

LawtonNews

From The Desk Of The Principal BULLYING AT LAWTON

Let's put things in perspective. Everyone has a right to their opinion and a right to share their opinion. But this is a message I give to our staff and children all the time: Everyone is also "in charge of their own mouth." It is important to make sure the information we share as fact is accurate with confirmation.

It is also an important family value that parents support and protect their children. This is the reason why, when an incident occurs, it is taken seriously, it is investigated, and resolved to ensure that it does not happen again.

Some facts:

The daily goings-on on an elementary school playground are an adventure. Some children are playing kickball, soccer, basketball, playing tag, hide and seek, or just pretending. It is all age appropriate and happening all at once. Although it may seem chaotic to adults, this is the time the children like most, when they choose what to do with other children. With all this action some children do play rough, emotions can run high, and sometimes children may even get hurt.

All principals deal with student behavior and misbehavior every day. In the 80 days I have been at Lawton, I have handled and documented over 120 incidents involving student behavior. Two of these incidents could have escalated to a bullying situation had we not dealt with them immediately.

Bullying continued on Page 2

Read End of Year Message from the Interim Principal and New Principal Update on page 7



CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 15

Concert, Assembly & Evening Performances
(see page 3 for details)

Thursday, June 17

5th Grade Graduation • 6:00pm

Friday, June 18

Field Day

Don't forget to volunteer for this awesome event!

Tuesday, June 22

- Last Day of School • **Dismissal 2:10**
- Deadline to order school supplies by check - you can still order online until June 30.
(see page 7 for details)

Yearbooks are out!

If you ordered one and didn't receive it please contact me. We have VERY FEW extras left. If you would like to order one, they will be handed out on a first come first serve basis. Yearbooks are \$15 and checks should be made to Lawton PTA.

Thanks! Marla Master • marla@masterdesign.ca

Help the Gulf Coast Animals

On Friday, June 18th during field day and after school room 109 will be selling sea turtles that they have made for \$5 each. All funds will be donated to the National Wildlife Federation to help save animals harmed in Gulf Coast oil spill.

What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as follows in the Seattle Public Schools Board Policy:

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act that:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student’s property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education; or
- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

One important distinction is that bullying is an intentional act and may involve a documented pattern of behavior exhibited by a student toward a “target”. When a child exhibits physical aggression, this does not necessarily mean s/he is bullying. Adults and children need instruction to understand this difference.

Talking with children:

In my experience investigating incidents with children, I have learned one important lesson: how you ask a question will determine what response you get from a child. Most of the time the children are happy to furnish a story about something they have been involved in. To ensure you get information so the incident can be followed up, it is important to ask an open-ended question. An example is: *“I heard you had a problem with, tell me about it.”* If you are not sure what happened, asking for more specific details about certain parts will provide the information.

When I am gathering information about an incident, I talk with each individual involved, separately and put these individual perspectives together to provide as many details as possible. I then ask the children to tell me who was there or who else I should ask to get more information. Most of the time the incident has been reported by a staff member and I have that statement in writing. If this is not the case, I ask the children who they reported the incident to and follow up with the adult.

When this process is complete, I usually have enough details to make a determination and follow up with consequences. This usually includes parent contact, since, as I tell the children, *“Parents always want to know if you are involved in a problem.”*

Occasionally, when a child is telling what happened, the details may not be consistent with the stories of other children. When this happens I ask, *“Is this a true story or a made up story?”* In my experience even very young children know the difference when the question is framed in this way.

How does the staff at Lawton handle bullying?

In March 2010 the staff at Lawton participated in training on anti-bullying with Celia Arriaga, a Prevention and Intervention Specialist with Seattle Public Schools. We developed a protocol for addressing bullying if we saw any indication this is happening in our school:

Step 1: Staff member contacts the principal and an investigation is done. School based interventions include meeting with the students involved, contacting parents and applying school based consequences. The student is given details about what bullying is and the protocol that will be followed. Students and staff are instructed to contact the principal if there is any further problem.

Step 2: Repeated behavior will result in contacting parents and scheduling a parent conference to review what has been happening with appropriate consequences including removal from the classroom.

Step 3: Any further behavior will result in significant disciplinary action that may include suspension from school.

