

# BROWN PTO

## BROWN BEAR REPORT

FEBRUARY 14, 2012 ISSUE

### From the PTO Co-Presidents

When we took on the role as the new co-chairs, the budget was set and plans for the year underway. With wonderful PTO-sponsored programs such as CA&S, Geography Bee, and Faculty Appreciation events in swing, we turned an eye towards other ways to impact the school environment.

With Newton known for putting its resources into direct educational resources, the school buildings often fall to a lower priority. We have been fortunate to have parents who gave their time and support to renovate the school lobby and the teacher's lounge. The PTO has continued with the building improvement effort with smaller projects such as painting much-needed classrooms. Though such renovations normally would fall under the School Department's responsibilities, the wait list keeps growing with more serious items taking precedence, so we have taken on some of these tasks.

We are seeking parents to join in our next efforts. During the school break, volunteers will be painting the hallway near the gym and cafeteria (see page 2). We also have a few walls in the library. Whether you are an experienced painter or just want to help on a single project, we welcome you to join in.

Beth Grandi, Tanya Lazar and Florin Luca  
[brownpto@brownpto.org](mailto:brownpto@brownpto.org)

### BROWN NEWS

#### Bear-to-Bear Award

*Recipients are selected by their peers in acknowledgement of their effort and contribution to Brown.*

February's award went to **Sam McGraw**, 8th grade Maroon Social Studies teacher. Sam was given the award for his extra work on the eighth grade Sargent Center trip, boy's soccer, the GSA, and the Geography Bee. As well as his work as co-chair of the social studies department. His colleagues value him as a collaborator and a kind and encouraging person. Congratulations!

### CALENDAR

#### February

15-16 School Musical, Brown Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

20-24 Winter Vacation, no school

23 Build Brown, Cafeteria Lobby, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

24 Build Brown, Cafeteria Lobby, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

#### March

15 Winter Music Showcase, Brown Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

20 MCAS, 7th grade ELA

21 MCAS, 6th grade ELA

22 Faculty Foul-ups

### IN THIS ISSUE

[PTO News](#)

[Support Brown](#)

[From the School Nurse](#)

[Special Education News](#)

[Vacation/Camp Listings](#)

[Community News](#)

[Tutors, Lessons, Sports ...](#)

The next issue will be published on Tuesday, March 6. Please send all submissions to the **Editor** by Friday, March 2.

### QUICK LINKS

[Brown PTO](#)

[Brown Middle School](#)

[Newton Public Schools](#)

[Address/email changes](#)

### Get your tickets for Bye, Bye Birdie!

This year's Musical, Bye, Bye Birdie, will be performed on Wednesday, **February 15th, and Thursday, February 16th, at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets can be purchased from the School Office between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The price is \$7 in advance, or \$10 on the door.



## GET INVOLVED AT BROWN

### Extreme Makeover: Brown Middle School Edition

The lobby outside the cafeteria is in desperate need of a facelift! To brighten and refresh the entire space, the PTO, together with the school's administration, plan to paint the wall area. We need volunteers to help us paint and, to defray the cost, to donate some of the tool. The dates are **February 23 and 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Pizza lunch and refreshments will be provided. Parents may bring their older kids along to help. Please email [Florin Luca](mailto:Florin.Luca@brown.k12.us) if you can join in and/or with the item and quantity you can contribute. Thank you, we look forward to seeing you there!

- 30 – 9" all-paint rollers, 3/8 inch nap
- 12 – 9" roller handles
- 6 extension poles
- 12 paint trays
- 30 tray liners (please make sure they match the paint trays)
- 12 – 2" all-paint flat brushes
- 3 – 1-1/2" masking tape
- cloth rags for cleaning

### Literacy Coach Needs Parent Help

I am the new Literacy Coach at Brown and one of my responsibilities is to organize teacher resources. We currently have a section in the back of Ms. Tsou's Chinese classroom that is full of multiple copies of student novels which teachers use in the classroom for student book clubs. I am in need of 1-2 parents that can help me count and rearrange the books. Please contact me at [Diane\\_Pollard@newton.k12.us](mailto:Diane_Pollard@newton.k12.us) if you are interested!

## valentine candy gram!

Thank you to all who supported the Candy Gram fundraiser. We earned over \$500 for the effort!

