



April 2009 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

April 4: Symphony Family Concert
Through April 9: MCAS Testing
April 10: No School / Good Friday
April 14: Dover School Committee Meeting 7pm
April 16: PTO Quarterly Meeting 7pm
State of the School
April 17: Waste Free Lunch!
April 20-24: Spring Vacation

PTO Leadership

The Dover PTO is comprised of all parents, teachers and staff of Chickering. Our purpose is to foster and maintain cooperation and communication between parents, students and staff; to provide a source of services to the school (e.g. Room Parents, Classroom, Playground and Library Volunteers, etc.); and to provide funds for curriculum enrichment and other needs of the school that fall outside the school's budget (e.g. teacher grants and discretionary funds). The PTO reports directly to the Principal and is run by a volunteer Board of parents. Our goal each year is to have Board members who represent all grade levels as well as varying years of experience at Chickering.

Job descriptions and responsibilities are on our website, www.doverpto.org under "Who we are."

In the next several weeks, you will receive a nomination form and flyer describing PTO positions available for next year. We hope you will consider an opportunity to take one on. You will find it to be both rewarding and fun!

PTO Quarterly Meeting / State of the School

Mark your calendars for the PTO Quarterly meeting and annual State of the School evening. On Thursday, April 16 at 7:00pm, members from Dover School Committee, Chickering Administration, School Advisory Council and the Dover PTO will be speaking about our school. Bob Springett will be presenting the 2009-10 school budget and answering questions. Don't miss it!!

Family Fun Night

It was great to see so many happy, dancing children at Family Fun Night! Thanks to Denise Linden and her fantastic committee for organizing this wonderful school community event! Congratulations to the following raffle prize winners:

Parking Space Winners

Sept/Oct: Sam Burman Nov/Dec: Linda Hain
Jan/Feb: Carolyn Ringel March/April: Lynda Barnes
May/June: Georgia Dakoyannis

Spring Apparel: Rebecca Oliver

Principal for the Day: Joanna Dakoyannis

Ice Cream Social: Hannah Lordi

Library Sleep-Under: Alexandra Aceti

Curriculum Enrichment: April Programs

- * Bug Works- 1
- * The Recorder Goes to School- 3
- * David Biedrzycki -Author/Illustrator -3

Checkwriting Campaign Thanks You!

We are beginning to wrap up our Checkwriting Campaign for this year and wish to thank all of you who contributed and helped to make it a huge success. Despite the uncertain economic times, we are thrilled to report that 45% of Chickering families participated and donated nearly \$37,000 for our school! Thank you for your support!

Fifth Grade Graduation Update

Thank you to all fifth grade families for submitting disks for the DVD and snapshots for the candid pages of the yearbook. All fifth graders have completed the final drafts of their memory pages and will soon be completing a time capsule questionnaire. Planning sessions are underway for the luncheon that will be held on June 10th. Additional information regarding all 5th grade graduation activities can be found by visiting the PTO website www.doverpto.org and clicking on the Committees link.

Babysitting for Dover Town Meeting

DSHS students can earn community service hours by volunteering their time to babysit so that parents can attend the Dover Town Meeting at 7:00pm on Monday, May 4 (continuing Tuesday, May 5 if needed). Nancy Simms will pair up interested DSHS students with families needing the help. If interested, please contact her at nancy.simms@comcast.net.

Chickering Directory 09-10

Yes, we're already thinking about next year's directory! IF any of your information has changed since the directory was printed, especially your email address, please contact Kelly O'Donnell in the school office at odonnellk@doversherborn.org. If you would like to join the committee that creates this fabulous document, email info@doverpto.org!

Box Tops

Congratulations to Mrs. Bedell-Healy's 2nd grade classroom for winning the Box Tops trophy again!! Close behind was Mrs. Delaney's classroom and in third place was Ms. Ulrich's classroom. Over 4,000 Box Tops were collected this campaign... that's over \$400 for Chickering! Special thanks to all participating families. A new contest will begin in the Spring, so keep clipping and sending them in.

Let's Get Healthy!

Have you noticed some healthy new options on the school lunch menu since September? We would like to share some nutritional lunch program highlights.

- More whole grains.
- Healthier juice choices.
- Fruit of the month using seasonal fruits.
- "All you can eat" fruits and vegetables as part of the meal purchase plan .
- An itemized copy of your child's food purchases available upon request.
- The option to request, "No snacks without cash\$\$\$\$\$" to be put into the computer so you can choose when its appropriate for your child to have special treats in addition to his/her lunch.

Here are some other ideas we have for the future.

- A nutritional speaker for parents.
- Better signage indicating healthy choices in the lunchroom.
- Integrating locally grown produce.
- Trying a "blue ticket" reward system for choosing healthier food options.
- October is National Nutrition month and we hope to get ideas to celebrate this in the Fall.

If you have any suggestions or questions please contact to Margaret Duggan at margduggan@comcast.net or CynDee Novitch at cdnovitch@comcast.net.