The staff and BLT of Lawton are also in the process of revising the School Plan. In that revision there will be the inclusion of Bullying Prevention strategies, instruction in the classrooms, and further training for the staff and parents so that we can all be part of working with our children to ensure they behave appropriately and that we have processes in place should we ever have serious issues that arise at our school.

1 Starfish Bake Sale
Raised over \$400!
Thank you Lawton for your support!

Music Assembly and Concert Tuesday June 15

THE ASSEMBLY

will include the K-2 choir, 2nd Grade and 3rd graders from Rooms 104 & 201.

The assembly will begin at 2:00.

THE EVENING PERFORMANCE

includes performances from K-2 Drama, K-2 Choir and Rooms 102, 103, & 105.

6:30pm

I would like to thank all the parents who have helped with our choirs and music concerts this year.

Special thank you to Britta Bowman who is graduating with her daughter. She was my main contact parent and her help was invaluable this year.

The parent and community support of the music program at Lawton makes my job so much easier. If you are interested in helping with the concerts for your grade level or with choir please let me know soon.

I hope you all enjoy the summer months and I will see you in September!

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 a Big Success!

The Lawton Science Fair was lots of fun. The kids worked hard and it showed in the caliber of the projects. There were volcanoes, there were wind turbines, there were all kinds of plants and lots of other interesting questions investigated. Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening great - the parents and kids who helped schlepp projects around, the badge makers and registrars, the ice cream servers, the teachers and staff who maintained their cheerful smiles amid the chaos. If I have forgotten anyone, know that I will remember eventually and thank you in my heart. As a final note, my family is moving away this summer and we will miss Lawton a lot. We think it is the best school anywhere!

Sincerely, Barbara Ivester, Science Fair Chair

And a HUGE THANK YOU TO BARB IVESTER who headed up the Science Fair at Lawton for the last 3 years. Always encouraging the kids and making the event special each year. We thank you for your dedication and caring and wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life. You will be missed!

Registration Open for SUMMER DRAMA CAMP

GREEK MYTHS

July 19 - 23 • 9:00 - 3:00
\$100.00 • 1/2 day \$55.00

- Mornings will be dedicated to reading and illustrating greek myths
- Afternoons will be dedicated to the theatre arts
- Week will culminate in a performance and art exhibit

ALIENS FROM OUTER SPACE

July 26 - 30 • 9:00 - 3:00
\$100.00 • 1/2 day \$55.00

- Mornings will be dedicated to learning about the solar system
- Afternoons will be dedicated to the theatre arts
- Week will culminate in a performance and science exhibit

Note: prices are for the whole week. Contact Ms. McDonagh for more information and to register.

LAWTON STAFFING FOR 2010/11

The staffing assignments for Lawton are now confirmed.

Who is leaving Lawton?

Kim Crosser, our 2nd grade teacher has been displaced since our enrollment decrease and budget cut. She has interviewed with several schools and has chosen to go to John Hay School next year.

Amy Dahlstrom, our School Psychologist has a new assignment and will be leaving us at the end of this year to go to Alki School and John Stanford School. We do not yet know who will replace her.

Leslie DeJong, our PE teacher, has been part of the School District Reduction in Force (RIF). We hope she will be able to return to us before the new school year begins.

Steve Haeck, our Instrumental Music teacher will retire this year. We have not heard yet who will be taking his place.

Suzu Minto, our Volunteer Coordinator will be leaving Lawton after 14 years of valuable service and contributions to our school.

Genya Scharks, our Kindergarten teacher, has been selected for a Kindergarten at Pathfinder K-8, a school that takes her closer to her home and family.

Kathy Bledsoe, our Interim Principal will leave after the school year but will be available to transition the new principal.

