

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 14 September (Tuesday)**
PTO Meeting
7 pm library
- 16 September (Thursday)**
- Principal's Forum
8:00 am library
 - Fall Picnic
6-7:30 pm
- 20 September (Monday)**
- Magazine Drive begins
 - Gr 8 Thompson Island Trip
- 21 September (Tuesday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 22 September (Wednesday)**
- LSA Fall Classes Begin
 - Gr K-2 Open House
6:15 pm
- 23 September (Thursday)**
Gr 6-8 Open House
6:15 pm
- 29 September (Wednesday)**
SEPAC Breakfast
8:00 am library
- 30 September (Thursday)**
Gr 3-5 Open House
6:15 pm
- 5 October (Tuesday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 6 October (Tuesday)**
Magazine Drive Ends

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.

Opening Week at Lawrence

Welcome and welcome back to Lawrence School! We had a smooth opening week fueled by the positive energy and excitement that accompanies each new school year. I'm not sure who was more excited—the teachers to greet their new charges, the students eager to return with new sneakers, backpacks and school supplies, or the parents who eagerly greeted friends in our lobby which serves as an unofficial communal gathering place.

Even an unexpectedly heavy thunderstorm during arrival on Wednesday morning didn't dampen the spirits of the half of the Kindergarten students who began that day. I watched one five year old boy intently pull off his rain boots while seated in the lobby before eagerly making his way to his new classroom, his mother at his side. No amount of rain and lightning was going to stand in his way!

We greeted 47 new students in grades 1-8 and 69 new Kindergarten students, down slightly from last year's 60 new students and 77 Kindergarten students. However, our overall enrollment remains steady, standing at 613 students as of September 8.

We also welcomed 7 newly hired teachers, 3 transfers from other schools, 2 long-term substitutes and 8 new aides. No job a principal does is more important than hiring the people who will work directly with students. It was a busy summer doing this important work. I am thrilled with the new additions to our faculty and staff, including:

Lawrence was a busy place this summer with eight classrooms used by Project Discovery, five classrooms used for special education programs, and the LEDP rooms, cafeteria and gyms used by Brookline Recreation's Camp Gator. Amazingly, our custodians Pat Clark and Paul Kirby were able to get the building cleaned and ready for the start of school. I would like to acknowledge the work of School Secretary Maureen Lynch for her efforts registering and greeting new families – always with a smile. As well as new Guidance Counselor Holly Corcoran, her colleague Shaina Martinez, and our Japanese ELL teacher Akiko Kawai, who, between them, interviewed every new family and student.

We continue to juggle rooms to maximize our use of space. Last June, we graduated our last two-section class. To make room for another section on the third floor, the Intensive Learning Program (formerly called Neurobiological System-wide Program) in Room 316 has been relocated to the former Music Room (used as a fourth Kindergarten last year). One of our preschool rooms in the basement was relocated to the BEEP wing at Brookline High School to make room for a

Welcome Holly Corcoran

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Lawrence School Community as the new guidance counselor. My name is Holly Corcoran and I will be working with kindergarten through fourth grade this year. I worked as a guidance counselor for the past three years at large K-5 elementary school in Boston prior to this position. I am very excited to be a new member of the Lawrence School staff and I am so grateful to everyone for being so welcoming! If I can be of any help to you or your child please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at holly_corcoran@brookline.k12.ma.us. I look forward to meeting all of you!

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

To download a copy of this newsletter go to www.lawrencePTO.weebly.com

fourth first grade classroom, taught by Mary Lee Malandrakis. Ms. Malandrakis's former third grade classroom is now the fourth section of fourth grade taught by Caroline Babbidge. Unfortunately, our music program remains without a true room. Music classes will continue to be split between the space we created in the rear of the auditorium (Gr. 2-8) and an LEDP room (K-1).

Teachers were busy this summer engaged in professional

learning and workshops. I will describe these in more detail in next week's column.

To hear more about our plans for the new year, please join me at the PTO Meeting (Tuesday, September 14-7:00 pm) or the Principal's Forum (Thursday, September 16 at 8:00 am).

I look forward to a rewarding and exciting new school year together!

—Rick Rogers

PARENT PAPERWORK

Back-to-School Packet

Watch this week for the annual back-to-school packet sent home in a large manila envelope. Please be sure to return the following signed documents to your child's homeroom teacher:

- Student Data Card (Yellow)
- Health Card (Green)
- Parental Consent Card (Pink)
- Affidavit of Residency (If your address has changed. You must include a deed or lease).
- Student Insurance envelope
- Free/Reduced Meal Application (if eligible)

Handbook Notification Sign-Off

The Lawrence School Handbook can be found on the Lawrence School page of the Public Schools of Brookline website:

http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116:lawrence-school-home&catid=68&Itemid=204

Please take time to go over this handbook, especially the Student Behavior Guidelines with your children in an age-appropriate manner. While all of the rules apply to all of our students, some of the specific violations and consequences are more relevant to our older students. After reviewing the handbook yourself and discussing it with your child, please return the salmon-colored "Handbook Notification Sign-off" form to school. If you prefer a printed copy of the handbook, just stop by or contact the office and we will be happy to provide one.

CORI Forms for Parent Volunteers

Don't forget that you need an up-to-date CORI check (within the last three years) to volunteer at school, including attending field trips. The form may be picked up in the office and we must make a copy of your driver's license or passport. Forms must be completed three weeks prior to attending a field trip or event. Why wait? Fill one out now.

Check Out SET-J

SET-J (Sending Educators to Japan) is a travel grant awarded to one Lawrence School teacher every year. This program is fully funded by the Lawrence PTO, and allows a teacher to visit Japan where many of the students are from. Ms. Kirsten Alper, our technology teacher, who as been at Lawrence for 13 years has been awarded the travel grant for 2010. Ms. Alper will visit Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo from Nov 12 to Nov 21. SET-J will have an information table at the Fall Picnic. Come by with suggestions or questions. There will be rice balls for sale and a bouncy-ball challenge. All proceeds will go to the PTO. For more information please contact setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp.



FALL PICNIC

It's time to gather with friends, old and new, at the Lawrence School Annual Fall Picnic.

This Thursday, September 16, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m, come grab a bite of pizza (or bring your own fare), share stories, and welcome new families and staff to the Lawrence community. The rain date is Tuesday, September 28. Volunteers are needed to keep things running smoothly. If you can help, contact Lisa Billowitz (lbillowitz@mac.com) or Rainer Sell (r_sell@yahoo.com).



FALL LSA-2010

Space is still available in LSA. Bring your registration form and check to the office this week. Confirmation and class assignments will be sent home next Tuesday. Wednesday classes begin September 22nd; all other classes start the week of September 27th. Please contact Joanne Liautaud with questions at 617-232-5690 or joanneliautaud@hotmail.com.

Your PTO Paper Team

Coordinators
Kelly Hardebeck

Writers
Jessica Eber
Gina Hahn
Lori Tishler
Kathy Prelack
Mike Wiecek

Graphics
Cathryn Fletcher

Seungeun Lee
Jin Suk
Jan van Aarsen
Wendy MacMillan

Distribution
Debbie Samuels-Peretz
Tina Manuel
Melissa Mills

Email
Kelly Hardebeck

