



Newsletter

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Vol. VIII, No.18 June 6, 2008
<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/brown>

Dates to Remember

June			
Thursday	12	PTO Parent/Teacher End of Year Thank-you Coffee	8-9am in Brown Library. All welcome
Tuesday	17	8 th Grade Graduation party	7-9pm – Brown cafeteria & gym – tickets must be purchased in advance
Wednesday	18	8 th Grade to Canobie Lake Park	8:30am-2:30pm – permission slip needed!
Thursday	19	8 th Grade Graduation	9:30am at Newton South High School Field House. Small reception to follow at South
Thursday	19	Last Day of School for Students	Early Release at 11:30am
Friday	20	Last Day of School for Teachers	
September			
Tuesday-Wednesday	2 & 3	All the school supplies a Brown student needs	Brown Cafeteria. Hours to be announced.
Thursday	4	First Day of School	
Thursday	18	Brown Back-to-School Night	7pm Brown Auditorium

From the PTO

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FROM ALL GRADES

The 8th Grade Graduation Committee is looking for parents of kids in other grades to chaperone the 8th grade graduation party on Tuesday, June 17 from 7-9pm. We are also looking for help in putting together a graduation DVD of pictures that have been collected over the past year. Please let Robin Zelle at zelle3@verizon.net know if you would like to help.

SCHOOL STORE BLOW-OUT SALE

Tuesday (6/10), Wednesday (6/11) and Thursday (6/12) at lunch time, the School Store will be having year end sale at lunch time.

A BIG BOOK FAIR THANKS!

A huge shout out of THANKS to Nina Levin who ran this year's Brown Book Fair. Nina raised over seven hundred dollars for the school and got our students some great books to keep their minds active over the summer.

PTO YEAR END COFFEE – ALL ARE WELCOME

Please join us on Thursday morning, June 12 as the PTO hosts a "Hello to Summer" Teacher-Parent Coffee from 8-9am. All are welcome to join us for the coffee to celebrate the end of a great school year and welcome summer.

BROWN'S SCHOOL STORE'S BACK TO SCHOOL SALE IN SEPTEMBER

This September Brown's School Store will hold it's annual back to school sale the Tuesday and Wednesday before school starts (9/2 & 9/3). All items on the Brown school supply list (and the school supply lists themselves) will be available. Hours to be announced in the August PTO newsletter and on the PTO website: www.brownpto.org

END OF THE YEAR TEACHER GIFTS

Please remember that Newton Public School policy prohibits teachers from accepting gifts from current students. If you wish thank a teacher or teachers, please consider donating to the PTO Library or Music Funds, or to the Newton Schools Foundation "Honor Thy Teacher" campaign. For details about the "Honor Thy Teacher" campaign, please visit www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org. To contribute to the PTO library or music fund, simply send a check to the school, payable to Brown PTO (Brown PTO, 125 Meadowbrook Road, Newton, MA 02459); include a note with your child's name, teacher(s) being honored, and the fund you wish to support. The PTO will make sure that the teacher is notified about your donation.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Do you want to stay informed of happenings at Brown even though you no longer have kids going to Brown? If you would like to continue receiving the Brown newsletter, send an email to brownpto@brownpto.org with subject of "Alumni Newsletter List".

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the ways Brown parents have supported the school through the PTO. As a quick recap:

- Student enrichment activities involved support from active library volunteers
- Parents running the school store both year round and September Pre-Sale
- Parent support committee for the Music and Drama groups
- School Pictures and coordination and planning of Eight Grade Activities
- The Creative Arts and Sciences committee brought in many great programs involving math, physics, weather, music and storytelling to enhance and enrich what are children are learning in the classroom.
- To "Keep Brown Cruisin' Along" we had a great group on the Environmental Management Team to help identify building deficiencies and work with city groups to advocate for new windows, new lockers and updated bathrooms.
- We had parent volunteers create the school directory, manage email communications, send out a biweekly newsletter to keep us all informed and up to date on Brown happenings and keep the PTO web page up to date.
- In support of our wonderful faculty and staff, we continued a grant program to give teachers access to additional financial resources to enrich their classrooms activities; we hosted two scrumptious Faculty Appreciation Luncheons, and spruced up and supplied lovely soaps for the faculty bathrooms.
- On the social side, parent volunteers hosted the welcome coffees, a Boston picnic, evening meetings and a really fun and entertaining "Ladies Night Out".
- All of these activities were made possible by your support of fundraisers such as the Magazine Drive, sponsorship of teachers for Faculty Foul-Ups and support of Box Tops, recycling initiatives and Music and Library donations and participation in the Book Fair.

