

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

**Calendar**

- 19 November (Wednesday)**  
Lawrence Reads  
6:30–8 pm
- 20 November (Thursday)**  
EARLY DISMISSAL  
12:30 pm Grades K–8
- 24 November (Monday)**  
Pie Sale ends
- 26 November (Wednesday)**
  - EARLY DISMISSAL  
12:00 pm Grades K–8
  - Pie delivery
- 27 November (Thursday)**  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
*Thanksgiving*
- 28 November (Friday)**  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
*Thanksgiving Break*
- 2 December (Tuesday)**  
School Council Meeting  
(new date)  
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 3 December (Wednesday)**  
Staff Appreciation Holiday  
Lunch
- 4 December (Thursday)**
  - PTO Meeting 8 am ← *note morning time*  
*Featuring World Language Program Overview—Elementary World Language Coordinator Dawn Carney will provide information*
  - EARLY DISMISSAL  
12:30 pm Grades K–8
  - “Adolescence” workshop  
7–8:30 pm library
- 5 December (Friday)**  
LSA registration deadline
- 8 December (Monday)**  
PTO Phonathon

**Have You Heard?  
Something New at  
PTO Meetings!**

**W**e’re trying something new at PTO Meetings this year. The majority of every meeting is devoted to a special topic/issue facilitated by staff, parents, or people outside Lawrence. For instance, October featured a meeting on middle school years and adolescence, to which the parenting workshop on December 4 is a follow-up. The next meeting in December will feature information about the World Language Program and will be attended by the new Spanish teachers.

Send us your ideas for possible topics for January–June (parenting issues, curriculum topics).

*We hope to see you at the next meeting.*

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617-232-2606



*note morning time*

**PARENTING WORKSHOP**

**“Adolescence: Setting Limits with Love”**

A 90-minute workshop for parents of students in grades 5–8 at the Lawrence School. Covering the developmental aspects of adolescence and how they can take form in the parent-child relationship. Presented by The Brookline Community Mental Health Center. Thursday, December 4, 7:00–8:30 p.m. in library.

**Where Do Phonathon Dollars Go?**

**W**hen the PTO Phonathon call comes on December 8, please give generously. The dollars raised fund multiple special projects that enliven the Lawrence School experience for your child, including our Teacher Grant program.

When one of our teachers has an idea for a project that would have a strong impact but requires some modest funding, they have a way to make that project happen, thanks to the PTO. Recently funded proposals include:

- a listening center library of headsets and cd players to assist new readers in mastering their skills for the second grade 
- innovative engineering projects in grade 8, plus software and parts for the Digital Frogs dissection project (no need to cut up real frogs!) 
- a visit and poetry workshop from the poet Lynn Littlefield Hoopes for the third grade
- prizes for our in-school Earth Day celebration, created and organized by ELL teacher Sarah Wolff 

Teacher grants are made available twice a year and are awarded by the PTO Board based on merit and available funding.

Help empower our teachers and staff to pursue projects that are outside the box!



## Arts & Sports

### *Moonlighting at the High School*

Come see Brookline High School's wild and wacky faculty/staff variety show, *Moonlighting*, November 21 at 7:30 p.m., Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium, \$10 adults, \$5 students. For more information, contact Lynn Modell, 617-713-5228.

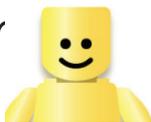
## Lawrence Cinema Draws Huge Crowd

About 175 children enjoyed Charlie Brown and Pink Panther in last week's early release movies. In the process, the PTO raised over \$800 that will support a variety of programs.

THANKS to parent volunteers Jonas Bromberg, Kay Kobayashi, Gina Hahn, Ronnie Moore, Carol Rosenstock, Miki Hosooka, Joanne Liautaud, Kelly Hardebeck, and Leslee Miller. Thanks also to Monica Crowley, Peg Williams and Maureen Lynch for their help.

