

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

## Calendar

### 17 December (Wednesday)

*You're a Good Man,  
Charlie Brown*  
Grade 7/8 Play  
9 am, 12:45 pm, 6 pm  
Auditorium

### 19 December (Friday)

Grade 3 Chorus Concert  
8:30 am

### 23 December (Tuesday)

- Grade K/1 Winter Sing  
8:30 am
- EARLY DISMISSAL  
12 NOON Gr. K-8

### 24 Dec-2 Jan (Wed-Fri)

SCHOOL CLOSED  
Winter Break

### 5 January (Monday)

LSA classes begin

### 6 January (Tuesday)

School Council Meeting  
8 am 2nd floor conf. room

### 9 January (Friday)

SET-J presentation  
by Ms. Frye

### 12 January (Monday)

PTO Meeting  
7 pm library

### 14 January (Wednesday)

- Brookline Education  
Foundation B'fast  
Open to All  
8 am Library
- Gr. 7/8 Townwide  
Winter Concert  
7 pm Pine Manor

*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.*

## What Makes A Community?

A couple of weeks ago, I was interviewed by Ms. Frye's first grade class. One of the students asked me, "What is community?" I stumbled through an answer to this important question from an unexpected source. Events of this busy three-week period in December have repeatedly brought me back to this question.

Educator *Roland Barth* suggests that a good school should be "a community of learners." My trusty American Heritage includes a definition of community that I liked: "sharing, participation and fellowship." December includes many examples of sharing and participation that contribute to making Lawrence a vibrant community of learners.

**Winter Concert:** Last Thursday, students in our fourth, fifth and sixth grade choruses sang beautifully under the direction of music teacher *Holly Ahearn*. Every grade in the school attended one of two performances during the day in order to share in and celebrate the music of other Lawrence students. And our school community was extended to include parents and family members during the early morning and evening performances.

**Class Breakfasts:** Another form of "performance" or sharing is found in the many class breakfasts in which students exhibit and share their learning with parents, often preceded by the fellowship of being together for breakfast. Students in 2N recently performed their dragon play and shared their poetry iMovie. In 3H, children performed a water cycle play and exhibited the weather experiments they had completed. In sixth grade, students exhibited creatures they created that incorporated the parts of the brain they had studied.

Performance, exhibition, and sharing – all represent a way of making learning public and building community.

### Appreciations

**Phonathon:** On the evening of December 8, a team of parent volunteers worked the phone lines to secure pledges for the Lawrence PTO. I'll let them announce the (impressive) results, but, on behalf of the entire Lawrence staff, I would like to express our appreciation for the overwhelmingly generous financial support provided by this parent community. We are deeply grateful – all the more so in these uncertain economic times.



## Good Grief! It's The Grade 7-8 Play



You've got THREE chances to see *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, on December 17th in the Lawrence Auditorium, performed by the talented Grade 7-8 cast. Parents are asked to come either to the morning or evening shows (9 a.m. or 6 p.m.) so that the 12:45 p.m. performance can accommodate as many students as possible. Parents who attend the morning performance are asked please to sit in the back 2 rows so that there is enough seating for the students attending the play. Don't miss it!



Thank you to *Melanie Marcus* for so skillfully leading this effort, as well as to our team of volunteer fundraisers.

**Staff Appreciation Luncheon:** On December 10, our staff room was transformed with winter decorations and an elegant luncheon of Asian food provided and served by the PTO. Our thanks to *Kim Swartz* and *Laura Ziouani* for leading this effort. Our staff felt appreciated indeed!

—*Rick Rogers*

## Notes from the Front Office:

- **Gr. 6-8 Interim Progress Reports** were sent home last Friday, December 12. Check with your child if you did not see his/her report!
- Please check the **Lost & Found** before December vacation (located in the cubbies across from the cafeteria). During the break, it will be cleaned out and unclaimed items donated to charity.

## A Tide of Thanks

Dear BEF Jack & Jordan Trust Lichtman Fund:

**T**hank you very much for bringing the New England Aquarium Tidepool Exhibit to Lawrence School. We enjoyed learning about the animals that live in a sandy beach, a rocky beach, and a salt marsh. The spiky texture of the sea urchin and the slimy foot of the moon snail felt really cool to touch. We also liked seeing a sea star's missing leg growing back. We liked touching the bumpy spider crab and the horseshoe crab. The sand dollar looked like a silver dollar coin. The teachers, *Bailey* and *Cristine*, were both really interested in sea animals and knew a lot about them. Thank you very much!

—*The third graders of Lawrence School*

## Lawrence Families Answer the Call!

**W**ith congratulations to all and a HUGE thank you to our tireless organizer, *Melanie Marcus*, the PTO is pleased to report that this year's Phonathon exceeded last year's total with \$28,000 pledged by 235 families. These funds will ensure that the PTO can continue to provide excellent programs and enrichment services for our children. Despite tough economic times, Lawrence School families are strong in their support of our school!

Special thanks to our excellent Phonathon crew: *Linda Beane, Ana Vera Wynne, Kelly Hardebeck, Olga Partan, Katharine Ingraham, Michael Mosbrooker, Nancy Turnbull, Kate Shea, Amy Luster, Chris Leonard, Osamu Sakai, Cindy Elcock, and Barbara Hausman.*

Thank you to everyone who answered the call and made a pledge. Please send in your donations as soon as possible. Oh, and if we missed you on Phonathon Night, feel free to drop off a donation in the school office anytime! Checks can be made to: Lawrence School PTO.

For more information, contact: *Melanie Marcus, mlmarcus@mindspring.com.*



## LSA OPEN ENROLLMENT

*Families with Students in Grades 6-8*

**PLEASE NOTE 4 CLASSES FOR YOU**

We still have a few spaces available in our Winter Program in the following classes:

### • Lower Grades

Computers – Grades K-5 on Monday at 3:30

The Body – Grades 3-5 on Monday at 2:30

Clay – Grades 2-5 on Tuesday at 3:30

Mad Science – Grades 2-4 on Tuesday at 3:30

### • Upper Grades

Babysitting – Grades 6-8 on Monday at 2:30

Computer Game Design – Grades 5-8 on Wednesday at 3:30

Longswords – Grades 6-8 on Thursday at 2:30

GIRLS LEAP (Self-Defense) – Grades 6-8 on Friday at 2:30

If you are interested, please turn in your registration form and payment this week to the LSA box in the school office. (Extra forms in the office.) All final class lists will be distributed at the end of the week. If you have any questions, please contact *Joanne Liautaud* at 617-232-5690 or [joanneliataud@hotmail.com](mailto:joanneliataud@hotmail.com)

## Community Exchange

- **Housing Needed:** Lawrence family looking for small studio or in-law suite for their grandmother who will be staying in Boston to help with childcare. Please reply to [bostonblanquera@verizon.net](mailto:bostonblanquera@verizon.net).

## Your PTO Paper Team

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