

THE

PTO

PAPER

December 1, 2009

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 1 December (Tuesday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 3 December (Thursday)**
EARLY DISMISSAL
12:30 pm Grades K-8
- 7 December (Monday)**
Phonathon
- 8 December (Tuesday)**
 - Photo Retake Day
 - PTO Meeting
7 pm library
- 9 December (Wednesday)**
EARLY DISMISSAL
12:30 pm Grades K-8
- 10 December (Thursday)**
Grades 5/6 Chorus Concert

Lawrence School's Phenomenal PTO



At a time of year when we give thanks, I would like to acknowledge the superb work of the Lawrence School PTO.

Community Building

Our active PTO sponsors many events throughout the year that help build and strengthen a strong sense of community among students and families at Lawrence. These include the Fall and Spring Picnic, International Night, Family Fun Night—and more.

Matters of Interest to Parents

Monthly PTO meetings focus on topics of interest to parents. Some past topics have included speakers on parenting, a panel presentation on parent-teacher conferences, and a meeting with the coordinator of the elementary world language program. The December meeting will be a presentation on the library by our librarian, Rusty Browder.

In addition to organizing meetings for parents, the PTO Co-Presidents meet monthly with Monica Crowley and me to discuss school issues and matters of concern to parents.

Communication

Our PTO supports effective communication between home and school. The weekly *PTO Paper* is our primary communication vehicle. A published directory helps families connect with each other outside of school. The Lawrence PTO webpage and periodic emails supplement our communication strategies.

Financial Support

Our PTO provides generous funding to support teachers and programming at Lawrence, including some of the wonderful programs the children have already enjoyed this year such as *Sol y Canto* and the Birds of Prey Program. They include:

- Performing Arts programs
- Visual Arts
- Mini-grants for teachers
- Classroom supplies stipend for teachers
- Principal's Fund
- Field Trip bus transportation
- Student Scholarships
- Our beautiful lobby Fish Tank.

Other Support

On November 19, the PTO sponsored the first of two annual Staff Appreciation Luncheons. We enjoy delicious food and attentive service (and don't have to pack a lunch!). Room parents also provide informal support to classroom teachers throughout the year.

The PTO plays a vital role in making Lawrence School the special place that it is.

Thank you for your support and participation!

— Rick Rogers

December's Principal's Forum Canceled

The Principal's Forum scheduled for December 17 has been canceled. Parents who have questions or feedback they wish to raise (particularly on the school's response to the November 10 intruder incident) are invited to do so during the Principal's Report at the PTO meeting on December 8 at 7:00 p.m. Rick will also be available before and after the Think Math Parent Forum on December 11 at 8:00 a.m. The next Principal's Forum will be January 28.

- 23 December (Wednesday)**
EARLY DISMISSAL
12:00 pm Grades K-8

- 24 December – 1 January**
(Thursday – Friday)
SCHOOL CLOSED
December Break

- 5 January (Tuesday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room

email your stories by friday 4 p.m. to newsletter@lawrencePTO.org

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

“Check out” these Great Library Programs



Eighth Grade Project—A Community of Readers

Dianne Muendel's 8th grade K-8 book project is now on display in the Library. Please come learn about the books that have shaped the lives of the current Lawrence School 8th Graders.

Real and Virtual Cranberries

In honor of the Lawrence library's 41st Annual Cranberry Counting Contest, we suggest that you visit the excellent web site of Ocean Spray, located not far from us in Lakeville, MA. The site contains fascinating information about the history of cranberries and delicious recipes! http://oceanspray.com/about/cranberry_history.aspx

Closer to home, over 300 Lawrence School students and teachers participated in the library's contest this fall. There were exactly 244 Massachusetts cranberries in the jar. Congratulations to Tatsuya Mizutari (2L), Mateo Schwartz (5W), and Sophie Rubin. And in the teacher category we are pleased to announce that a person who claims he NEVER wins games of estimation takes the prize: Mr. Deily, with a guess of 236. All winners received gift certificates from either the Children's Book Shop or Brookline Booksmith.

Winter LSA – It's not too late!

The Winter LSA Catalogs have been distributed to all students K-6 for Lawrence Special Activities. They are available online on the PTO website (<http://lawrencepto.weebly.com>). There is still space available in many of the classes, so choose a class and bring your registration and payment to the office. Classes will begin the week of January 11th. Questions? Please contact Joanne Liautaud at joanneliautaud@hotmail.com or 617-232-5690.

Your PTO Paper Team

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Meet Brookline's Special Ed Administrators

Brookline Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) is hosting a Meet the Administrators night on Wednesday, December 9, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Room 103. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet the new administrative leadership of special education in Brookline, ask questions, and offer comments.

Light refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cups. (SEPAC is a Brookline 2010 Climate Action Partner).

Cartoons Captivate Our Kids

The Early Release Movie on Wednesday, November 18, was a huge success. A record-breaking group of more than 210 students was entertained by the comedy teams of Rocky & Bullwinkle and Tom & Jerry. What a pleasure it was to see the kids laugh so much and enjoy these classic cartoons! Special thanks to the parent and student volunteers who helped make this afternoon such a success!

Basketball, Winter Intramurals, and More



This week brings lots of news from Ms. Ellis and the PE Department.

Basketball tryouts for grade 7 and 8 boys and girls will be this week. Danny Richter will be the new girls' coach and Mr. D. will return as the boys' coach. Days and times will vary, but games will be on Wednesday afternoons. Extramural basketball is for grade 7 and 8 only and requires a commitment to the team. There is a small fee. Scholarships are available.

Intramurals are free and run on a drop in basis. Morning intramurals include floor hockey on Tuesdays and Thursdays for grades 3-8. Basketball and general sports for grades 4-8 run in the mornings on Wednesday and Friday, respectively. Morning intramurals are



from 7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. Double Dutch, for grades 3-8, runs on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Come with gym shoes and ready to participate.



Didn't Say Cheese?

If you weren't happy with this year's school picture, take advantage of photo retake day. Keep the class photo, but on December 8, send your child to school with their photo package for a redo of their photo. If your child missed picture day, then send them with a completed copy of the original order form.



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.