We are especially grateful to the Emily Snow and Kara Jewitt and their teams for their help with the project and our parent volunteers: **Karen Day, Hope Ashner, Lauren Oasis, Shannon Smith, Jeannie Smith, Susan Laughlin, Barbara Cronmiller Liz Hiser, Sungmi Lee Foster, Maggie Yu.**

To celebrate, the PTO will be handing out lollipops to every student. Happy Valentine's Day!

## SUPPORT BROWN



Next time you shop, please use the Amazon link on our [PTO website](#). It's easy and you will not see anything different once you are on Amazon.com and your personal information is private.

### Box Tops for Education

A quick clip can really help. Please keep collecting those General Mills Box Tops and drop them off in the main office.



### Magazine Subscriptions

Please order, renew or gift magazines through [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com) school code 1091450, 40% of your order goes directly to Brown.



### Annual Fund

Have you contributed to the Annual Fund yet? Please consider supporting our school. Your donations go a long way to help support the students and the staff.

### Brown Gear & PJs

As the weather gets colder, grab a Brown sweatshirt or some flannel PJ bottoms to keep warm. Brown gear is sold at most school events or can be ordered through email.

Sweatshirts (\$25) and t-shirts (\$10) are available Adult sizes Small to X-large. Adjustable hats in blue or white are \$10. Order through [Sue](#) or [Kathy](#).

We have a handful of flannels pants (\$25) mostly in Youth M through Adult M sizes. Email [Beth](#) if you would like a pair.



## FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

### February is Heart Month

The City of Newton is highlighting heart health in recognition of February Heart Month. Look for new programs, interactive opportunities, and, most of all, tips on how you can lead a healthier life. "Heart month is a great time to take a step back and think about what we can be doing for ourselves and our families to lead healthier lives year-round," said Dori Zaleznik, MD, Newton's Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

The city, in partnership with Cataldo Ambulance Service, will be drawing attention to the Automated External Defibrillator program, offering a CPR/AED training course and sharing healthy tips on the city website at [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov).

To kick things off, the American Heart Association (AHA) has simplified heart disease prevention with Life's Simple 7 and the My Life Check Assessment.

These free online tools can help individuals to evaluate their heart health in the privacy of their own homes, learn more about seven risk factors for heart disease, and take action to make simple changes that can both improve quality of life and save lives.

The 7 steps recommended by the AHA are:

- Get active.
- Control cholesterol.
- Eat better.
- Manage blood pressure.
- Lose weight.
- Reduce blood sugar.
- Stop smoking.

Learn about these 7 risk factors and how to take small steps toward controlling risk at [www.mylifecheck.heart.org](http://www.mylifecheck.heart.org).

The American Heart Association also has great tips and resources for families at their Healthier Kids website [www.heart.org/healthierkids](http://www.heart.org/healthierkids). Fun activities include a Healthy Challenge Scavenger Hunt you can do in the home, and a My Family Health Tree to help guide blood relative family health history research.

### Sharps Disposal Information for Newton residents

Sharps are needles and lancets used at home to inject medicine into people or pets. Proper disposal helps keep potentially harmful products out of the waste stream. A new state law takes effect July 1, 2012 that prohibits people from disposing of needles and lancets in the trash.

Household sharps are accepted for disposal at City Hall Customer Service and the Newton Health Department during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays until 8 p.m. Sharps must be in a red medical waste or other sturdy plastic container. See the brochure at [www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov) on the Health page for more specific information. Questions? Call 617-796-1420.

### Sargent Camp Forms

Eighth grade parents-please be aware that any paperwork that you send in for Sargeant Camp is not returned to me but I can copy your child's physical on file here to send in. There is a sign up sheet in my office and I give the copy directly to the teacher.

Also, any medications stored here do not go with the children unless you specifically request this.

Sincerely,  
**Maureen Bisaga R.N.**  
617-559-6906

### Do you have a new Email, Telephone, or Address?

If your email address or phone number has changed, please let us know. To update your information, print and return the **Email and School Directory Form** or email the changes to [directory@brownpto.org](mailto:directory@brownpto.org).

Also, please make sure to forward any changes, especially emergency contact information, to the school main office as well!

## SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

### SPED Review and Trend Report: Follow-up and Next Steps

This meeting with Superintendent Fleishman has been re-scheduled for **Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 p.m.**

Superintendent David Fleishman and Judy Levin-Charns, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, are hosting an evening meeting for discussion of special education in Newton with NewtonPAC. Also attending will be Dorsey Yearley, the consultant helping to implement the changes at Newton South HS and who will be working with staff to make changes to middle school sped programming.

