

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

22 September (Wednesday)

- ELL Information Breakfast
8:15 am library
- LSA Fall Classes Begin
- Gr K-2 Open House
6:15 pm
- Gr 8 trip to Thompson Island

23 September (Thursday)

- Gr 6-8 Open House
6:15 pm

29 September (Wednesday)

- SEPAC Breakfast
8:00 am library

30 September (Thursday)

- PTO Volunteer Info Breakfast for ELL
8:15 am library
- 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

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

13 October (Wednesday)

- School Photo Day

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.



Open Houses

I believe that learning is enhanced by effective communication between home and school. Open House is an important first step in establishing collaboration between teachers and parents. The purpose of Open House is to provide parents and guardians an opportunity to meet their child's teachers, to obtain an overview of the curriculum, and to learn how things work in their child's classrooms. *Please remember that Open House is not a time for individual parent conferences.*

The schedule for Open Houses:

Wednesday, September 22, 6:15-7:15 p.m. >>> Grades K-2

Thursday, September 23, 6:15-8:00 p.m. >>>> Grades 6-8 (Note longer timeframe)

Thursday, September 30, 6:15-7:15 p.m. >>>> Grades 3-5

Parents in Grades K-5 should report to their child's classroom at 6:15 p.m. The evening runs an hour. **Parents in Grades 6-8** should report to their child's Advisory/Homeroom at 6:15 p.m. You will follow a rotating schedule to meet each of your child's academic teachers. Parents will then convene in the Auditorium at 7:20 p.m. to hear from the specialists (Art, Library, Music, PE, Health). Monica Crowley and I will provide more general information, including the homework wiki, behavior/effort rubric, interim progress reports, and report cards. Mr. Deily and Ms. Smid will be available to answer questions about the new 7/8 Mathematics Challenge Option during the auditorium session.

Child Care at Open House

Lawrence offers childcare at two of the Open Houses (K-2 and 3-5 only). Usage has increased and has resulted in an overcrowded cafeteria. To ensure a more conducive environment, we ask:

- No children under three, please. The space and group size are not appropriate for toddlers and babies. The cost is \$5 per child (\$10 Family Maximum). Proceeds will be utilized to cover staffing with remaining funds going toward the 7/8 class trips. Two aides are assigned to oversee and support the middle school-age babysitters.
- We ask that you use this service only if you need it. This is intended to help parents who had difficulty arranging child care, not as a fundraiser. If you have other options, please use them so our numbers remain manageable.

I look forward to seeing you at one (or more!) of our Open Houses!

—Rick Rogers

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/> ★

Arts & Sports

Art with Amy!

Amy Solomon—Lawrence parent and enrichment teacher—will be running an afterschool art program at her Brook Street home studio on Tuesdays and/or Fridays from 3–5:30 p.m. Make art in a fun and creative environment with an opportunity to focus on projects for an extended time. Lawrence students can be picked up at school and escorted to class if needed. Morning toddler classes and half-day art programs are available as well. Drop-ins welcome! Questions? Call 617-566-2667 or email solomonamy@yahoo.com. For more information, go to www.artwithamy.com



Brookline Town-Wide Ice Skate Exchange October 3

Are your family's old ice skates piling up and no one has a pair that fits? It's not too early to get ready for the rink! Brookline will hold its first town-wide Ice Skate Exchange at the Aspinwall Hill Neighborhood Association's Annual Picnic and Green Neighborhood Fair on Sunday, Oct. 3, 3–5 p.m., at Schick Park on Addington Road. Donate and/or select skates including both figure and hockey skates. Skates that remain after the Exchange will be sold with proceeds going to the Friends of Brookline Recreation sports scholarship fund and the Aspinwall Hill Neighborhood Association.



*Thanks to everyone
who helped to make the
Fall Picnic a success!*

SET-J Thanks You

Thank you to all those in the Lawrence community who stopped by the SET-J (Sending Educators To Japan) table at both the spring and fall picnics. We raised \$973.67 in total for Ms. Alper's SET-J trip, which will take place from November 12–21. SET-J, a program funded by the Lawrence PTO, sends one Lawrence teacher each year to visit Japan, where many of our students are from originally. For more information, please contact setj_lawrence@yahoo.co.jp.

PTO Meeting Notes 9.14.10

Twenty-eight members of the Lawrence community joined PTO Co-presidents Pearl Singhakowinta and Kate Shea last Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. for the first PTO meeting of the school year. Topics covered included: the upcoming Open Houses; the Magazine Drive fundraiser that will kick off on the 22nd; the SEPAC Breakfast on the 29th; along with the many volunteer opportunities (some one-day, some longer-term) that allow parents to help out and meet their fellow parents in the Lawrence community. Those attending also brainstormed about future PTO meeting discussion topics that might be of interest to parents—cyberbullying? cliques? navigating lunchroom dynamics?—and put out a call for further suggestions.

Midway through the meeting, PTO Treasurer Nancy Turnbull gave a great rundown of the PTO's primary income sources (the December Phonathon, LSA donation) and expenditures (classroom supplies, intramurals, PTO expenses, library). Vice Principal Monica Crowley discussed changes in the middle school program, such as the increase in advisory time from one to three times per week, the move to a single-period arts-focused elective, the new Math Challenge program, and the various staff enrichment activities that took place over the summer. In his Principal's report, Rick Rogers gave an overview of current enrollment (615!), new staff (20), and the goals for the year in the areas of school climate and community, instruction and student learning, and a professional learning community for the faculty. Discussion then turned to the late-breaking news on the just-released MCAS scores (The good news: the special-needs sub-group made AYP for the first time in four years! The less-good news: the low-income subgroup failed to make AYP last year. As a result, the school remains in "improvement" status.) In light of this, Principal Rogers reaffirmed our commitment as a school to enabling every student to learn and thrive. Following a brief parent Q&A, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Make Getting the Mail Fun Again

Don't miss out! Now is the time to order your favorite magazines, renew existing subscriptions, or give that perfect holiday gift. A portion of each subscription sale will go to support our wonderful school. Remember to check your child's backpack for the fundraising packet and return the completed order forms to homeroom teachers by Tuesday, October 5. Any questions? Contact Happy Rudnick (h.rudnick1@comcast.net).



Those Summer Reading Logs and Math Calendars...

Students are encouraged to share with their classroom teachers and then return their summer reading and math materials by the end of this week, September 24. Completed Summer Math Calendars should be returned to Room 124 and reading logs to the library in Room 128. Students returning reading logs and math calendars will receive acknowledgement for their energetic efforts!