange a child's time for creative play. She is a psychologist at Judge Baker Children's Center and Harvard Medical School, and director of Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood.

*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.*