The evening will provide an opportunity to share and discuss special education planning by NPS in light of the release of new information available in the sped review, the trends report, and the ongoing work at South and the middle schools by Dorsey Yearley and NPS staff.

Meetings take place in Room 210 at 100 Walnut Street, Newtonville. Networking and light refreshments beginning at 7:15 pm.

Questions, suggestions, concerns: email Jo-Louise and Sandy at [info@newtonpac.org](mailto:info@newtonpac.org).

Newton Parent Advisory Council (NewtonPAC) for Special Education meetings are free and open to all.

For more information: [www.newtonpac.org](http://www.newtonpac.org).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**A-Cappalooza 3.** Join us for a great a cappella concert held at Newton South H.S. auditorium on **March 3 at 7:30 p.m.**, featuring Newton South High School "Newtones", Newton North High School "Forte", and two professional groups: Berklee College of Music "Pitch Slapped" and Boston based all-male group, "Redline". All proceeds go to the Countryside Elementary School PTO. Tickets can be purchased at [www.seatyourself.biz/countrysidepto](http://www.seatyourself.biz/countrysidepto).

**Earn \$\$\$ Shoveling Snow.** Sign up on the City's [snow removal website](#) to be added to a list of snow shovelers for hire this winter. Or, do a good deed and volunteer to shovel for a low-income neighbor who is physically unable to shovel. Sign up forms for both paid and volunteer shovelers are in the middle of the page under "Can you help your neighbors shovel snow this winter?"

**Kripalu yoga at the Waban Library, 1608 Beacon Street, Waban.** A moderate/vigorous yoga class in the Kripalu style - incorporating varying flow sequences as well as sustaining poses, focusing on breath and concentration

- "meditation in motion". Class size of 8 - 10 participants allows for individualized assists and corrections. Participants of all abilities can find their own yoga, and enjoy lots of space between mats! \$150 dollars for 10 sessions. Classes are Tuesdays at 9.15 - 10.30 am, beginning on **March 13th thru May 22nd** (excluding April 17th). To sign up email [wabanlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:wabanlibrary@gmail.com). For more information visit [www.wabanlibrary.org](http://www.wabanlibrary.org).

**Magic Flutes & Cello Friends.** The Waban Library Center (WLC) welcomes the Magic Flutes, directed by Deborah Charness, **March 3rd at 11am**. They will be accompanied by Cello Friends, directed by Nancy Hair, and pianist Jennifer Baverstam. The Magic Flutes are a flute ensemble of nine Newton youngsters who have performed at the WCRB Cartoon Festival in Symphony Hall Boston, Cabot Park Village in Newton, Russell's Garden Center in Wayland, and the Angier School Multicultural Festival. Coffee and pastries will be served compliments of Starbucks Coffee. The event is open to the public; suggested donation of \$5 per person/\$10 per family. The WLC is a non-profit organiza-

tion, staffed solely by volunteers, and relies entirely on private donations. See [www.wabanlibrarycenter.org](http://www.wabanlibrarycenter.org). The WLC is located at 1608 Beacon Street in Newton, a short walking distance from the Waban T stop on the greenline.

**The 2012 Franklin Online Auction is Officially Open!** Check it out at: <http://www.biddingforgood.com/franklinauction/franklinauction-2>. Whether you're looking for something unique for yourself, searching for a gift for a special someone, or looking to add a little adventure to your life, you're sure to find something in our auction. Every bid helps support creative arts and sciences, technology, and other PTO-supported programs at Franklin. Check back frequently. We will add items to our auction as quickly as we receive them. We will run several rounds of online bidding leading up to our live auction extravaganza on March 31. We are kicking off the bidding fun with summer day and overnight camp specials. And, remember, this first round of online bidding is only open until February 17th, so don't miss out! Thanks so much for your support!

## FEBRUARY/APRIL VACATION CAMPS

**February vacation bridge lessons for families taught by experienced, certified bridge teacher and Bronze Life Master.** Take a break from all the mind-numbing video games--learn an exciting and mind-stimulating game this vacation. My name is Jori Ceder Gros-sack and I am a 3X Brown parent alum (2 of whom are champion bridge players). I am offering lessons in your home this vacation. Lessons will be semi-private for 2 families at a time for up to 3 hours. For more info or to schedule please call me at (617) 584-5333 or e-mail to [jgros-sack@yahoo.com](mailto:jgros-sack@yahoo.com).

