

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 29 September (Wednesday)**
SEPAC Breakfast
8:00 am library
- 30 September (Thursday)**
 - PTO Volunteer Breakfast for ELL
8:15 am library
 - Gr 3–5 Open House
6:15 pm
- 4 October (Monday)**
Green Team Meeting
8:15 a.m.
- 4–6 October (Mon–Wed)**
SET-J 1,000 Crane Project
2:30–3:30 pm lobby
- 5 October (Tuesday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am 2nd floor conf. room
- 6 October (Wednesday)**
 - Car-Free School Day
 - Magazine Drive Ends
- 8 October (Friday)**
Gr 6–8 Interim Progress Reports
- 11 October (Monday)**
SCHOOL CLOSED
Columbus Day
- 12 October (Tuesday)**
PTO Meeting
7:00 pm library
- 18 October (Monday)**

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.

Understanding MCAS Results



Parents of students in grades 4–8 should have received their child’s MCAS results in the mail last week. These are the results of the MCAS testing completed last March (English /Language Arts) and May (Mathematics).

Parents who would like to better understand their child’s results are invited to attend the next PTO Meeting on Tuesday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m. I will walk you through how to read your child’s report, as well as review our school’s results.

Individual Student Results

Students continue to receive a performance score on a scaled score of 200–280:

Warning	200–218
Needs Improvement	220–238
Proficient	240–258
Advanced	260–280

New this year is a Student Growth Percentile. The percentile is intended to show how much a student grew in the past year *when compared to other students across the state who are their “academic peers” (i.e. scored at a similar level on previous MCAS tests)*. Growth in the 40th–60th percentile is considered “Moderate Growth” and acceptable. Students scoring above 60th percentile made high growth.

For more information on Student Growth Percentile, there is an online tutorial available at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s website: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/growth/tutorial2.html>.

For each student who scored below Proficient, teachers will be meeting in October

to develop Individual Student Success Plans (ISSPs). ISSPs will be shared with parents at the first parent conference.

School Results

You received a letter from Superintendent Bill Lupini last week informing you that Lawrence School has been given an NCLB Accountability status of “Corrective Action – Subgroups” for Mathematics. For three previous years, the subgroup of students with special needs was not considered to have made “Adequate Yearly Progress” or AYP. For 2010, however, the subgroup that did not make AYP was low-income students. Even though our subgroup changed (students with special needs made AYP), Lawrence has now moved further into accountability status. Our faculty and School Council will work with district personnel to review our data and determine what “corrective action” is warranted.

Despite this status, I want to remind you that our overall performance was Very High in ELA and High in Mathematics. And, I am pleased to announce that Massachusetts DESE has commended our school for “Narrowing Proficiency Gaps,” due to the strong gains made by our students with special needs.

Whatever label we receive, Lawrence School remains committed to meeting the needs of all students and working to close achievement gaps.

Confused? Want to know more? Please join me on October 12.

—Rick Rogers, Principal

Annual Peace Crane Project to Take Flight

SET-J (the Sending Educators to Japan program) invites you to help fold 1,000 origami cranes next week on October 4, 5 and 6. We will be in the lobby from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday. In Japan, making one thousand paper cranes is symbolic of a wish for world peace. The cranes we make will be strung together and delivered to the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima by Ms. Alper



when she visits Japan in November. For more information, please contact setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp.



Distribution Team Members Needed!

The newsletter team needs volunteers to help distribute the paper. The job takes about 20 minutes, about once a month. Responsibilities include: a) counting out newsletters; and b) and putting them in teachers' mailboxes. It's fun and easy, and a great way to get involved! Please contact Kelly Hardebeck (newsletter@lawrencepto.org) to volunteer.



Your PTO Paper Team

Coordinator
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Catharyn Fletcher
Seungeun Lee
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Distribution
Denise Baumann
Melissa Mills
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Kelly Hardebeck

SEPAC Breakfast This Wednesday

Whether you have a child with an IEP, a 504, have an evaluation approaching, or if you're just curious, this is a great chance to chat with principal Rick Rogers, building team facilitator Amy Nevis, and other parents about special education services at Lawrence and the district as a whole. The new learning center teachers and many of the other special education teachers and staff will be there—it's a great chance to meet them. Having a child with special needs can be a challenge for everyone in the entire family—this is an opportunity to get to know other parents who are facing similar issues. Join us in the library on Wednesday, September 29, at 8:00 a.m. For more information, contact Lawrence SEPAC liaison Patrick Gabridge (pat@gabridge.com or 617-959-1437).



Car-Free School Day

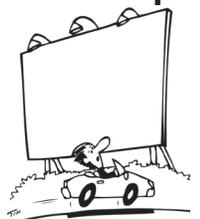
On Wednesday, October 6, the Public Schools of Brookline will have a car-free school day. Students are encouraged to walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus or T to school that morning. Green teams will be stamping hands at school entrances to raise awareness about reducing our carbon footprint. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the entrances from 7:30 to 8:00 that morning, so come a little earlier than usual and join the fun! Students are welcome to pitch in and help stamp hands too!

Not available the morning of October 6 but still want to get involved? Come to the Lawrence Green Team's first organizational meeting this year on Monday, October 4, at 8:15 a.m. (check lobby easel for location). Hear about the exciting thinkEARTHursday events being planned for this year and bring your own ideas for discussion. Contact Kathleen Scanlon (kathleenmscanlon@gmail.com) for more information or to get involved.



"Your Ad Here"

Do you have a business to promote or know someone who does? Would you like to give back to the Lawrence School community? Purchase an ad in the Lawrence School Directory and do both! The deadline for submissions is October 15. Please contact Jen Grella right away for information (mrsjlg1@aol.com or 617-448-3771).



Magazine Time

The Lawrence Magazine Drive is in full swing, and if you haven't already opened up your packet, now's the time! Inside you'll find a catalog listing a wide range of magazines at very reasonable prices. Do you really need another New Yorker umbrella, or a Smithsonian tote bag? Ordering (or renewing) your subscriptions through our school's drive directly benefits our PTO—we get 40% of the cost each subscription! Order forms are due to home-room teachers by Wednesday, October 6, or you can order online at www.qsp.com. If you did not receive your packet, or have any questions, contact Happy Rudnick (h.rudnick1@comcast.net).

