



January 2009 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

Jan 15: Dr. Chris Bellonci -- Speaker Series
Jan 19: MLK Day / No School
Jan 20: School Committee Meeting
Jan 23: PTO Quarterly Meeting
Coming in February: Books from the Heart ♥

Happy New Year!

The PTO would like to thank Kathy Sveen for leading the Original Works product fundraiser. Kathy's tireless efforts, optimism, and humor were the key components in the success of this campaign, which netted approximately \$3K for Chickering. Over 200 families placed orders, and we hope that all participants are pleased with their original works of art!

Curriculum Enrichment

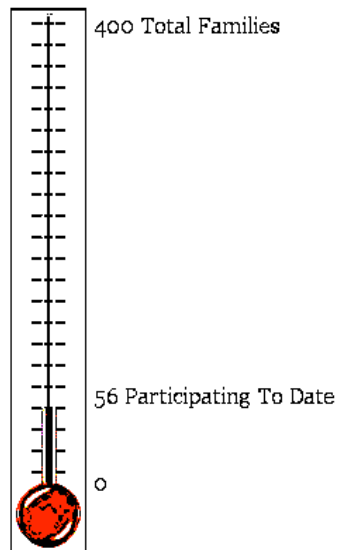
Here are some of the great programs funded by the PTO that are happening in January:

- Wingmasters will showcase different birds of prey for Kindergarten.
- Author/illustrator Suzanne Bloom will visit the 1st Grade, sharing her book, [We Keep a Pig in the Parlor](#). Suzanne will tell the story of its creation and do some drawing for the students.
- The Dinoman will visit with 2nd grade.
- Techsploration, a science and technology show and workshop will come to 3rd Grade. Through individual class workshops the children work on building circuits and exploring magnetic fields.

Checkwriting Campaign

In December, the Dover PTO officially kicked off the 2008-2009 Checkwriting Campaign. Contributions support enrichment programs, provide funds to our teachers for their classroom needs, and extend the opportunity for teachers to take advantage of a grant program that funds their needs or wishes.

The Checkwriting Campaign will happen only every other year (alternating with the Auction Party). *Every single dollar raised* during this campaign will contribute directly to our children's learning



We are off to a slow start, with just 14% of families who have sent in a check. Regardless of the amount you choose to donate, your participation is critical in helping to distinguish our school. Please help us reach our goal of 100% participation from our Chickering families!

Need a form? They're available in the school office and at www.doverpto.org.

PTO Speaker Series

On January 15th at 7:00pm in the Chickering School Library, Christopher Bellonci, M.D. will talk about understanding complex children, current dilemmas in the Field of Child Psychiatry, and participate in a Q & A session. This promises to be a fascinating discussion. Dr. Bellonci is a board-certified Child/Adolescent and Adult psychiatrist, Medical Director at the Walker School and Clinical Instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

METCO Host Family Program

This year, the PTO initiated a Host Family Program for Chickering's METCO students who commute daily to school from their city residences. Given the bus schedule, it is difficult for most of these students to participate in after-school playdates or activities. Host families have offered to pair up for the school year, and they have been accommodating more frequent get-togethers, as well as enjoying a festive holiday party together in December. *All families* are welcome to invite a METCO friend for a playdate, and here's an easy way how! On early release Wednesdays, children can go home to play after dismissal at noon, and then brought back to Chickering by 2:50pm. The METCO bus will return to Chickering at 3pm after the Middle School pick up and transport the children home. Arrange any playdates in advance as you normally would. Contact information can be found in the Chickering Directory. Our goal is to help all our METCO students and families feel welcome in the Dover school community. Please contact Sharon Paul at sharon_paul@verizon.net or Wendy Darragh at w_darragh@comcast.net with any questions.

Waste Free Lunch Kids "Go Green"

In November, Becky Gladstone and her committee encouraged grades 1 - 5 to participate in a Waste Free Lunch Day by reusing lunch containers, and recycling plastic and tin foil, greatly reducing the school's cafeteria trash that day. Participation in Waste-Free Lunch Day is a spirit-filled, fun way for children to learn how THEY can make a difference in reducing the amount of trash filling our landfills. Through the end of the school year, the last Friday of each month will be a Waste Free Lunch Day. Mark your calendars for:

Jan 30

Feb 27

March 27

April 17

May 29

If you are looking for more ideas and great products to use instead of throw-away plastic bags and packaging, go to www.reusablebags.com.

News from Chickering's Class of 2009!

It's hard to believe that 2009 is here - graduation year for our 5th graders! Several activities are underway, including the following:

- **Slogan Contest**
All 5th graders are encouraged to enter a slogan that best represents the Class of 2009. The winning entry will be printed on T-shirts and appear in the Yearbook. *Entries due January 20th.*
- **Yearbook Pictures Needed**
Each member of the Class of 2009 will have his/her own page in the book, complete with photos from Kindergarten to 5th grade. The Yearbook will also be filled with pages of candid photos. Submit photos now to the 5th Grade Graduation Mailbox in the Chickering office.
- **Video Keepsake -- New This Year!**
For the first time, a video will be created for the 5th grade class, complete with photo, video, and musical memories of Chickering. Begin collecting photos and video clips on a disk format. Sporting events, school activities, and summer fun would all make wonderful additions.

Please look for more information in backpacks, email blasts, and our new 5th Grade Graduation Committee webpage coming soon on our school website, www.doverpto.org.

Playground Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are still needed to help out during recess and a variety of days and times are available. It's a great break in the middle of the day, and a wonderful chance to have fun with your children, meet their friends, and get a breath of fresh air. We would especially love to have a few more first grade parents to help out with the first grade recess, 11:05-11:40. For safety reasons, we cannot accommodate younger siblings. Please contact Coryn Hall at X 3244 or coryn2@comcast.net if you are interested.