



Newsletter

125 Meadowbrook Rd., Newton, MA 02459
Telephone 617-559-6900, Absentee Call-In 617-559-6980

Vol. VIII, No. 6 November 23, 2007

<http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/brown>

Next Newsletter submission deadline: December 13, 2007 at Noon

Dates to Remember

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---|--|
| November | | | |
| Tuesday | 27 | Parent/Teacher Conference | 2:40–4:10pm |
| Tuesday | 27 | Brown School Council | 8am, conference room, across from the nurse's office |
| Wednesday | 28 | Winter Concert (Session I) | |
| December | | | |
| Tuesday | 4 | Early Dismissal & Parent/Teacher Conference | 1:30pm 1:40-3:40pm |
| Friday | 7 | First Term Ends | |
| Tuesday | 11 | Parent/Teacher Conference | 2:40-4:10pm |
| Wednesday | 12 | Winter Concert (Session II) | |
| Thursday | 13 | Brown School Council | 4pm, conference room, across from the nurse's office |
| Tuesday | 18 | Early Dismissal & Parent/Teacher Conference | 1:30pm 1:40-3:40pm |
| Friday | 21 | School Closes for vacation | End of day |
| | 24-31 | No School | December Vacation |
| January | | | |
| Tuesday | 1 | No School | New Year's Day |
| Wednesday | 2 | School Resumes | |
| Wednesday | 9 | PTO Meeting – Helping with Math Homework | ** NEW DATE** 7:30-9 Brown Library |
| Thursday | 10 | Late School Start | Be at bus stop by 11:45am |
| February | | | |
| Thursday | 7 | Ladies Night Out | 7-10:30pm, Windsor Club – More info to follow |
| | 18-22 | No School | Winter Vacation |
| Thursday | 28 | School Musical: Honk! | |
| Friday | 29 | School Musical: Honk! | |
| March | | | |
| Thursday | 6 | Late School Start | Be at bus stop by 11:45am |

Brown News

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please note the early dismissal time due to Parent/Teacher conferences at **1:30 pm on December 4 & December 18.**

Parent/Teacher conferences will take place this year on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 27 from 2:40-4:10pm
- Tuesday, December 4 from 1:40-3:40pm
- Tuesday, December 11 from 2:40-4:10pm
- Tuesday, December 18 from 1:40-3:40pm

BROWN ANNUAL GIFT DRIVE

We are happy to announce the start of Brown's annual Gift Drive. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the drive, the Brown community provides gifts for families connected to the Brookview House, a shelter in Dorchester. We will be responsible for giving gifts to nearly 200 people this year. This is a great chance for Brown students, faculty, and families to get together and help our community.

Students who decide to sponsor a child from the Brookview House should speak with their team teachers and will then receive an information card with the gift recipient's: name, sex, age, favorite color, clothing sizes, interests, and gift requests. While the gift "wish list" may be helpful, Brown families do not need to purchase all or any of the gifts requested.

All purchased gifts need to be brought to Brown by Friday, December 7th. They will be wrapped at school and delivered to the Brookview House the following week. If you would like to participate in this special event or you have any questions, please contact Emily Cline at Emily_Cline@newton.k12.ma.us. Donations of tape and wrapping paper would also be greatly appreciated.

HELP WITH BROWN MUSICAL, HONK!

We are looking for artistic, creative Brown students and parents interested in helping out with this year's musical, Honk! We will need help with:

- designing and building props and scenery
- creating artwork for the playbill
- creating posters to publicize
- finding sponsors for the playbill
- helping with the cast party

If you or your Brown student have any interest in helping with these tasks related to the musical, please contact Amy McMahan 617-527-1404 amymcm@rcn.com by December 20th. Scenery and props will be built on several Saturday mornings at Brown during the winter months. The production will take place on Thursday, February 28th 2008 and Friday, February 29th 2008. This is a great opportunity to participate in the more creative side of being a middle school parent and student!

UP-COMING BROWN SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday November 27th at 8am and Thursday December 13th at 4pm. Meetings are held in the conference room, across from the nurse's office. Meetings are open to all interested parents and staff.

A NOTE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE MAUREEN BISAGA

Parents please remember as winter sports season approaches, according to regulations, in order to try out and participate in a sport, a current physical (dated 12/1/06 or later) must be on file in my office. I keep a list posted in my room to tell students if they are up to date or not. This means they must check this list or talk to me personally prior to the date of tryouts. If you need to talk feel free to call Maureen Bisaga, RN at 617-559-6906

A NOTE FROM BAND DIRECTOR LAURIE WADSWORTH

Congratulations to all the many Brown students selected for the All-City Band this fall. These students have worked hard and I commend their dedication. Furthermore, I would like to thank all those parents and families who are so supportive of the performing arts here in Newton. It is exciting to be part of the Brown community! Thank you for sharing your children with me, Laurie Wadsworth

From the PTO

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

The first Brown Middle School dance was a great success, thanks to the fabulous planning and leadership from our own Katrina Antonellis, Chair of the Physical Education Department and Triple E Coordinator and interim Assistant Principal. Thanks also to Mr. Jordan and many of the Brown staff that was on hand to chaperone. Many parents also donated their time as chaperones. Thanks to Susan Hardy, Lauren Berman, Tina Choe, Michelle Yong, Liz Baum, Patricia Melnick, Concetta Daurio, Nicoletta Pellegrino, Cheryl Bunker, John Foster, Becky Leiter, and Kara Poirier. And thanks to Terry Sherman for helping supply frozen lemonades and Lisa Levin for the pizzas!