CURRENT STAFF ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2010/11

Administrative Secretary	Laura Thomas
Office Assistant	Amie Schumer
Nurse	Lynne Carveth
Shirley Langston	Child Nutrition Services
Playground Supervision	Scott Davenport
	Dorcas Yamashita
Certificated Tutors	Judy Oerkvitz
	Jane Salnick
Volunteer Coordinator	Helen Pitt
Custodial Staff	Ky Nguyen
	Mustefa Tessi

CURRENT STAFF ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2010/11

Kindergarten	Carol Anderson	107
	Tracy McDonagh	108
	Jeni Rudisill	109
.....		
Grade 1	Rich Connor (<i>Spectrum</i>)	101
	Connie Locke	111
	Michael Matzner	106
.....		
Grade 2	Elizabeth Hensley (<i>Spectrum</i>)	103
	Susan Raymond	105
	Lyon Terry	104
.....		
Grade 3	Sue Palewicz	201
	Shirley Rybock (<i>Spectrum</i>)	203
	Tessie Wong	202
.....		
Grade 4	Emmy Misner	205
	Mike Howard (<i>Spectrum</i>)	209
	Steve Reddy	208
.....		
Grade 5	Lily Ulmer	204
	Peter Hubbard (<i>Spectrum</i>)	207
.....		
Teacher Librarian	Kathy Dial	Library
.....		
Specialists	Elaine Cooper	Music
	Cheryl Parks	Gym
.....		
Special Ed		
Susan Krizanc		113
Nancy Hunter		Speech
Sue Schultz		102
Ruth Solnit		Special Ed Office
	<i>(shared with Schmitz Park Elementary School)</i>	
Carrie Wheeler		
Linda Cutler		Special Ed IA
Mr. V		One to one IA

Help Still Needed

There are a lot of openings and not that many days left of school. Please help us keep up these great Lawton events. They can't happen without your help. It's not as hard as it might look, it's a great way to meet people and there are always other volunteers and PTA to help. Grab a friend or two and sign up today!!

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.
- **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.



Dr. G. Reid Lyon, former Chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes for Health, estimates five percent of children learn to read effortlessly, while another 20-30 percent learn to read with relative ease when exposed to any kind of instruction. However, for about 60 percent of students, learning to read is more challenging and their success is tied directly to the efficacy of instruction. Of those, 20-30 percent will find reading to be remarkably difficult and how these children are taught to read is critical to their success.

Eleven Coe Elementary teachers have signed up to take the Spalding Course, a research based method of teaching reading, writing and spelling, in late August from Julie Bedell. A shout out to those educators who are learning on their own time what scientific research has proven about how children learn to read.

www.readonforkids.org

**Thank you to the
Lawton Community for all
you have done for this year.
Tasks big and small, your
dedication to our school
and children is what makes
Lawton special. We couldn't
do it without you!**

Have a great summer!
The Lawton PTA

LIBRARY NEWS

Another Great Young Author's Sharing!

Thanks to all of the group leaders who made this such a successful event. When students share their writing, the positive recognition helps attach value to their education and hopefully improves their self-esteem. Cindy Bush, Britta Bowman-Mohn, Kristina Croonquist, Jennifer Divine, Cindi Grass, Nina Graff, Marla Master, Anne Habegger, Corrie Kahn, Joanne Gillen, Alane Pina, Victoria Watson, Joyce Brenden, Susan Washington, Joni Hughes, Connie Olson, Nance Daikeo, Maureen Mastrobattista, Winnie Wong, Linda Berge. You are all the best.

Congratulations Super Star Readers

On June 8, 152 Lawton Readers enjoyed a pizza lunch in the library. Congratulations to all of you who monitored your students' reading throughout the year. Reading is one of the best activities to improve your child's thinking and growing. A Special thank you to Marla Master who kept the reading charts up-dated in the main hall. Netra Doyle, Nina Graff, Cindy Bush and Marla Master have their lunch server skills spot on. Thank you for all your help.

Last Call for Lost books

We want all students to receive their report card on the last day of school. Seattle Schools policy states that library accounts must be settled in order to receive a final report card. Please help you child with this issue and call me at 252 2138 if you have any questions you may have.

Usborne Book Fair A Big Success!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Usborne Book Fair last week. These are wonderfully, high quality books.

We have \$931.93 in our library account for next year thanks to all of you. Again thank you all. Have a great summer of reading.

Lawton News

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

Contact: marla@masterdesign.ca • 285-0590

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

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

An open letter to the Lawton Community

It has been my pleasure to provide leadership as Interim Principal for the second half of this school year. I have enjoyed having the opportunity to learn the children's names, find out about them and what they are learning and to see them at play.