It wouldn't happen without a large group of volunteers. A huge thanks to all the volunteers that supported the above mentioned activities. All of these things help to make a better learning experience for our children.

Please feel free to contact us with ideas, questions, anything!

Mimi Karys (617-964-2908) and Lucia Dolan (617-332-1893), brownpto@brownpto.org
PTO Co-Presidents

Brown News

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT FOR INCOMING 9TH GRADERS

All students should read *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury. In addition, each student should read 2 books of her or his choice. An annotated list of suggested books by grade level is available on the Newton South Library website at www.newton.k12.ma.us/nshs/library/. At the beginning of the school year, students will be asked to consider, discuss, and respond to the books verbally and in written form. A summer reading examination is commonly given. Students should be prepared to bring either the books or detailed notes, or both, to class sometime during the first weeks of school.

SUMMER READING ALL INCOMING 6-8TH GRADERS

For a great 2008 Summer Reading List compiled by the Newton Middle School Librarians, click on www.newton.k12.ma.us/brown/library/documents/2008Summer.pdf. Students are required to read two books from the list over the summer

GIRLS' SOCCER MEETING AT NEWTON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Girls' Soccer meeting at Newton South for incoming 9th graders and returning players. Wednesday, June 11, 3:15pm in the Athletic Department at South. The meeting will last about 45 minutes, and all the necessary paperwork will be distributed. For additional information, contact Doug McCarthy, dsmcc@verizon.net

YEARBOOKS ARE HERE!

Yearbooks will be distributed during all lunches on Monday, June 16. There will be a limited number of yearbooks (about 40) on sale for \$25 (cash) during lunches on Tuesday, June 17. Priority will be given to 8th grade students on the sale.

TRACK TEAM POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, June 11, 3:30 - 5:30pm. If you can help with setup, clean-up or a food donation, contact Mimi Karys at mkarys@rcn.com

BROWN BALDIES

June 4th was the 4th annual BROWN BALDIES which is a spirit raiser & fundraiser to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Our intention is to raise a little bit of money by collectively and symbolically participating in a fun-filled afternoon that demonstrates our community spirit. This all began 4 years ago when our own Michelle Shin was being treated for lymphoma and had lost her hair due to her chemo therapy. Many students had shared their desire to shave their heads to honor and support her through this difficult time. Thankfully, she has bounced back very nicely and the tradition has continued in honor of her and everyone else that has been affected by cancer. We were able to raise \$300 which was donated to the DFCI. We had 4 teachers and 12 students shave their heads in honor of the lives within our school community affected by cancer.

From Newton Public Schools

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

On Tuesday evening, May 27, the School Committee voted to appoint Dr. Judy Levin-Charns as the new Assistant Superintendent of Student Services. She will take over for Stephanie Powers and Mozelle Berkowitz who served during the 2007 – 2008 year as co-interim Directors of Pupil Services.

The Newton Parents Advisory Council for Special Education (Sped PAC) invites everyone to meet Dr. Levin-Charns, learn about her background, and ask questions at the last meeting of this school year on Tuesday, June 10 at 7pm in Room 210 of the Education Center, 100 Walnut Street, Newtonville. For more information visit www.newtonpac.org or email info@newtonpac.org

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PRE-PAY SCHOOL LUNCH ACCOUNT

Student balances will automatically be transferred to the child's account as he/she goes up a grade in the fall. Parents who wish to withdraw the balance for any reason (moving, changing schools, etc), send your request to: Newton Public Schools, Food Service Office, 100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, Ma 02460. Allow 6 weeks for the refund. Please also note, these prepay cards have fees: There is a service fee of 5% of the amount loaded onto the card with your credit card, and another service fee for payments made by direct withdrawal of \$1 per payment per student. Parents who wish to take part in this program may go to www.cafeprepay.com. Questions or concerns to Rob_Clickstein@Newton.k12.ma.us

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND AREA DISTRICTS AWARDED \$1,000,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY

Newton Public Schools has been awarded a \$1,000,000 three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education under the Teaching American History Program (CFDA # 84.215X). Newton is one of 121 districts in the country to receive a grant award. Newton Public Schools is the lead in a collaborative that includes Brookline High School, Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, Sudbury Public Schools, Waltham Public Schools, and Watertown Public Schools. This is Newton's second federal Teaching American History award.