**Do you want to get creative this school vacation?** Come and join us at Hipstitch and learn how to sew and make your own clothes. Learn how to read a pattern make some cozy pants, hats, scarfs or lots of other fun projects! Come for 1/2 day 9-12 \$45 or 1-4pm \$45 or Full day \$90.00 Full 1/2 day week \$200( 9am-12pm). Full day Full week \$399( 9am-4pm). Sign Up Now! [www.Hipstitchers.com](http://www.Hipstitchers.com) or 617-965-0880.

**A Step Ahead Basketball (ASA Hoops).** ASA Hoops is holding its annual February Vacation basketball clinic 2/20 - 2/24, 9AM-1PM. All events take place in Newton at the Mackenzie Center. For more information or to register please go to [www.asahoops.com](http://www.asahoops.com) or contact Coach Smith: [Coachb@asahoops.com](mailto:Coachb@asahoops.com) / 617-909-5990.

**February Vacation "Renaissance Camp.** Music before J.S. Bach? Suzuki School of Newton invites students that play an instrument, including advanced players, for some real Renaissance music! Join us **February 21-24** for a 4-day, 9 am - 3pm, "Renaissance Camp" exploring this historical period via music with additional enrichment classes in dance, calligraphy, and costumes as we create a real live "tableau" of the Renaissance. Advanced players can join in court music and folk music of the Renaissance, as well as a "novice" program on recorder or voice. Ages 10-14. Younger program also available. \$335. For more info and registration: [www.suzukinewton.org](http://www.suzukinewton.org).

**February School Vacation with Newton Parks & Recreation.** Contact Newton Parks and Recreation at 617-796-1500 or go to our website at [www.newtonma.gov/parks](http://www.newtonma.gov/parks) for more information about the following programs. Register online at [www.activityreg.com](http://www.activityreg.com)

- **Family Movie Day and Night** at the West Newton Cinema. **February 21 & 22, 2012.**
- **Summer Camp in the Winter.** Children in Grades K-6 at the Newton Centre Hut. **Feb 21 - 24, 2012.**
- **Daily Field Trips.** Children in Grades 3-6. **Feb 21 - 24, 2012..**
- **Thundercat Sports Clinic** for ages 7-12. **Feb 21 - 24, 2012..**

**Great Vacations with Newton Community Ed!** NCE offers a variety of cool vacation-week programs for kids. Please call our office at 617-559-6999 or check our website: [www.newtoncommunityed.org](http://www.newtoncommunityed.org) for more information or to register.

**Escape to Madagascar, February School Vacation Week at the New Art Center. February 21-24,** 9:00-3:30pm daily. Grades K-6. For more information or to register: [www.newartcenter.org](http://www.newartcenter.org). Questions? Call 617-964-3424.

**Teen Day Program & Teen Afternoon Ceramics Program.** February School Vacation Week at the New Art Center, **February 21-24,** 9:00-3:30pm & 3:30-5:30pm daily. Grades 7-10. All skill levels are welcome. For more information or to register: [www.newartcenter.org](http://www.newartcenter.org). Questions? Call 617-964-3424.

**The Boston College Women's Soccer.** April clinic. April 17-20. For girls ages 6-14. BC Newton campus, 9am-3pm each day. This is an opportunity for the younger female soccer player to improve her comfort level on the ball, increase skill development, and have competitive fun. For more information including registration contact (617) 552-0982 or [soccercl@bc.edu](mailto:soccercl@bc.edu). Online registration may be found at: <http://www.bceagles.com/camps/bc-w-soccer-camps2.html>.

## Inclement Weather: School Closings or Delayed Openings

In the event of inclement weather, Newton Public Schools may be closed or use a delayed opening of one or two hours. The bus company and crossing guards will know about any delay and will rearrange their schedules accordingly.

As soon as a decision has been made we will be calling the number(s) designated as your child's emergency number(s) on the Student Contact yellow sheets you received at the beginning of the school year. Please make sure your child's emergency information is kept up to date at all times.

Also, an announcement will be called in to the following radio stations and television channels before 6:00 a.m.: WBZ Radio 1030, WRKO Radio 680, TV Channels 4, 5, 7, 56, and Newton Cable TV.

Or, log on to: [www3.newton.k12.ma.us](http://www3.newton.k12.ma.us) or call (617) 559-9699 for a pre-recorded message. For more information read the full [NPS Inclement Weather Letter](#).