I have also met wonderful staff members who work with passion and joy each day to provide instruction for the children in every aspect of the curriculum. Lawton is fortunate to have many fine professionals who care about children, keep updated and always make decisions based on what is in the best interest of the children and families they serve.

I have also had the good fortune to work with a very involved and engaged group of parents, who keep informed, volunteer their time and talents and work every day to make Lawton an extraordinary place for children. Although I have been here a short time I will remember my role at Lawton as a time when I have learned a great deal and worked to add value to the school.

During my last few days here I will continue to prepare for closure to this school year and get ready for the new principal who will come on board imminently.

I will be involved in transitioning the new principal and wish you all the best as you continue to create a school that is just right for children. Have a great summer break.

Yours fondly,
Kathy Bledsoe

Principal Hiring Process Update

The new principal hiring process is under way. A hiring committee has been formed and we are currently waiting for a timeline from the Instructional Director at the district level. The parent representatives on the hiring committee are Bobby Mullins and Melissa Denke. Bobby and Melissa attended last week's staff meeting to give their input on desired attributes for a new principal.

Our interim principal, Kathy Bledsoe, has graciously agreed to transition the new principal when that person is hired. At this point, it looks like the interviewing of principal candidates will take place over the summer and the new principal will be transitioned before the beginning of school in September.

Mr. Patrick Johnson, Lawton's current Instructional Director, has provided the following information on the Seattle Public Schools process for principal hirings:

School directors meet with the school community and staff to develop a set of attributes they are looking for in a new principal.

- Elementary and Secondary Pool of Candidates Established
- Schools with a principal opening:
 - Using the attributes received from community and staff, building hiring committees review application packets of those in the appropriate pool and pick six candidates to interview. Instructional Directors lead this activity.
 - Building hiring committees interview their candidates and recommend three candidates to the Superintendent. Instructional Directors lead this activity.
- The Superintendent, the CAO and the Instructional Director interview the three recommended candidates.
- Announcement of new principal appointments. The Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools can make an appointment of a principal/assistant principal to a school/program at any time.

We will try to provide an update over the summer on the progress of the hiring committee.

Sincerely,
Bev Clonch
Lawton BLT Chairperson

Online School Supply Ordering

Back by Popular Demand Order by June 30.

You ask, we listen. I know it's hard to focus on NEXT school year when this is wrapping up but the PTA is pleased to announce that online school supply ordering is back!

Lawton PTA has partnered with Innisbrook School Supplies to bring you Online School Supply ordering.

Here's how:

- Go to www.innisbrook.com
- Click on "Buy School Supplies"
- Enter our school number 113721
(or Lawton Elementary PTA will work)

You can order online until June 30 or with form coming home by kidmail and pay by check, but orders must be received to the PTA box by 1 pm on 6/22.



**Please consider signing up
to Chair one of Lawton's
events and fundraisers
for next year.
See page 5 for more info!!**

Important Newsletter News

Dear Faithful Readers,

My term as PTA Communications Chair – aka "The Newsletter Person", is up and this is my last issue. It has been great having this opportunity to always be in the know and getting to meet many of you. Now, my challenge for next year will be – actually remembering to read the newsletter!!!

I wanted to make you aware of changes coming next year from Kimball Mullins, the new Communications Chair.

This summer the PTA will transition to distributing the newsletter only by email. This will be similar to a Constant Contact type email with the news embedded within the email and not attached as a click through link. We hope this will be a user friendly way for all Lawton families to get updates and the Lawton News.

If you currently receive the Lawton News and email updates that the PTA sends periodically, you don't need to do anything because your email address will be transferred over to the new system.

If you do not currently receive the Lawton News by email, that means you are only in your room parent's distribution list and not in the master PTA distribution list.

Please email info@lawtonschool.org with your email address so you can be added to the list.

The list is only used to distribute school and PTA related messages and is not used for any other purpose.

There will likely be school updates over the summer that we will be sending out and taking this step insures that you are on the list to receive these updates.

If you receive a paper copy and are unable to receive email please call me 285-0590 to make sure we get info to you.

Thanks!
Marla Master