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LawtonNews

From The Desk Of The Principal

SUMMER PROGRAMS UPDATE

Seattle Public Schools is offering a Summer Program for students in the transition years i.e. students in Kindergarten moving to first grade and students in 5th grade moving to 6th grade who are not on target to meet grade level standards at the end of the school year. The teachers have made recommendations and Lawton families with children in these grades may already have received information on these program. There are still spaces available. If you feel your Kindergarten child or your 5th grader qualify and would benefit from a Summer Academic Program, contact your child's teacher to see if they have been referred.

This year we tried to set up our own Summer Academic Program for students in grades 1-4 at Lawton. Since we had no budget for it, the plan was that the program would be tuition based with scholarships when needed. The staff identified students who needed the additional time and letters were sent out to families to see what the interest was and if we could move forward this year. Unfortunately, we were not able to implement the plan for this summer.

However, Successful Schools in Action, our Queen Anne/ Magnolia collaborative of schools is interested and Lisa Moore, the Executive Director, is looking at how SSIA could be supportive of summer programs in our schools.

LOST AND FOUND

Items of clothing continue to be found on our playground after each recess. We have worked during the past two weeks to try to get belongings back to children. We will be donating all items left to a community charity.

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CALENDAR

Monday and Tuesday, June 7, 8
Starfish 1 Bake Sale afterschool

June 9 – 11
Usborne Book Fair

Thursday, June 10
Science Fair

Friday, June 11
End of Year Unicycle, Tumbling and Hip Hop Presentation. Blaine 6:30pm *(see page 4)*

Friday, June 18
Field Day

1 Starfish Bake Sale

Monday and Tuesday • June 7-8
Afterschool on playground

Please help us to support equip impoverished children in San Jorge, Nicaragua, with school uniforms and supplies so they can attend school.

USBORNE BOOK FAIR

JUNE 9 – 11

DAILY Noon - 12:45 and 3:15 - 4:15

THURSDAY, JUNE 10 5:00 - 8:30 during Science Fair!

50% of sales come right back to Lawton!

BLT Spectrum Update

Dear Lawton Families,

At our May Building Leadership Team meeting we heard from a parent, representing a group of parents, requesting that Spectrum designated students be split into multiple classrooms per grade, rather than having them in one classroom by grade, as the Spectrum program specifies. In light of their concerns, the BLT felt it was important to extend the conversation to the entire Lawton community.

The BLT has had the opportunity to discuss the class placement of Spectrum program students throughout the year. Earlier this year, two BLT members met with the teaching staff to solicit their view on the current configuration of the Spectrum program and identify a course of action for Lawton. A staff survey was conducted in October that expressed a majority desire to have a heterogeneous grouping in the classes. The results of this survey also indicated that there was need for further discussion about the student placement in all classes. The staff undertook these discussions and the resulting report was sent to the BLT in February.

Parents on the BLT also contacted and visited multiple schools throughout the district that also deliver the Spectrum program to determine how they address the class placement of students in this program. This information was brought back to the BLT and the Spectrum class placement issue has been an agenda and discussion item at each BLT meeting. One outcome from these discussions was that a letter from the principal would be sent to all parents addressing the Spectrum student placement. This letter was reviewed at the April BLT meeting. It addressed the Seattle Public Schools policy regarding the self contained model for Spectrum as well as how the needs of all students would be met at Lawton. The BLT members recommended that the information in this letter would best be included in the Student Placement Survey letter that was sent to families on May 10th.

The emphasis of this letter was "How are my student's needs met if not in the Spectrum program"? The teaching staff at Lawton work very hard to individualize the curriculum and must differentiate instruction to accommodate for children's individual needs. There are many children who are not in the Spectrum program but can work at an advance level in a particular curriculum area. The needs of these children are met in several ways at Lawton: placement in the Spectrum class, placement in a Spectrum group part time, and/or differentiation in the classroom. Staff also provide for individual differences in the classroom using support staff, interns and volunteers who provide support and additional challenges for the children.

The model of a self-contained Spectrum program is the current Seattle Public Schools policy. In order to change this policy, it must be addressed by the Seattle School Board; it is not a decision that can be made by the Lawton BLT, principal, staff or community. One of the reasons for this is that while Lawton is a neighborhood school, the Spectrum program at Lawton is a district program for all students in the Magnolia/Queen Anne assignment area, drawing more than half of the program's students from outside the school's assignment area.

However, the BLT staff and parents feel it is important that the philosophy held by the Lawton community drive the services delivered to all students. Towards this end, a review and update of the school's Strategic Plan has been undertaken to ensure that the goals of the school, and the resulting benefits to students, are on record with the district.

