



December 2009 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates:

Dec 8: H1N1 clinic - 2nd/3rd grades ONLY
Dec 9: Photos for 5th grade Yearbook Due
Dec 9: Early Release/Conferences
Dec 9: METCO Holiday Party
Dec 9: Tree Lighting/Town Common
Dec 15: School Committee Meeting, 7pm
Dec 24: Winter Vacation Begins
Jan 4: School Reopens
Jan 13: District-wide Concert
Jan 15: PTO Quarterly Meeting, 7pm

A Message from the PTO

As 2009 draws to a close, we look back on the first months of our school year. We were deeply saddened by the loss of the school's beloved reading specialist, Michelle Worthy, and now learn that we will be saying "goodbye" to Principal Downing in June. We are fortunate to have had such gifted leaders in our school.

There is much to look forward to in 2010. The Spring Auction is a "cannot miss" event, as well as the district-wide concert on January 13th which will bring together children from Dover and Sherborn. Choruses from the elementary schools, middle school, and high school will all perform on the Lindquist Stage.

Above all, we thank the Chickering staff, teachers, and volunteers for making our school a vibrant place for learning.

Best wishes in the Holidays and have a Happy New Year!

Book Fair Update

PTO would like to thank the community for their support of the Book Fair this week. It was wonderful to see so many parents and children get excited about reading. Big thanks go to Leslie Cutler and Meg Field who worked tirelessly in organizing the event. Literacy was truly a passion of Michelle Worthy's and we were thrilled to hold the fair in her honor. The profits from the fair are being used to acquire non-fiction books for the Chickering Book Room. Michelle was slowly amassing leveled-reading texts for classroom support and the PTO had pledged \$9,000 to her (\$5,000 of which was not in our operating budget) for the purchase of these books. Thanks to a great week, we are well on our way to enlarging the Book Room collection.

At the fair, we also sold Note-WORTHY Cards, which were designed by Chickering's own Kelley Greenwald to benefit the Worthy Children's Education Fund. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Michelle's children. Please consider buying a packet for your holiday gift-giving. We have a limited number of note cards still available. Please contact the front office to purchase. A special thanks to Jennifer Friesen for coordinating this fundraiser for the Worthy children.

PTO Grant Program Summary

The largest, single part (46%) of the PTO budget is allocated to Classroom/Teacher Support. Each classroom teacher and

specialist is eligible for \$250 reimbursement for equipment and supplies for their classroom. In addition, \$5,000 is funded through the Grant Program. All teachers, specialists and support personnel were invited to submit applications. We worked closely with Kirk Downing and Ginny Keniry to evaluate the requests. We are pleased to announce the funding of:

- Social Software-Blogs for the Technology Department
- Orff-Contra-bass Tone Bars and Euphoniums for the Music Department
- CSI Lab - Grade 5
- Memory Cards - Grade 5
- Art Display Panels - for the Art Department

We hope you can see how your contributions directly benefit our children!

Holiday Tree Lighting

Both the Chickering School Band and the Chickering Chorus will be performing at this annual town event. Bring the whole family and enjoy festive music, hot chocolate, and cookies. Wednesday, December 9th, 7pm on the Town Common.

Special Thanks from Chickering!

For the month of December, Chickering children are invited to create holiday and/or thank-you cards at home for the special folks in our community who are always there to help, our "Hometown Heroes." There will be a mailbox in the lobby for the cards - each marked "Dover Firefighters", "Police Officers", "Town Library Staff," "Highway Department," and "Postal Workers".

Attention : Fifth Grade Parents!

Please send your 5th grader's "kindergarten" photo to school to your child's teacher by December 9th for the yearbook. Our school photographer will be publishing the books for us. Each student will have two photos (one from 5th grade and one from kindergarten) included in their yearbook. Questions? Contact Catherine Walkey at 785-9991 or catherinewalkey@comcast.net.

Ready, Set, Auction!

What kinds of items would you like to see at the Spring Auction? A resort getaway? A Fenway Park tour with tickets? Museum memberships? Landscaping services? Airline tickets? Catering? A kid's birthday bowling party for 20? Golf instruction? Gourmet dining? The Auction Committee needs your input! The Spring Auction is just around the corner and in an effort to offer something for everyone, we would appreciate knowing what kinds of things you love doing. Please watch for our survey arriving home in backpacks soon. And, please, send it in!

Wanted: Gently Used Musical Instruments!

The Chickering Music Department is interested in your "gently used" instruments. As our program grows, so does the need for instruments for our students. If you have an instrument collecting dust in a closet, or needing a small repair to be in working condition, please consider donating it to our band program. We are especially looking for tubas, clarinets, alto saxophones, flutes, trumpets, F horns, and trombones. If you have any questions or wish to donate an instrument, please contact Mrs. Janice Barry at barryj@doversherborn.org or 785-0480.

"You have to make your own happiness!"

-Michelle Worthy