



Newsletter

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Vol. VII, No. 10 Jan. 19, 2007
<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/brown>

Dates to Remember

January 2007		
Monday	22	Newton School Committee Meeting - Education Center, Frazier room (room 210), 7:30
Tuesday	23	"In My Shoes: A Student Perspective about Differences in our Community" Oak Hill, auditorium, 7:00-9:00pm
Tuesday	23	VOTE – Newton North Ballot Question
Monday	29	Tubs For Technology Cookie Dough Sales Begins
Tuesday	30	Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:40-4:00 pm
February		
Thursday	8	Ladies Night Out 7:00-10:30 pm, Windsor Club!
Wednesday	14	Tubs For Technology Cookie Dough Orders Due
Thursday	15	Discussion on MCAS Results – Presented by John Jordan 7:30 pm, library
Wednesday	28	6 th Grade Reads! Book Group Discussion – 7:30-8:45pm, Brown library
March		
Tuesday	13	Tubs For Technology Cookie Dough Pickup 2:00-3:00pm

Brown News

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

How can a counselor help me? Can I make an appointment with my child's Guidance Counselor? Where can I get information about: helping with homework, time management, bullying and teasing? Go to the newly updated Brown Guidance Department website page at http://www2.newton.k12.ma.us/~sharon_finelli/ for the answers to these questions and help with many other challenges facing the parent of a middle school student.

BROWN YEARBOOK REMINDER:

We need your Brown stories for the yearbook! Parents if you went to school at Brown Jr. High or Meadowbrook, we want your stories to possibly include in the 2006-2007 yearbook. Any special teachers, classes, plays or performances? Pictures? We'd love to hear from you.

You still can order yearbooks for \$25.00 on-line at www.coffeepond.com (password: brown07) through March 26, 2007. Or pick-up an order form in the school office and send it completed to Coffee Pond with a check.

If you have any memories that you would like to share in the yearbook or any questions about ordering a yearbook, please e-mail them to Ms. [Robyn DeFonseca](mailto:Robyn.DeFonseca@newton.k12.ma.us).

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: On Tuesday, January 30, the parent-teacher conferences scheduled on-line continues.

From the PTO

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thanks to all who came to the PTO general meeting last week. Your input is very valuable to us. Thanks also to School Committee members Susie Heyman and Jonathan Yeo for providing information and insight on the Newton North Site Plan referendum. Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, January 23. Informative websites on the issue are: www.newtonnorthnow.org, (for a YES vote), www.betternewtonnorth.org (for a NO vote)

Please join us for the following PTO events:

- Tuesday, January 23, 7 – 9 p.m., Oak Hill Auditorium - **“In My Shoes: A Student Perspective about Differences in our Community”**.
- Thursday, February 8, 7-10:30 p.m. The second annual **“Ladies Night Out”** at the Windsor Club. Socialize and have fun with other moms from Brown. Reservations in advance are \$20, walk-ins welcome, \$25. Mail check payable to Brown PTO and mail to Terry Sherman, 21 Belmore Park, Newton, 02462. For more information, contact Terry at etalsherm@rcn.com.
- Thursday, February 15, 7:30-9 p.m – Join principal John Jordan for an informative discussion of **MCAS** testing and results for Brown Middle School.
- Wednesday, February 28 – Save the date for the first meeting of **“6th Grade Reads! Book Discussion Group”**. The PTO is kicking off its first book discussion group for 6th graders and their parents with The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin. Sixth graders and their parents will read the book and then meet together for a little background on the book, snacks and of course, lively, interactive, small group discussions about The Westing Game, bringing together both adults and children. Detailed information will be going home soon in 6th grade backpacks. You can also sign up by sending an email to Lauren Adams, laurenadams@rcn.com.

Congratulations to all the participants of the Geography Bee. This was a fun, educational all-school event held January 11, celebrating and testing our knowledge of geography. School spirit was evident as students cheered on their classmates. Fourth through eighth graders all over the country participate in this National Geographic Bee, which is an educational outreach program of the National Geographic Society.

Enjoy the chilly winter weather!

Sincerely,

Karen Spier (617-965-0742) and Mimi Karys (617-964-2908) , brownpto@brownpto.org
PTO Co-Presidents

TUBS FOR TECHNOLOGY – ANNUAL BROWN COOKIE DOUGH SALE

Winter Fundraiser - READY-TO-BAKE COOKIE DOUGH – all proceeds benefit our Technology Drive. The Brown PTO will begin this delicious fundraiser on Monday, January 29. We will be selling tubs of frozen cookie dough. The ready-to-bake dough comes in 10 scrumptious flavors and sells for \$12.50 per tub!! Order forms are due on February 14 and the cookie dough will be at school for pick-up on Tuesday March 13 between 2:00-3:00pm. This is a great and easy way to support the PTO. Extra forms will be available in the office. Please email [Janet Wertheimer](mailto:Janet.Wertheimer@brownpto.org) or [Carolyn Drucker](mailto:Carolyn.Drucker@brownpto.org) with any questions. For cookie dough information you can go to the Classic Cookie Dough website at www.classiccookie.com

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are needed to see this picture.

