

THE

WEEKLY PAPER

March 16, 2010

A newsletter

from the Lawrence School Parent-Teacher Organization

Calendar

16 March (Tuesday)
EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K-6, 12:30 pm

➔ 17 March (Wednesday)
PTO Play
7 pm auditorium

18 March (Thursday)
• Principals Forum
8 am library
➔ PTO Play
7 pm auditorium

➔ 19 March (Friday)
PTO Play
7 pm auditorium

25 March (Thursday)
EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K-6, 12:30 pm

30 March (Tuesday)
EARLY DISMISSAL
Gr K-6, 12:30 pm

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

14 April (Wednesday)
Gr 5/6 Play



MCAS Testing Begins Next Week

You can help your children by making sure they...

- Get a good night's rest
- Eat a good breakfast
- Arrive at school on time

(Testing begins at 8:15 each day)

Students in grades 3–8 will participate in MCAS testing for English Language Arts (ELA) beginning next week. Students in these grades will have two sessions of testing on Reading Comprehension (reduced from three sessions in previous years). In addition, students in Gr. 4 and 7 will take the Long Composition test. Testing in Mathematics and Science will occur in May.

The MCAS ELA schedule is as follows:

22 March (Monday)	Grade 3		Grade 5		
23 March (Tuesday)		Grade 4 <i>Long Composition</i>			Grade 7 <i>Long Composition</i>
24 March (Wednesday)	Grade 3		Grade 5		
25 March (Thursday)		Grade 4			Grade 7
26 March (Friday)		Grade 4			Grade 7
5 April (Monday)				Grade 6	Grade 8
6 April (Tuesday)				Grade 6	Grade 8

FY11 Budget: ELL Update

At his Lawrence Parent Forum last week, Superintendent Bill Lupini announced that the proposed .4 FTE reduction in English Language Learner (ELL) staff is now designated as a system reduction, not necessarily a Lawrence reduction. ELL Coordinator Mindy Paulo is charged with identifying where this reduction should be made based on enrollment. The reduction (or part of it) could still be at Lawrence, but that decision will be made later after enrollment figures are reviewed. If the .4 reduction does happen at Lawrence, we would still have three ELL teachers (one Japanese speaking) and

two ELL aides (both Japanese speaking).

Lawrence to Host TESOL Site Visit – March 24

The annual convention for the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) will be held in Boston next week. Participants in the national convention will conduct educational site visits to area schools, including Lawrence and Brookline High School. The visit to Lawrence will focus on our unique program for students from Japan. We are proud to share our work with ELL educators from around the country.

–Rick Rogers

Look! That signpost up ahead: it's the PTO Play! Travel into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of the imagination as two playwrights map fantastical journeys for your pleasure. Don't miss this double feature beginning with *"The pen is mightier than the sandwich"* (written by Jon

Weinberger), followed by *"The Secret Life"* (written by Tom Rubenoff). Plenty of live music and drama provided by Lawrence parents and teachers alike! Goodies will be available at intermission. Showtimes: March 17, 18, 19 at 7:00 p.m. Lawrence School auditorium. Admission: Adults \$7.00, Students \$3.00. Now that's a deal!

email your stories to newsletter@lawrencepto.org by 4 p.m. Friday
To download a copy of this newsletter visit <http://www.lawrencepto.org>

Community News

Brookline SEPAC General Meeting

Brookline parents of children with special needs are invited to a general meeting of the Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council on Thursday, March 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in

the Runkle School Library. Brookline SEPAC represents and assists Brookline parents of children receiving special education services. The committee will share their experiences in the schools and discuss SEPAC's future plans. Also Brookline Recreation Department will describe new and ongoing recreation

programs for children with special needs and invite suggestions for other programs. Time will be allowed to network and enjoy refreshments. For more information contact brooklinesepac@gmail.com. To learn more about Brookline SEPAC please visit our website at www.brooklinesepac.org.

Around Town

It's Growing Everywhere

Celebrate Bountiful Brookline on Sunday, March 28 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the *Pierre School*. Meet with new and seasoned gardeners in Brookline and learn how to grow food in tiny, tall, skinny, long, or shared spaces. Enjoy reading and book signing by Farmer Ben Hewitt: *The Town That Food Saved*. Books, Gardening Supplies, Raffle, and Refreshments are also part of the festivities. Spring into gardening with this wonderful event. For more information: check out <http://events.constantcontact.com/>.

ScienceFest 2010: A Fun-Filled Day of Hands-on Science for Kids of all Ages

ScienceFest 2010 will be held at the *Devotion School* on Saturday, March 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Featured are exciting hands-on science activities and demonstrations. Highlights include: Nature in Your Backyard live animal demonstrations (11:00 and 1:00), Catapult Design Challenge, the Electric Pickle, Microscope Mystery, Computer Take-Apart, Newspaper Tower Activity, Segway and Astronomy Demonstrations by the Clay Center, SnapCircuit explorations, and much more! The event is sponsored by the Brookline Education Foundation and is open to the public. Refreshments will be available for purchase. If you'd like more information, please contact Janet MacNeil, K-8 Science Coordinator, 617.264.6403, janet_macneil@brookline.k12.ma.us.

Arts & Sports

Music Fills the Air

Enjoy these upcoming events at the Brookline Music School, Bakalar Recital Hall:

Open Mic Night— Friday, March 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Brookline Music School students hone their vocal skills while performing with a microphone and backing group. Hear what the experts think as faculty gives feedback on their performance (\$5 admission).

Jazz Piano Masterclass—Sunday, March 21, 3:00 p.m. Jazz pianist and educator Harvey Diamond (one of the most accomplished pianists in the Boston area) joins Brookline Music School students, playing jazz standards, blues, rag and more (Free).

Dynamic Duos Concert—Sunday, March 21, 4:30 p.m. Experience live the excitement of two equal partners communicating without words! Brookline Music School Piano and String students from eleven different studios have been coached by faculty to learn the subtle language and gestures of chamber music in preparation for this culminating concert (Free).

Live at Devo presents "Little Shop of Horrors"

The Brookline community is invited to the Edward Devotion School's 8th grade play! Mark your calendars for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday March 25-27 so you don't miss a performance of this edgy rock musical about a poor florist shop worker and a very interesting plant. Performances are 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. on Saturday, in the Devotion School auditorium. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

State Festival Play —*The Rimers Of Eldritch*

If you missed the preliminary rounds of the State Drama Festival in February, you can now catch the full play in two upcoming performances. Lanford Wilson's 1966 *The Rimers of Eldritch* is a darkly brooding yet lyrical examination of a small decaying Midwestern town frozen in mid-20th century. Performances on March 16 & 17 at 7:30 p.m. Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium.

Feats On The Floor

This dynamic annual concert of original dance by the BHS Choreography Class offers a 'behind the scenes' look at the process of making dances at Brookline High School. BHS's top student choreographers showcase their latest dance creations inspired by music, poetry, and the free-flowing spontaneity of improvisation. At the end of each performance the audience has an opportunity for a Q & A with the fledgling artists. Come see America's future dance-makers! Note date and time change: Thursday March 18 at 7:30 p.m., Friday March 19 at 3:30 ONLY, Dance Studio I, Tappan Gym.

Girls— Don't be Couch Potatoes During April Break

The Boston College Lady Eagles will be holding their annual April Vacation Clinic from April 20th to 23rd, 2010. For more information please visit <http://beagles.cstv.com/camps/bc-w-soccer-camps2.html>.