We hope this provides some insight into one of the topics that we have been discussing throughout the school year at the BLT meetings. If you have any questions regarding this, or other topics, please feel free to speak with any of the BLT representatives. We welcome your feedback.

Yours truly, Lawton Building Leadership Team

Library Book Roundup

It is that time again! Our year is closing quickly and we need all library books returned. We will be reminding students verbally as well as sending paper notices. Please help us by searching under beds, on book shelves, in the car, etc. Remember…..lost books may be replaced or paid for. We must hold report cards on June 22 for anyone with an account that has not been cleared. *Kathy Dial, Librarian*

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Here is what families can do to help reduce our Lost and Found:

1. Put your child's name on clothing, lunch boxes and other items that could be lost so it can be returned.
2. If something is left behind encourage your child to take responsibility for finding it as soon as possible.
3. Look through our Lost and Found and retrieve any items that belong to your family.

NOTES FROM OUR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Lawton School has an active Safety Committee. Members meet monthly to discuss and resolve issues related to safety and security. At a recent meeting Security in the building was discussed. The Lawton community prides itself on being a kind and caring environment for children. There are some simple ways we can ensure safety and security in our building. During the school day only the main entrance door is unlocked. The downstairs doors are locked. Our procedure is that any visitor or volunteer entering the building is to enter by the main door, sign in at the office and wear a badge.

Any adult visitor or volunteer in the building during the school day who is not wearing a badge will be asked if they need help finding the office to sign in. This simple question asked by any adult of any adult will ensure that adults in the building are known and are there for a purpose. It takes each one of us to keep our children and our community safe.

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GENERATORS NEEDED

I am looking for some generators for the inflatable games to use for Field Day which will be Friday, June 18th.

If anyone has a generator that they can loan for the day, please contact me via email (stanleynw@comcast.net) or phone (601-4404) or talk to Cheryl Parks.

Thanks! Kathy Stanley

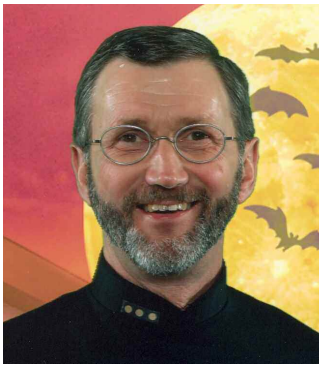
Science Fair This Week

Please bring in your projects and boards by Thursday morning, if you haven't already. There will be parent helpers to assist with set-up on Thursday afternoon. If you plan to exhibit something that might be messy, you will be responsible for cleaning up after yourself! The exhibits will stay up until Friday morning, so classes can come to see them. Grades K-3 will set up in the Commons (and possibly the gym); grades 4-5 will be in the upstairs hallways and the music room. There will be a science book fair in the Library. Find your ice cream treat in the covered play area outside the gym. It's going to be great, so come and see what your fellow students have learned!

I could still use a few more adult helpers to set up between 1:30 and 3pm on Thursday afternoon.
Barbara Ivester, Science Fair Chairperson
Barbara@ivesters.net

Also need volunteers to work at the ice cream social – ½ hour shifts from the beginning of the science fair until the end.
Contact, Shelley Winterer • swwinterer@seattleschools.org

NASA EXPERT COMING TO LAWTON!



Dr. Ron Hobb's, a NASA expert from the Museum of Flight, is coming to Lawton on Wednesday, June 10, to talk about science and math in the context of its application in exploring and understanding space.

Both assemblies will have a chance to ask him questions. His talk precedes the science fair on Thursday.

1:45 - 2:15pm • K - 2 Assembly

2:20 - 2:50pm • Grades 3 - 5 Assembly

UNICYCLE

TUMBLING

HIP HOP

End of the Year *Extravaganza!*

The event is free!

Blaine K-8, June 11 at 6:30 pm

Join the Unicycle, Tumbling, and Hip Hop Clubs for a rolling, flipping, and groovin' good time!

The students in these clubs have worked hard this year learning new skills and refining previously learned skills. They are excited to share this evening with their families but wanted to invite friends as well since there will not be an end of the year assembly at Lawton.

Hope you can make it!

Ms. Parks, Mrs. T, and Mrs. Schumer

DISPLAY SHOWCASE

THIS WEEK

Devin Smith, Room 207 • Weird and Wild Cards

If you have a collection you would like to display for the school, sign up with Mrs. Thomas in the office.