THANKS to the following Upper School Students who served as chaperones: Ben Fletcher, Dan Caso, Jonathan Eber, Camille Long, Emma Aneshansley, Nicole Chin, Daniel Fleishman, Joon Lee, Francesca Baso, Michael Salnikov, Avichai Peretz, Kentaro Kaneki, August Ramos, Matthew Gilman, Noah Krawitz, Marshall Greene, Sakura Kodoma, Anthony Loper, and Myles LaFrance.

## Lego Teacher Wanted



Lawrence After School Activities (LSA) is looking for a Lego instructor for one of our most popular classes, Lego League. This paid teaching position is open to Lawrence parents, faculty and interns who love building with Legos and working with and learning from kids. If you are interested, contact Joanne Liautaud at [joaneliautaud@hotmail.com](mailto:joaneliautaud@hotmail.com) or Matthew Partan at [partan1@aol.com](mailto:partan1@aol.com).

*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.*

## Attendance Counts

Woody Allen suggests, "Eighty percent of success is showing up." While this limited view of success may seem glib, I use it to make a point. Being in school, as well as being on time for school, is an important part of being successful in school.

In our school, the number one attendance issue is tardiness. Being late to school sets a child up to have a bad start to the day. Most of us like to have an opportunity to ease into our workday without the stress of arriving late. Children who are late miss the opportunity for relaxed interactions with the teacher and peers and may start behind if early morning work is assigned. Being punctual is an important life skill. You can help your child start the day right and build good habits by getting to school on time.

Absenteeism is a smaller problem in our school. We agree that when students are sick, they should stay home. However, one area we could improve is family vacations. Choosing to extend a long weekend (October 10 and November 10 were big offenders this year) or take an extended vacation during school has a negative impact on learning. While written assignments can be made up, teacher instruction in new concepts and meaningful classroom discussions cannot be replicated. There is also a certain momentum that develops in school—a flow that is interrupted when there are absences.

*First Term Attendance Warnings:* Students with 5 or more absences and/or 7 or more tardies through November 7 are receiving attendance warnings—unless we know of extenuating circumstances. K–5 students will receive warnings this week. Students in grades 6–8 received theirs last Friday with first quarter report cards. We send these warnings as a reminder that we want your children in school—on time and ready to learn.

### Successful Evacuation Drill

Last Thursday, Lawrence School completed its annual evacuation drill with flying colors. 580 students and 85 staff members followed carefully planned routes to St. Paul's Church. Our thanks to the Brookline Fire and Police Departments for assisting us with this drill. Thank you to the St. Paul's Church for their hospitality (including an organ concert!). A special thank you to our nurse, Karen Miller, who as a key member of the school's Crisis Team, provided invaluable assistance to Monica Crowley and me in preparing for this day.

—Rick Rogers



## LSA Winter Catalogs Coming Soon!



Lawrence Special Activities will distribute tentative schedules for winter classes to all students soon. Classes run for 8–10 weeks, beginning January 5 or January 12 and go through March. Catalogs will come out by December 1 and registration will be due on Friday, December 5 at 2:30 p.m. We're starting early this year so we can have a spring session as well. If you're interested in teaching a class, or have questions or suggestions, please contact Joanne Liautaud at [joaneliautaud@hotmail.com](mailto:joaneliautaud@hotmail.com) or Matthew Partan at [partan1@aol.com](mailto:partan1@aol.com).

## With Thanksgiving approaching, so is the annual "Making of the Pies"!



The tradition of making apple pies at Lawrence was started many years ago by former vice principal Morry Sapoznik, and the tradition continues. You can buy a pie to donate to the Brookline Food Pantry (this year we are hoping for 100 orders) or you can buy a pie for your own family. Proceeds from the sales are shared between "Steps to Success," an academic outreach program, and the 8th grade's trip to New York. Kids from grades 2–8 help make the pies. Please place an order, you won't be disappointed!