

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 6 November (Thursday)**
 • EARLY DISMISSAL
 12:30 pm Grades K–6
 • Ms. Frye leaves for Japan
- 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
- 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



What Did You (Teachers) Learn in School Today?

Last Thursday's Professional Day was a day off for students (and likely an inconvenience for many parents), but you should know that teachers meaningfully engaged in continuing their own professional learning. I believe that a school and a school system in which adults keep learning and growing is a place where children will learn and grow, too. More than 75 workshops were provided. So what did we learn?

I participated in *Math in Motion: Teaching Math to Students with Language-Based Learning Disabilities*. Chris Woodin from the Landmark School taught the workshop, providing a theoretical framework of what it means to have a language-based learning disability and how that translates to a student's learning in reading—and then in math. He demonstrated a wide array of teaching strategies that educators can employ to assist children who struggle with the language and concepts of mathematics. His emphasis was on using visuals along with language, as well as kinesthetic activities. Four special education teachers and four assistants from Lawrence joined me in attending this workshop.

Here's a sampling of other offerings attended by Lawrence staff:

- *How to Differentiate a Think Math Lesson* (with ECS coordinator Diana Beck)
- *Chinese Americans in Boston* (including an historic tour of Chinatown)
- *Revision of Learning Expectations for Grade 8 Mathematics* (in preparation for selecting a new program next year)
- *Assessing Speaking and Listening for English Language Learners*
- *Planning Literacy Instruction to Meet the Needs of All Learners Using a Flexible Grouping Model*
- *Responsive Classroom*
- *Teachers' and Paraprofessionals' Roles for Effective Instruction*

One of the things that drew me back to Brookline was a strong culture of reflective, professional learning. The sessions on Professional Day certainly provided ample evidence of its strength. The staff at Lawrence is deeply appreciative to have this opportunity to devote an entire day to our professional development. Thank you!

—Rick Rogers

Ms. Frye Is All SET for Japan

One of our First Grade teachers, Ms. Frye, will head to Japan on November 6 for ten days, supported by Lawrence PTO's SET-J (Sending Educators to Japan) program. She'll travel to Hiroshima, Kyoto, Osaka, and Tokyo, visiting

two schools along the way and staying with the family of a former Lawrence student. Look for updates of Ms. Frye's trip detail on the lobby board each day. For more information, please contact setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp.



Community Exchange

• Give Your Two Cents

Lawrence alum Peter Levine and his team at the Boston University School of Management are looking for feedback from parents of six to 11. They're developing a game that children can play outside, and could use some parental input. If you're interested in participating in the short survey, visit www.questionpro.com/akiral/TakeSurvey?id=1066304.

• Room to Spare?

Hospitality Homes provides short-term, free housing for families and friends of patients traveling to Boston for medical treatment. Host families offer a room in their own homes, enabling patients to have loved ones by their sides while they receive treatment at area hospitals (without incurring hotel costs). Volunteers decide how often to host and what types of guests they can accommodate; guests provide their own meals and transportation. For details on hosting and other volunteer opportunities, contact 617-482-4338 or visit www.hosp.org.

Around Brookline

• Think: Summer

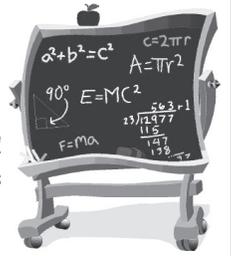
Get a jump start on summer-vacation planning at Brookline's Summer Opportunities Fair on Sunday, January 25 from 12:00 to 3 p.m. Head to the Tappan St. Gym at Brookline High School and learn about camps, activities, and programs all catering to kids. For more information, contact *Cecilia Woodworth, Coordinator of K.I.D.S. (Kids Involved During Summer)*, at Cecilia_Woodworth@brookline.k12.ma.us.

• Utilities 101

The Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership is offering free utilities workshops on Friday, November 7 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Brookline Senior Center, 93 Winchester Street, and Monday, November 17 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Brookline Community Foundation, 40 Webster Place. Learn ways to save energy, apply for weatherization and fuel assistance, seek options for paying overdue bills, and more. Those who RSVP for this workshop will also receive up to 20 free energy-efficient light bulbs. Call 617-730-2124 to sign up.

Spotlight on Math

On Monday, November 17 at 7:45 a.m., Lawrence will hold a Principal's Forum in the Lawrence Library Media Room highlighting our new math program, ThinkMath! Learn about the components of this exciting program, as well as the teaching strategies used while exploring mathematics. The math specialists at Lawrence welcome any parent questions at or prior to the presentation. Please submit questions by November 16 to *Karen Wolfson* (karen_wolfson@brookline.k12.ma.us) or *Anu Advani* (Anu_Advani@brookline.k12.ma.us) with the subject line "TM Forum," or drop off questions to Room 124.



Intramural News

+ Grades 3 and 4 Girls' Basketball

Our Girls Hoops is gearing up for the end-of-season tournament on November 13 at 1:00 p.m. (location TBA). This new intramural program has enjoyed a successful season complete with learning and fun. Thanks to the PTO for their continued support of intramurals at Lawrence.



+ Grades 3-8 Girls'/Boys' Double Dutch

Lawrence Double Dutch will run from December to April on Thursday afternoons in the small gym. (Occasional Tuesday and Wednesday practices may be held due to early dismissals and holidays.) See the White Board, the PE News Board, and Ms. U for details and announcements. Get ready to jump in the fun!

Visitors from the Deep (and Shallow)

On November 12, the Brookline Education Foundation's Jack and Jordan Trust Litchman Fund will sponsor a visit by the New England Aquarium's Tidepool Adaptations to all Lawrence-third grade classrooms. This exhibit provides an exciting hands-on experience that complements the third-grade curriculum on habitats. For more information about the Brookline Education Foundation, visit www.BrooklineEducation.org.

Arts & Sports

Celebrity Series of Boston

- *Takacs Quartet with Muzsikas*
Sunday, Nov. 16 at 3:00 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall
 - *Dresden Staatskapelle*
Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 8:00 p.m.
Symphony Hall
 - *Soweto Gospel Choir*
Sunday Nov. 30 at 3:00 p.m.
Symphony Hall
 - *Emerson String Quartet*
Friday Dec. 5 at 8:00 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall.
- Tickets are \$10, and the deadline to reserve seats is Nov. 7. Contact *Melissa*

Mills for information (617-442-1821; millsmelissa@hotmail.com).

Family Concert

Come see the Bremen Town Musicians, a delightful opera by and for children, as well as Peter and the Wolf, with a four-hand piano arrangement performed by the Boston College student chamber ensemble. It's free, with donations welcome, on Sunday, November 9s at 4:00 p.m. Come to Boston College, Gasson Hall, 140 Comm. Ave. For more information, contact *Barbara Gawlick, music director*, at 617-965-0169 or gawsro@msn.com.