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YOUNG AUTHORS CELEBRATION

Last week the young authors of Lawton met in small multigrade groups to celebrate their writing. Each adult staff member, along with many parents, hosted a group and facilitated sharing of writing, feedback for the authors and receiving certificate of appreciation.

I was fortunate to host a talented group of writers:

Connor, a first grader who shared his fiction story, "The Water Bottle that Lost its Cap."

Isabel, a 3rd grader who not only wrote her story about the 5-Eyed Hawk, but showed the group her artistic model of the main character in her story.

Kara, a 3rd grader read from "My Poem Book". In that book she included several poems called: My Mom, Lavender, I Have a Dream, and Inside the Letter K. The group remarked on her adept use of alliteration.

Sophia, a 4th grader read a chapter from her non-fiction chapter book called, "Ethiopia." She shared the chapter on the Foods of Ethiopia and reminded us about Market Day during World Cultures Week.

Natalie, a 2nd grader shared her book called, "Awesome Seals." In it she called the seal a 'creature of 2 worlds.'

Liam, a 5th grader read from his book report on a fiction book called "Tiger" by Jeff Stone.

Imogene, a 5th grader read two chapters from her book called "Exotic Medicines from Madagascar." She described the medicinal benefits of the bark of Cinnamon and the Periwinkle. She also included a bibliography of books and websites on her topic.

The girls and boys were very respectful and appreciative of their peers work and provided insightful feedback for each author. Ms Dial, our teacher librarian and the coordinator of this event provided certificates for each author and a special Lawton Authors' Day pencil for each participant. It was a great day for celebrating the writing skills our children have been developing this year.

Kathy Bledsoe

Leader's Needed to Chair 2010-2011 Lawton Events and Fundraiser's

First of all I would like to say THANK YOU to all of the wonderful parents out there that have already signed up to coordinate one of next years school events. Lawton would not be the same without your hard work and dedication. Being a chairperson is a lot easier than it sounds and we still need several more volunteer's to coordinate and run many of next years activities. If you are interested or think that you may be, but would like more information on what it means to chair a particular event;
Please contact Deana Metteer at deanametteer@yahoo.com

- **Welcome Back BBQ Coordinator** Kick off our all school family/community event at the start of the school year. Traditionally Kindergarten families volunteer to do most of the cooking and food service, along with several veteran volunteer's. Last year's chair, Kris Croonquist will be your right hand lady and talk you through the entire process.
- **Welcome Back BBQ VOLUNTEER Coordinator** Help the main BBQ chair recruit, schedule and communicate with the event volunteer's. Most of the recruiting is done during the first couple days of school during the Kindergarten family welcome tea seeing that we don't have room parents available that early in the year to do an all school ask for help. We have been doing it this way for years and it is a great way for new parents to get involved and meet other parents.
- **Brown Bear Car Wash Sales Coordinator** Arrange for car wash ticket sales booths at various school events, track ticket sales and turn in funds to our PTA treasurer to deposit. Super easy and a great way to meet people.
- **Chinook Book Sales Coordinator** Advertise books in newsletter, make order forms and collect and fill orders during the first month of school, track and turn in funds to our PTA treasurer. We only have 100 books to sell and when they are gone...your chair job is done.
- **Co-Chair the Fall Festival with the Dance Dude and Ms. Parks** Help decorate and coordinate volunteers for the big fall dance. Ms. Parks makes this one of the easiest jobs on this list and she will be a great help to whoever is lucky enough to chair this event.
- **Legislative Liaison** We are looking for someone who is up on legislative issues affecting our schools. Someone who can write articles to our Lawton community via our school newsletter on what is going on at the district and state level. Especially in regards to school levies and funding that could effect our children's education.
- **Secret Garden Maintenance Coordinator** Arrange for a couple of garden work parties throughout the school year to keep our Secret Garden a special place for our young explorer's to enjoy. The district does all the main school grounds clean up and maintenance, but we need someone with a green thumb to help us keep it beautiful and unique.
- **Holiday Tree Sales Coordinator's** November through mid-late December. Recruit, organize, and communicate with volunteer's to work shifts throughout the sale, advertise in Magnolia and Lawton News, work with tree company, track sales and work with the PTA treasurer to track funds. All 3 of last years chairs will be your personal consultants.
- **Walking School Bus Chair** Assist Mr. Terry with the Walking School Bus. He is really well organized and on top of the scheduling, routes, etc, but can always use help recruiting "driver's" and subs for the routes.
- **Video Taping and Editing Coordinator** We are looking for someone with great video taping skills to record school events, performances, assemblies, etc and create DVD's of these events throughout the year.
- **Lost and Found Organizer** We need someone to come in and sort the Lost and Found bin. Returning lost clothing, bags, lunch boxes, etc to children whose names are marked on lost items. At the end of the year coordinate donation of clothing to a charity.
- **BINGO Night Coordinator** Communicate with volunteers, advertise around school and in newsletter, order BINGO supplies, arrange a theme, prizes, music and pizza dinner sales, etc. Kids and parents alike both enjoy this super fun free family event.
- **Math Night Coordinator** Games are organized and set up by Blue Highway which makes running this event a breeze! Just have to advertise in the Lawton news, communicate with volunteers and create a volunteer schedule, arrange dinner and sales of dinner, etc.
- **Science Fair Coordinator** Take a look at this weeks Lawton Science Fair to see how great this event is. You will have lots of volunteers to coordinate set up, event, and tear down. Coordinate sign ups with all students and arrange for kids to get their display boards, etc.
- **Science Fair Ice Cream Booth Coordinator** Organize ice cream sales, pick up and purchase ice cream, arrange and coordinate volunteer schedules, etc.
- **Spring Pledge Drive and Auction Event Co-Coordinator/Chair** We already have 5 volunteers to chair this major fundraising event, but would love to have at least one more person on the committee to share the work load.