ATTENTION BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL MOMS – PLEASE JOIN THE FUN!

Have you always wanted the opportunity to meet the mom of your son/daughter's new friend that they always talk about from Angier, Countryside, Mason Rice or Williams? WELL -- HERE'S YOUR CHANCE: "LADIES NIGHT OUT" Thursday night, February 8, 2007, 7:00 - 10:30 pm at the Windsor Club, 1601 Beacon St., Newton.

Wine, soft drinks, light appetizers, coffee and desserts will be served. A charge of \$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the door is requested to help defray costs and raise funds for the school. Mail your check written out to Brown PTO to: Terry Sherman, 21 Belmore Park, Newton, MA 02462. No one will be prohibited from attending due to financial constraints, kindly speak with an Assistant Vice Principal. This is planned as a fun, community-building fundraiser. If you have any questions, kindly contact either: [Terry Sherman](mailto:Terry.Sherman@brownpto.org), [Lisa Vasiloff](mailto:Lisa.Vasiloff@brownpto.org), or [Kathy Houston-Read](mailto:Kathy.Houston-Read@brownpto.org)

From Newton Publics Schools

NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular meeting scheduled for January 22, 2007 at Education Center, Frazier room (room 210), 7:30 p.m. For more info go to <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/schoolcommittee/index.html>

NEWTON ALL CITY HONORS CHORUS

Now accepting new members beginning January 24th. If you are a 7th, 8th, or 9th grader and you love to sing, e-mail [Martha Holmes](mailto:Martha.Holmes@brownpto.org). Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at Williams School in Auburndale.

PAC PRESENTS STRATEGIES FOR PARENTING THE EXPLOSIVE CHILD

Presented by The Newton Parent Advisory Council for Special Education on Thursday Feb 8, 2007. The Explosive Child by Ross Greene, PhD of Mass General Hospital provides a compelling new framework for understanding and effectively parenting inflexible, easily frustrated children who experience frequent meltdowns. We will view Greene's video outlining his approach, and discussion will follow led by Beth Edelstein, founder of the Foundation for Children with Behavioral Challenges (www.fcbsupport.org). FCBC is a support group that promotes awareness of compassionate approaches for parenting children with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Information about Greene's book is available at www.ccps.info.

The meeting is at 7:30 PM at the Education Center, 100 Walnut St, Newton 02460 in Room 318. Please contact Leslie Lockhart for more information about the meeting or the Parent Advisory Council at 617-527-5046 or newtonspedpac@yahoo.com.

TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM EXPO

Monday, February 5, 2007 5:30 - 8:00 pm at Newton South High School, 140 Brandeis Road, in the cafeteria. FREE ADMISSION. Learn about the many options available for teens' summer experiences. Meet directors from more than 50 programs such as Teen Camps, Teen Travel, Sport, Adventure, Community Service, Cultural Immersion, Arts and Theatre, Music, Academic, Non-Profit, Internship and College/SAT Prep. Sponsored by CampSource/TeenSource and NSHS PTSO. For details: www.campsourcenetwork.com, 617-244-3316 or email laura@campsourcenetwork.com. Snow date: Tuesday, February 6.

NEWTON SOUTH STAGE PRESENTS URINETOWN

Musical directed by Nancy Curran Willis - February 8, 9, & 10 at 7:30PM. Reserved Seating-\$12, General Admission-\$8. Call 617-559-6594 or visit www.southstage.org

Community News

PLANNING A LIFE: MAKING THE MOST OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL

The Federation for Children with Special Needs presents a 2 day transition conference on February 2-3. Register now for the Boston conference at <http://www.fcsn.org/pti/workshops/transition.html> where you can download the conference brochure. For more information, contact [Terri McLaughlin](mailto:Terri_McLaughlin) or 617-236-7210 x336.

FREE FILM SCREENING OF "DARFUR DIARIES"

This film is about the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan. This powerful documentary is a collection of interviews describing the genocide by the people affected by it. The screening will be on Sunday, February 4th at 2 pm at Temple Sinai located at 50 Sewall Avenue in the Coolidge Corner, Brookline. Advance registration is recommended. Call 617-277-5888 or go to www.sinaibrookline.org for more information.

NEWTON EAST LITTLE LEAGUE SPRING SEASON

Newton East Little League (NELL) serves boys and girls aged 5 to 12. The season begins in early April and runs through the middle of June. Registrations will be on-line at: www.eteamz.com/newtoneastll. If you are not able to register on-line you may use a paper application form available by email request to nellbaseball@aol.com; or call (617) 332-8062. The registration deadline is February 10, 2007. Please see player eligibility information on the website.