## TUTORS, LESSONS, SPORTS, AND MORE

### **Think Spring! Think Softball!**

Newton Girls Softball registration is underway for the 2012 spring season. This is a recreational league for over 500 Newton girls in grades 1-10. Players of all skill levels will have a fun and rewarding experience. Visit our website [www.NewtonGirlsSoftball.org](http://www.NewtonGirlsSoftball.org) for more details, access to our on-line registration, and winter indoor clinic information. Register before **January 31, 2012** to avoid a late fee. February 29, 2012 is the last date you can register with guaranteed placement.

### **Watertown Jr. Reds 13U AAU**

**Baseball Program.** Seeking Players for 2012 13U Spring season. Looking to raise your game to new level? The Watertown Jr. Reds AAU Baseball Program will be holding tryouts for its 13U squad during the team's Winter Practices in January and February. There is NO COST to tryout. Registration and Waiver forms can be found on the program's website to be filled out before participating. Information on the program, tryouts and coaches are posted on the program's website, [www.watertownreds.com](http://www.watertownreds.com). To set up a tryout, or if you have questions about the program, contact Watertown Reds Baseball President Joe Chiodo at [jchiodo5@yahoo.com](mailto:jchiodo5@yahoo.com) or 617-875-8088.

### **Newton South Little League Registration is Closing! Act Now!**

Middle school students living in the Angier, Countryside, and Zervas school districts who will be 12 years old or younger on April 30, 2012 are invited to play in Newton South Little League! Online Registration is now open at [www.eteamz.com/NewtonSouthLL](http://www.eteamz.com/NewtonSouthLL). Be sure to tell your friends in private schools about

playing baseball, too! Families with little ones - age 4-6 - can enroll in the delightful T-Ball program! Online Registration is easy and convenient. Make sure to be there on Opening Day. Full information is available at our website [www.eteamz.com/NewtonSouthLL](http://www.eteamz.com/NewtonSouthLL). Don't wait -- register today!

### **A Step Ahead Basketball (ASA**

**Hoops).** ASA Hoops is offering tryouts for boys AAU grades: 4-8. Tryouts are starting Feb 12th and taking place on weekends throughout the month. All events take place in Newton at the Mackenzie Center. For more information or to register please go to [www.asahoops.com](http://www.asahoops.com) or contact Coach Smith: [Coachb@asahoops.com](mailto:Coachb@asahoops.com) / 617-909-5990.

**Music Lessons.** Accomplished musician is expanding music studio. I have some open slots for children and adults all ages and levels. I am committed to developing my students' creativity, imagination, and logical thinking through piano instruction. contact me at 617-669-7778 or [moltoserge@gmail.com](mailto:moltoserge@gmail.com)

**Music and Voice Sessions.** Is your child interested in learning how to play the piano, violin, or guitar in the comfort of their own house? Does your child have the desire to sing all the time? Next Level Up now offers in-home music and voice sessions by accomplished and experienced musicians and teachers. Many of our instructors attended the Berklee College of Music. To learn more about your options and for all questions, please contact Next Level Up Tutoring at [info@nextleveluptutoring.com](mailto:info@nextleveluptutoring.com) OR phone: (781) 540-1123.

**Piano Instruction.** Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 30 years teaching experience has several openings in studio. Beginners Welcome. Learn Jazz/Blues/Classical, theory, sightreading from a patient, upbeat, and caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: [piano566@com-cast.net](mailto:piano566@com-cast.net)

**Math Tutor Available.** Did your child struggle with math last year? Do you try to help, only to get upset and frustrated? My name is Philip Wolfson. I am a recently retired math teacher with 20 years of experience working with students of all types and ages: students who are stuck for some reason, bright students who are bored, students who want to accelerate their math, ELL students, and students with learning disabilities. I work with individuals, small groups, and home school groups. We can meet at your location, a library or school library, or at my home. My specialty is working with students from grades 5 through 8." Call or email me to set up a free, introductory meeting. [philwolfson@gmail.com](mailto:philwolfson@gmail.com) 617-332-4887

Community News, Vacation and Summer Program Information, and Classified listings for lessons, sports, and tutors are published for the benefit of the Brown Middle School community at the discretion of the editors. A voluntary contribution of \$25.00 would be much appreciated; the Brown PTO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible. The Brown PTO does not guarantee the accuracy of information nor endorse the activities and/or organizations listed.