New Volunteer Coordinator

Helen Pitt, an experienced community outreach specialist, was recently selected to be the new Volunteer Coordinator at Lawton for 2010/11. A new role description had been created by the principal, Kathy Bledsoe, and the PTA Board, to expand the duties and responsibilities of this position.

The new role includes:
Seeking new sources of volunteer help to take advantage of the wealth of community resources in our parent community, the faculties of education, alumni from Lawton enrolled in our high schools and our larger community
Recruiting, training and monitoring the work of the volunteers and recording and reporting the results of their work with students

Creating a leadership cadre of Lawton Room Parents
Developing a system to communicate with all volunteers
Meeting regularly with the principal and PTA liaison to report, raise issues and problem solve

Ms Pitt brings a wealth of experience to qualify for this role. She has a longstanding professional and personal commitment to volunteerism and has worked as Executive Director for the Seattle Urban Nature Project and Conservation Program Manager for the Seattle Audubon Society. She also expanded the scope and effectiveness of the Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign through volunteer recruitment and capacity building.

Ms Pitt brings her talent to Lawton along with an interest in public schools as the mother of a preschooler and Kindergartner. She was selected in a competitive hiring process that elicited over 30 applications. Helen Pitt will begin her work in August after an orientation in June and we are very happy to welcome her to the Lawton staff.

Lawton News

Lawton News is compiled weekly by Marla Master, PTA communication officer.

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*When sending submissions please put the word **LAWTON NEWS** in subject line. Thanks!*

Deadline: Friday 5pm
For the following Tuesday's edition

COMMUNITY NEWS

Food and Book Drive

Girl Scout Troop 41164, which includes a number of Lawton 4th grade girls, is having a food and book drive. We chose this as our end of the year project because we heard that food banks are at their lowest during the summer months, and we wanted to help out. We want to collect books (adult and children's) so the people who go to FamilyFirst can have their own books to read this summer. We will put boxes in the main hallway, so please drop off any books of non-perishable food items. **The drive ends on June 16.**

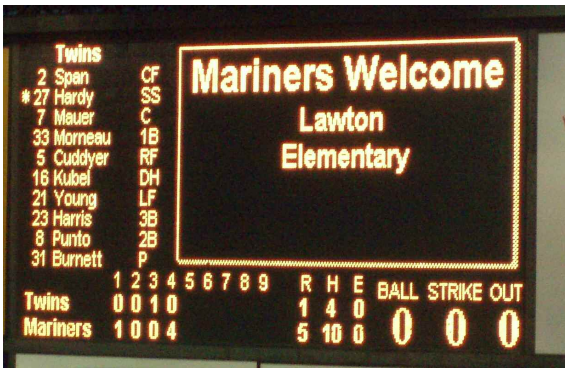
Rack N' Roll For A Cure

A fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk.

Featuring The Throbs!

August 21, 7 pm - midnight at
Sodo Pop • 2424 1st Ave. S.

Tickets $35 each at the door. Cash or check only.
Space is limited - reserve your spot now.
Contact Rene Rosenfeldt
r.rosenfeldt@comcast.net • 206 399-1916

Lawton Night at the Mariners
A Winner for All!

Final score – 7 to 1