WINTER MAGIC PARTY

Party featuring **Bonaparte**, Boston's Hottest Magician on Friday January 26th, doors open at 3:15, show starts at 4:00. Have a snack, enjoy a magic show, and stay for pizza and ice cream. . Held in the parish hall at Newton Highlands Congregational Church, 54 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands. Silent auction featuring items from local merchants also being held. Tickets \$8, \$7 in advance. Proceeds to benefit playground renovations for Weekday Nursery School. For information call 617-332-6278.

INSTRUCTION IN FINE ARTS

For Children, Adolescents and Adults. Small group classes taught by Susan Axe-Bronk, certified art teacher and exhibiting artist in home studio in West Newton. Classes currently forming. Call 617-558-7071 or email axebronk@aol.com for more information.

BAY STATE JAGUARS AAU BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

The Bay State Jaguars AAU Basketball Club, a non-profit club is holding tryouts for spring teams starting January 20th. Girls (5th - 12th grades) and boys (4th - 12th grades). The club offers an excellent program with top-quality coaching. A number of the coaches are former college players, and some are currently coaching at the high school or college level. During the past few years, the club has concentrated on putting together teams that could successfully compete on a State and National level. If you are serious about basketball, don't miss this opportunity! Scholarships are available for qualified players. For more information, including the tryout details, please visit www.baystatejaguars.org or contact [Nancy Leipzig](mailto:Nancy_Leipzig) or call 617-244-9508.

TEEN REACH PROGRAM AT NEWTON COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

February vacation week adventure for teens grades 7-10 to experience 5 exciting day trips. The schedule of events will be:

Monday-Skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing trip; **Tuesday**-Improv comedy training at a Boston comedy club; **Wednesday**-VIP tour of MTV Studios in New York City and seats at TRL; **Thursday**-Tour of local New England colleges; **Friday**-Outdoor winter team challenge led by the Appalachian Mountain Club in New Hampshire. The trips are planned and supervised by NCSC youth services staff and cost \$450.00 per student. For more information please call Jenny MacIver or Chris Fortunato at (617) 244-1404.

WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATER PRESENTS BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

February 2 – March 4; Friday nights at 7:30pm; Saturdays & Sundays at 3:00pm; School vacation week matinees (Feb 20-23) at 1:00pm; located at 200 The Riverway, Boston. For tickets call 617-879-2300 or tickets@wheelock.edu

TURTLE LANE PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

February 2 – March 11; Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 pm; Sundays at 2pm; located at 283 Melrose Street, Newton (Auburndale). For tickets call 617-244- 0169 or www.turtle-lane.com

AUDITIONS FOR THE SECRET GARDEN AT TURTLE LANE PLAYHOUSE

February 12th & 13th. Prepare 2 contrasting songs in the style of the show. To set up an appointment call 617-244-0169.

THE BEST OF OLD MOVIES FOR FAMILIES

Have a classic film favorite that you want to introduce to your kids? Join Boston Globe film critic Ty Burr, for a screening of THE COURT JESTER and a discussion of his new book "The Best of Old Movies for Families: A Guide to Watching Together". Sunday, February 18, 12:15 - 2:15pm at the Coolidge Corner Theater located at 290 Harvard Street, Brookline; Screening - \$3, Discussion – FREE. For more information, visit www.coolidge.org

FEBRUARY VACATION WEEK PROGRAMS PRESENTED BY NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION

All programs are from February 20 to February 23 (Tuesday – Friday).

All Sports Clinic at Pellegrini Park located at 11 Hawthorn Street, Newton for 6 to 14 year olds. Sports include: basketball, floor hockey, soccer, vortex ball, flag football and dodge ball; cost - \$150 (9am to 2pm) or \$95 (9am to Noon). For more information, call Tom Cahill at 617-796-1500 or visit www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks and click on the_Newsroom for a link to the vacation programs page.

Basketball Clinic at the Lincoln Elliot School located at Pearl Street Newton for 6 to 12 year olds from 9am to Noon; cost - \$120. For more information, call Tom Cahill 617-796-1500 or visit www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks and click on the_Newsroom for a link to the vacation programs page.

Vacation program at the Burr Park Community Center for Children in Grades K to 3 from 9am – 3pm. Cost - \$37.50 per day or \$125 for all 4 days. Price includes supervision, lunch and fieldtrips. For more information, or to receive a registration form, call Stephanie Pelkowsky at 617-796-1528.

Vacation program at the Lower Falls Community Center located on Grove Street in Lower Falls for Children in Grades 4 and above from 9am - 3pm. Cost - \$37.50 per day or \$125.00 for all 4 days. Price includes supervision, lunch, and field trips. For more information call 617-796-1529 or visit www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks

BROWN PTO NEWSLETTER. The newsletter will publish, at the sole discretion of the PTO, articles and other information of interest to the Brown Middle School Community. SUBMISSIONS: by email to editor@brownpto.org, by US mail to Brown Middle School PTO, Newsletter Editor, 125 Meadowbrook Road, Newton, MA 02459, or by drop off in the Brown Office Mailroom. Deadline Saturday evenings. See the latest newsletter at www.brownpto.org