MAGAZINE DRIVE THIS WEEK

The magazine drive got off to a great start. Thank you to everyone who completed a MagNet booklet or sent in their magazine orders on triple bonus day. Congratulation to the lucky winners of the MagNet bonus prizes: Sophia Gray, Julian Asuajesolon, Eve Zuckoff, Caroline Leong, Ashton Andrews, Hadara White, and Ami Kutzen.

Magazine orders will be collected before the start of school on:

Monday November 26th - double points all orders

Wednesday, November 28th - last day to hand in orders

You can help support this Brown fundraiser by simply renewing your current magazine subscriptions through this drive. Remember to include payment with your orders -- checks should be made out to Brown PTO. Questions? Contact Karen Spier klspier@aol.com

CORRECTION TO DIRECTORY

Attention parents! Please note the following correction to your directory:
Kaufman, Daniel 617-332-4249 2 Newbury Terrace, Newton Centre 02459
Janet Boguslaw
Howard Kaufman
boguslawj@gmail.com 7 Green

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

Community News

NEW INTERFACE COMMUNITY RESOURCE & REFERRAL HELPLINE

The new INTERFACE Community Resource & Referral HELPLINE is now available to parents and community members to assist in finding appropriate mental health services for children and families. A licensed mental health professional helps callers with navigating the mental health system. Call 617-990-4975 on Tuesdays, 4-6pm, and Thursdays, 2-4pm. The Project INTERFACE website can help parents find information about services, and there's a calendar of community trainings and events. Go to www.projectinterface.org. For general info about Project INTERFACE, call 617-332-3666 x 411

NEWTON TAB EDITOR GAIL SPECTOR TO DISCUSS CANDIDATE COVERAGE & ENDORSEMENT

All are invited to join the members of the Ward 6 Democratic Committee to hear how the Newton TAB approaches candidate coverage and what factors are considered before the paper makes an endorsement. Sunday Dec. 2nd, noon at NewTV's studios, 23 Needham Street. Handicap accessible. For more Info call Fred Brustman at 617-244-7092.

NEWTON GIRLS SOCCER SPRING REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Deadline for travel team registration is December 1st, intramural deadline is January 31st. The spring season starts in April. For info or to register: www.newtongirlssoccer.org

CROSS COUNTRY SKIERS AGES 7-13

This winter, ski with the Eastern Massachusetts Bill Koch youth ski club. The Bill Koch Youth Ski League consists of more than 100 clubs around New England, and the Eastern Massachusetts club is the largest in the league. The club has both racing and non-racing components. Dry land, or off-snow, practices begin November 18th. Twice weekly on-snow practices run from mid-December through the end of February and focus on small-group instruction enhanced by games. The on-snow practices are held at Weston Ski Track near the intersection of 128 and the Mass Pike. For more information, interested skiers can visit the club Web site, www.easternmassnordic.org or contact Bonnie McEwen at abhg_mcewen@earthlink.net

FAMILY MOVIE DAY AT THE WEST NEWTON CINEMA

Sponsored by Parks and Rec: For families of all ages. See a movie and get popcorn and soda all for one low price, \$6/person. Tickets will be sold starting at 11:45am at the Cinema on the day of the event, Tuesday November 27th. Movies start at 1:30 and 1:45pm.

INDOOR SOCCER FOR TEENS

Co-ed, small, fun group of Brown soccer players is looking for couple more to join. We play at the Hyde Community Center in Newton Highlands, Saturdays from 12-1pm, starting December 1st. 14 sessions (Dec.-March) at \$140 per child. Coached by an experienced soccer player, coach, and referee! Contact gawsro@msn.com

FREE FLU & PNEUMONIA CLINIC

FREE Flu shots, pneumonia shots & FluMist® sponsored by the Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Newton & Watertown Health Departments. Saturday, December 1st, 2007 10am-12 noon at Arlington Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Avenue. For more information about this clinic and FluMist® call 781-316-3413 Flu shots for persons 6 months and over, FluMist® for persons 2-49 years old, Pneumonia shots for persons 65+ or persons with chronic illness. No appointment needed.

WABAN LIGHTS - A SING-ALONG AND TREE LIGHTING EVENT

Please join your neighbors and friends in Waban Square to welcome in the holiday season! The Waban Improvement Society is sponsoring Waban Lights. This fun sing-along and tree lighting event will be held on Sunday, December 2nd at 4:30pm. We will light the fabulous evergreen tree in Waban Square, sing carols, and then enjoy hot cider. Everyone is welcome, so bring your holiday spirit!

FUN LAPTOP FOR YOUR CHILD THIS HOLIDAY AND ANOTHER ONE FOR A CHILD IN NEED

Between now and November 26th, the One Laptop Per Child Foundation is making its revolutionary XO laptop available to the public through the Give One Get One program. For \$399, of which \$200 is tax deductible, you can order one laptop for your child and donate one to a child in a developing country.

Founded by MIT Media Lab veterans, OLPC is a global non-profit committed to providing rugged, low cost, connected computers to empower children in developing countries. If you are interested in participating in this groundbreaking educational initiative, please visit www.laptop.org for more information.

NEWTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - FINAL ROUND OF THEIR NEWTON'S CLASSICAL IDOL

The Newton Symphony Orchestra announces the final round of their young soloists competition (Newton's Classical Idol), on December 15th at 2pm at the Rashi Auditorium. Winners of the elementary and middle school divisions of the competition will perform with the orchestra and four finalists from the high school division will compete to win that division. The concert will begin with the premier of a work for orchestra by a student composer. The concert will be conducted by Benjamin Rous.

GARAGE NEEDED FOR SUBCOMPACT CAR

Easy Money for the Holidays! Wanted a garage spot for subcompact car from December - April. No need to have access over the winter (no need to shovel snow). Will pay full amount up front. Contact John Foster at 617-244-2321.

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.