

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

- 30 March (Tuesday)**
EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K-6, 12:30 pm
- 1 April (Thursday)**
Gr. 6 Parent Discussion
7 pm library
- 2 April (Friday)**
NO SCHOOL
Day of Low Attendance
(Good Friday)
- 5 April (Monday)**
LSA Spring Classes Begin
- 6 April (Tuesday)**
School Council Meeting
8 am, 2nd floor conf room
PTO Meeting
7 pm library
- 9 April (Friday)**
Boys' Parent Group
8:00 am Computer Lab
- 12 April (Monday)**
Optional Student Placement
Form Due
- 15 April (Thursday)**
Grade 5-6 play
6 pm auditorium
- 19 April-23 April**
(Monday-Friday)
NO SCHOOL
April Vacation
- 29 April (Thursday)**
PTO Poetry Night
7 pm 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.

Guidance Coverage This Spring

As you may know, Lawrence has had a busy early spring with maternity leaves and hiring long-term substitutes. Shaina Martinez, our guidance counselor serving grades 4-8, will be taking a leave some time in April. Hiring a long-term substitute for a guidance counselor poses a unique challenge due to the importance of relationships with students and families for this position.

I am pleased to announce that Carol Macey has agreed to increase her time and work one additional day per week. She will be at Lawrence Monday-Thursday. In addition, Katy Whittaker, our Simmons guidance intern this year, has agreed to work three days per week as long-term substitute. This plan will take effect once Shaina's leave begins.

As we prepare for this upcoming change, I thought it would be helpful to provide an overview of our plan for guidance coverage, including responsibilities and contact people.

Students & Groups

Carol, Shaina, and Katy will meet together to review students and groups who meet with guidance staff regularly and determine which students and groups should continue to receive

on-going support for the remainder of the year. Carol and Katy will meet with these groups.

Parent & Teacher Consultation

Teachers and parents frequently reach out to guidance for consultation and advice. For the remainder of the year, Carol Macey will add grade 4 to her K-3 caseload, Monica Crowley will be the contact for grades 7-8, and I will be the contact for grades 5-6. Do not hesitate to consult with Monica or me for guidance-related issues.

Other

Shaina will still be involved in class placement decisions, reviewing draft class lists, and providing input and feedback. Psychologist Robin Toback will chair our upper Child Support Team.

There is no doubt that Shaina's presence will be missed this spring. She expects to return to Lawrence in the fall. I know you join me in wishing her well at this special time in her life.

—Rick Rogers



The Optional Student Placement Form was sent home to parents on Monday, March 29, and is due by Monday, April 12.

Remaining MCAS ELA Testing Schedule

Grade 6 & 8: Monday, April 5 & Tuesday, April 6

Crib Sheets for Parents

Attention parents: B-PEN's (Brookline Parent Education Network) website is up and running! The site has a section dedicated to tip sheets for 6th-8th grade parents on issues ranging from alcohol to media literacy. Check in for more information about bullying, cyberbullying, social networking, research on teen brain development, healthy relationships, and a variety of prevention information in the weeks ahead at <http://www.b-pen.org/index.html>. Questions? Concerns? Please contact june_harris@brookline.k12.ma.us.

PTO News

All are welcome at next Tuesday evening's (April 6) PTO meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in the library. In addition to a Brookline Mental Health presentation on developmentally appropriate strategies for helping children get and stay organized, we will be voting on whether to allocate \$5000 toward the construction of a school garden.

The PTO is looking for a new co-president and for anyone interested in chairing an event or getting involved next year. Please contact Katherine Ingraham (kaingraham@yahoo.com). Also, the deadline for nomination statements for the School Council (May 7) is approaching; all candidates will be invited to speak at the May 11 PTO meeting. Elections will take place the week of May 17. If you have questions about what serving on School Council entails, please feel free to contact Vice Principal Monica Crowley or Principal Rick Rogers for more information.

Brookline SPED Program Review



Brookline parents of children with special needs are invited to hear about the latest program review for Special Education on Thursday, April 15 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the School Committee room at town hall. Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Dr. Denise Rochlin, and Amy Martin, Director of Program Review and Grants, will present their findings and discuss areas of program strength and areas for program improvement. Learn about what actions are underway to address the concerns and the next steps in this process. Light refreshments will be provided.

Brookline SEPAC represents and assists Brookline parents of children receiving special education services. To learn more about Brookline SEPAC visit www.brooklinesepac.org.

Community News

• Food for Thought

On Tuesday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the BHS cafeteria, Brookline High School's Student Action for Justice and Education (SAJE) club will hold its annual Hunger Banquet, an interactive event in which each participant is assigned to a character in order to see how a variety of world issues affect that person's food choices. Free food from local restaurants will be provided—the only admission price is one non-perishable item to benefit the Brookline Food Pantry. There will also be a raffle with great prizes from a variety of businesses; raffle tickets are \$1 each, and the money raised goes to support the Food Pantry as well. The Hunger Banquet is an all-ages event, but is especially recommended for middle-schoolers because it provides a window into some of the great ways in which students get involved at the high school. For more information, please contact sajefoodinsecurity@gmail.com.

• Spring Hoops!

A Step Ahead basketball is holding an April Vacation Spring Hoops program for boys and girls ages 8–15 on April 20–23, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Mackenzie Center in Newton (1337 Centre St). For more information, please visit <http://www.asahoops.com> or contact Coachb@asahoops.com / 617-909-5990.

• Behind the Scenes—Seen!

The Artbarn Community Theater invites you to a "Backstage Pass" performance to see your directors, music people, choreographers, and tech staff in action as "behind the curtains" secrets are at last revealed! Bring the whole family to the Maliotis Cultural Center at Hellenic College, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline on Saturday, April 10 from 3:00–4:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. In the meantime check out their online FUNraising auction to bid on Red Sox tickets, vacation homes, and much more at www.artbarn.org

• Boys' Summer Soccer at BC

Boston College Summer Soccer Clinic will be hosting a program for boys ages 6–12, July 26–29, from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at Boston College's Newton campus.

For registration visit www.bceagles.com/camps or contact Sergio Saccoccio at saccoccs@bc.edu.

• Storytime Comes to Life

Brookline Music School faculty and friends return as The Elephant Tango Ensemble to bring you more classic and original bedtime stories with live music. The Elephant Tango Ensemble's collective of musicians, actors, puppeteers, designers, and dancers will perform their *Shadow Puppet Storytime & Music* in the Lincoln School Auditorium, 19 Kennard Road, on Monday, April 12, 2010 at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$5 per person and all ages are welcome. For tickets email Brookline Music School at tickets@bmsmusic.org with "Puppets & Music" in the email subject or call 617-277-4593. For more information about this event visit www.bmsmusic.org. Brookline Music School also offers a variety of summer classes and programs for all ages, from beginning instrument lessons and ensembles to modern dance and ballet. Visit www.bmsmusic.org for details.

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