The purpose of the grant program is to provide professional development to American History teachers with the end goal of improving student achievement. Margaret Spellings, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, said, "The Teaching American History grant program offers educators opportunities to work with colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, libraries, or museums to learn more about our country's history, culture, and democratic tradition. By providing professional development for teachers, we can help them support young people in becoming active, informed citizens."

Project Director Announced

Ms. Adrienne Stang has been appointed the Project Director beginning on July 1, 2008. Ms. Stang has been a history teacher in Newton for 13 years. She holds a Masters in Teaching from Brown University and received her Bachelor's from Princeton University. For more information, contact Susan Linn, Newton Public Schools Grants Coordinator, at 617-559-9038 or susan_linn@newton.k12.ma.us

Community News

FUTURE OF THE BRANCH LIBRARIES

Due to budget cuts, all Newton branch libraries are slated for immediate closure. The aldermen have scheduled a public comment period to hear concerns from residents. Come weigh in on this important issue and help shape the future of the Newton library on Wednesday, June 11 at 7:45pm in the Aldermanic Chamber at Newton City Hall.

INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION

On Tuesday, June 10, Newton South High School adjustment counselor Rich Catrambone and Newton Police Department Youth Officer Dave Spirito will be providing an evening program on internet safety for parents entitled, "YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW," in the Oak Hill auditorium at 7pm

FALL REGISTRATION FOR NEWTON GIRLS SOCCER IS NOW OPEN

All--Intramural and Travel--should register now. Those planning to take part in the Fall 2008 Travel program are urged to register right away, because the placement process is about to begin. Register even if you signed up for and attended the travel tryouts. You will not be placed on a team without registering. Travel registration is now for the entire year: Fall '08 and Spring '09. Please Note - Due to the late registration start, the official deadline for Travel registration has been moved back to May 23rd, but that's just days away. Go to www.newtongirlssoccer.org to register on-line. Questions? registrar@newtongirlssoccer.org or 617-527-7728. Newton Girls Soccer, P.O. Box 610333, Newton, MA. 02461.

GIRLS WIN ACADEMY SUMMER BASKETBALL CLINIC

Instructional-based basketball clinics for girls ages 9–17. Participants will learn proper shooting form, various ball-handling moves, passing techniques, and much more. Players have the option to work with participants based on similar skill level or by age. Coach Roberts, a Sports Hall of Fame inductee of The Ohio State Buckeyes Women's Basketball program and NCAA Division I Final Four MVP will lead the clinics. She is also the Head Basketball Coach at Boston Latin School. Contact her at Robertsgwa@aol.com for questions. Registration is now open. Visit our website for applications at www.girlswinacademy.org. Summer Clinics will be held at Oak Hill Middle School (Newton, MA): August 4–7.

NEWTON TENNIS DURING SUMMER

Time for tennis! Newton Parks & Rec. offers Summer 2008 Tennis for everyone – kids and adults of all levels. Kids may enroll for one or several weeks, attend morning and/or afternoon! Week 1 starts June 23. Adults, choose one or more clinics, join a round robin or enroll in our 3-day Intensive program in August. Please visit www.newtontennis.com for more info or to download a registration form. Questions – send to newtontennis@earthlink.net (or call 617-661-PLAY). Classes are filling up fast. Register today!

CITY-WIDE 2008 SUMMER BASEBALL SEASON: REGISTRATION NOW UNDERWAY

This program is for 10-12 year olds is being run by Newton East Little League, but all are invited to take part. This league serves eligible boys and girls who were born on or between May 1, 1995 & April 30, 1998. All new applicants must reside in Newton OR attend the Newton Public Schools. The season begins in early July and runs through the middle of August. Player evaluations take place Saturday June 14 from 10-12 at Jay Gordon Field. (rain date Sunday June 15, 3-5). Applications and program information at: <http://www.eteamz.com/newtoneastll/news/index.cfm?cat=267730>. All registrations must be done on-line at the web site. Registration deadline is Monday June 16. Coaching info is also available on-line. If you do not have on-line access, please call: Jodi Detjen at 617-312-2733.

Classified

NEEDED: ACCOMPANIST FOR THE CHORUSES AT BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

This job is for someone who would enjoy playing for the 6th, 7th & 8th grade choruses. Each of these choruses meets twice a week. If you are only interested in playing for one group, that would be fine. Please contact Carlton Doctor at 559-6900 or carlton_doctor@newton.k12.ma.us for more details.

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 Thursday, noon. See the latest newsletter at www.brownpto.org.