

# THE LAWRENCE SCHOOL PAPER

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

### 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

### 9 January (Saturday)

Family Skate  
Larz Anderson Park

FREE  
event!

### 11 January (Monday)

LSA Winter Classes begin

### 12 January (Tuesday)

PTO Meeting  
8 am library  
NOTE MORNING TIME

*Carol Macey, Guidance Counselor K-3, and Amy Nevis, our school's Special Education Team Facilitator, will cover Child Study Teams and explain Special Education Team roles.*

### 13 January (Wednesday)

Gr 7/8 Town wide Winter Concert  
7 pm Pine Manor College

### 18 January (Monday)

SCHOOL CLOSED  
*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

### 28 January (Thursday)

Principal's Forum  
8 am library

*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.*

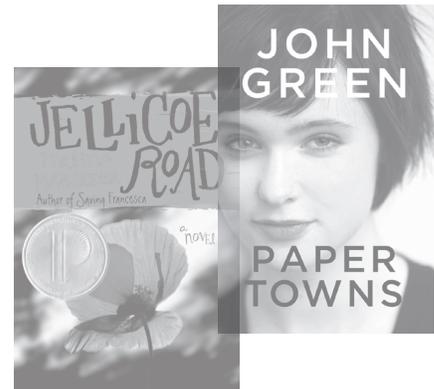
## Mr. Porter Rocks Japan

SET-J would like to show their appreciation to the Lawrence community for supporting Mr. Porter's industrious trip to Japan. During his 10 day stay there, he went to two elementary schools in Hiroshima and Kanagawa, and visited Lawrence families in both cities. Upon arrival in Tokyo, Mr. Porter was warmly greeted by over 65 students and parents. While in Tokyo, he visited a private school, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, where he presented 1,000 peace cranes on behalf of the Lawrence School. Among his other activities, he taught English class and played soccer. Mr. Porter will give a presentation of his experiences in Japan to the Lawrence community in January 2010. For information, please contact [setj\\_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp)



## Teen Book Club

Teen Book Club, for kids aged 13 and up, will begin on January 13, 2010, at the Main Branch of the Brookline Public Library. The second Wednesday of every month through June will find a great book discussion group happening from 7-8 p.m. in the library's conference room. There is a super line up of titles to be read! Contact Robin Brenner at [teenlibrarian@brooklinelibrary.org](mailto:teenlibrarian@brooklinelibrary.org) or call 617-730-2370.



## Another Successful PTO Phonathon

Congratulations to the entire Lawrence community for another successful PTO Phonathon. Phonathon night got off to a strong start with many pledges already mailed in. These were supplemented by 80 new pledges received by phone, thanks to the great efforts our parent volunteers. Despite the tough economy the PTO met their goal and came very close to reaching last year's Phonathon numbers. It should be recognized that over half the PTO's annual operating budget expenses were raised through this Phonathon effort. The entire school and community will benefit from these generated funds through the many PTO supported projects that make Lawrence School work so well.

An enormous thank-you to the volunteers who helped make the calls and run the Phonathon. And **special thanks to all the families who have already donated or pledged for their generous support of the PTO.** Please remember to send in your pledges as soon as possible.

If we somehow missed you when calling on Phonathon night, please know that of course, we still want your support. If you wish you may still leave us a donation in the Phonathon box!

email your stories by friday 4 p.m. to [newsletter@lawrencePTO.org](mailto:newsletter@lawrencePTO.org)

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

## Community Events

### Flu Clinic at Lincoln School

On December 17, 2009, the Brookline Schools and the Department of Public Health will be having an H1N1 (Swine flu) immunization clinic at the Lincoln School (19 Kennard Road) from 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. The clinic will be for all Brookline students grades Pre-K through 12. Also, children over 6 months of age but not yet school age, may be immunized at this time. A brief questionnaire regarding your child's health status will need to be completed at that time, so please plan accordingly.

Children qualify for flu mist *unless* they have asthma, diabetes, neuromuscular disease or another underlying health condition. Children with chronic illnesses or under age 2 must receive the H1N1 injection, which will also be available at the clinic. (If your child has received their first dose – they must wait 28 days for a second dose.) ALL students must be accompanied by a parent. Please dress for the weather and bring a book or activity!

### See you next year...

*Please note that there will be no issue of the PTO Paper on December 22, 2009.*



*We'll resume publishing on January 5, 2010.*

## Lawrence Library

Last week's PTO Meeting included an informative presentation on "The School Library As a Resource" by our librarian, Rusty Browder. Rusty described four elements that our library provides as resources:

- A physical collection of over 24,000 items
- On-line access to resources
- A welcoming and organized space for teaching and learning
- A librarian as teacher, colleague and manager

The physical collection circulates over 26,000 books per year, about 25% by teachers with the rest by students and their families.

The on-line resources include an on-line catalog and access to on-line databases. See for yourself at <http://catalog.brookline.k12.ma.us> and click on "Lawrence Library."

The beautiful space itself is heavily used all year. Classrooms come to the library for instruction, book selection and research. Technology classes are held in the media room. Parent meetings, teacher workshops and adult education classes all utilize the space.

Overseeing it all is Rusty Browder. In listening to Rusty last week, I was struck by her passion for books, reading and family literacy. Drawing on her years working in a bookstore, Rusty has a deep knowledge of children's books and enjoys the role of sparking a student's interest in a book. Two parents who attended the PTO meeting shared personal anecdotes of how Rusty had helped guide their children to just the right book. Rusty also understands and enjoys the newer role of teaching information literacy skills. Rusty is a valued colleague, who actively seeks out information about classroom curriculum and works with teachers to have the library support this curriculum. Finally, Rusty has to manage the library, including the book collection and AV materials. While she didn't say it last week, this work has obviously become more demanding with the elimination of library assistants last year.

We are fortunate to have both the library and the librarian that we have at Lawrence School. Thank you to Rusty Browder for an interesting presentation and for the work you do every day to make the library a vital link to learning in our school. (Be sure to check out the recently updated on-line catalog!)

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As we prepare to close out 2009, I would like to thank you for the incredible support you provide our school throughout the year. I feel fortunate every day to be working here. The entire Lawrence faculty joins me in wishing you a safe and satisfying holiday season with best wishes for the new year!

— Rick Rogers



## In the Spirit of Giving

The spirit of giving was in the air along with the aroma of apples and spice as a total of 110 kids and 12 teachers came together before Thanksgiving to bake 200 pies. Eighty pies were purchased and donated to the Brookline Food Pantry. With the remaining proceeds, the 8th graders and Ms. Alper will go to Coolidge Corner and buy gifts for "Steps to Success" children's program.

Throughout the year the Lawrence community also gives to the Ronald McDonald House and the Yawkey Family Inn (these organizations provide housing for non-local families with children being treated at area hospitals). Have you heard about Baking Cookies? Families can sign-up to bake cookies for the Ronald McDonald House (10 dozen cookies). If you are interested, contact K.C. Turnbull at [bergbull@yahoo.com](mailto:bergbull@yahoo.com); Don't like baking? Then you'll like Soup for Families. Cook a soup/chili for the Yawkey Family Inn. If you are interested in this, please contact Pat Scanlon at [jpatscanlon@gmail.com](mailto:jpatscanlon@gmail.com). Check out the Community Board in January, for more information on both these organizations.

