



FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates:

Feb 12: Read Your Heart-Out Day

Feb 15-19: No School / Vacation Week

Feb 23: School Committee Meeting

Feb 24: Early Release

Feb 25: SPAN-DS Meeting, 7:30 pm

Mar 3: School Committee Working Group
Session, 9:00 am

Mar 18: Family Game Night

A Message from the PTO

We are all excited about the start of the Winter Olympics next week, but believe it or not, spring will be here before we know it! Soon, we will be faced with getting our yards cleaned-up and heading once again to various fields for our children's sporting events. Chickering has lots of big things happening this spring. Be sure to mark our "Rock-a-Palooza" auction on April 10th, Principal Search committee meetings, and the annual Dover Town Meeting on your calendars as important events. Parents need to be involved and informed. Participate in your children's future!

Many townspeople work diligently throughout the year to prepare the annual budget. This year, the team has worked extremely hard to recommend a budget of \$8.1 million, an increase of 3.62% for 2011 and it represents a level service budget (see Chickering website for details). The Warrant Committee will complete its work (assessing town revenue projections and expense requests) during February. Once this assessment is completed, Chickering and other town departments will be contacted if further budget adjustments are required. Stay tuned!

We've got it our SPRING AUCTION!

Just this week, the "Rock-a-Palooza" Auction Team has received: Bruins and Red Sox tickets, a one-of-a-kind sail around Newport, a stay at a beautiful Martha's Vineyard house, a spa manicure, the opportunity to be an extra in a star-studded movie being filmed in New Orleans, the use of a ski house at Sugarbush, and a facial at Elizabeth Grady. Truly, something for everyone!

Want to join the fun? Ask the manager of the restaurant where you regularly dine or the owner of dry-cleaner you frequent to participate in our auction. They are used to being asked and are usually very happy to support local public schools. It is a great way for them to find new, good clients! Find donation forms on the PTO website. "Rock-a-Palooza" will be held on April 10th at Elm Bank. This is **the major fundraiser** for the Dover PTO. We can all find a way to make this event a big success. Every contribution is welcomed.

Principal Search Committee Update

The Principal Search Committee has been meeting to review resumes. The committee is composed of: Denise O'Connell, SPED Administrator; Cheryl Chase, Librarian; Nancy Powers, Teacher; Deb Reinemann, Curriculum Coordinator; James Stewart, School Committee Member; Carolyn Ringel; School Committee Member; Laura Rinaldi, parent; Maggie Charron, parent; Steven Bliss, Assistant Superintendent; and Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent. The plan is to have the committee select initial candidates and interview them in February. In March, finalists will be selected, their resumes will be made known, and they will have a public interview with the Dover School Committee. The new principal is expected to be hired by the end of April and will begin the job on July 1st. Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee.

News from Chickering's Class of 2010

Anna Kott and Lizzy Gould provided the winning entry for the slogan contest: "There will other 5th graders again, but no one like us, the Class of 2010." The 5th grade logo contest ends on the 11th. Send in those ideas!

Community Outreach Update

Thank you for every penny, nickel, dime, quarter, bill, and check that was generously given to our "Pennies for Patients" program. We exceeded our goal! The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will receive a check for over \$400 through the kind efforts of the Chickering community!

A New Program Coming to Dover-Sherborn

SPAN-DS (Substance Prevention Awareness Network - Dover-Sherborn) is a community-based program of parents, high school and middle school guidance counselors and headmasters, town clergy, local businesses, and police. The goal of SPAN is to build networks among parents, students, and other individuals by helping to promote responsible behavior and encouraging strong support systems. A flyer will go home in the backpacks of third, fourth, and fifth grade students describing the program and the upcoming forum on Thursday, February 25th at 7:30 pm at the Sherborn Community Center. All parents of children in Dover and Sherborn are invited to attend.

Task Force focuses on School Nutrition

Together with Janelle Madden, Director of Food Services, the *Chickering Nutrition Task Force* continues to make headway in improving the quality of our school lunch program - more whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. In addition, the group is working to try to further integrate nutrition education within our current curriculum. Look for upcoming events in March which is **National Nutrition Month**, including a talk by Chickering mother and registered dietician, Temi Correll,

Wouldn't it be fun to dine with your child? Sign up for "The Lunch Club"! Just call the office to schedule a time. Only two guests can join each grade's lunch period each day. Space is limited.

Also, please fill out the survey on the school lunch program when you receive it. Feedback is needed and appreciated! Questions? Please contact Margaret Duggan margduggan@comcast.net or Cyndee Novitch cdnovitch@comcast.net.

Save the Date - Now!

"Make a Difference Family Game Night" will be held on Thursday, March 18th from 5:30 -7:30 pm. This year's event will have a new format than in the past and is certain to be fun for the entire family. More details to come!

Outdoor Classroom Updates

Garden planning has begun! We are fortunate to have a living classroom for all teachers, students and volunteers to use. The Outdoor Classroom enhances the study of science, math, ELA, art, and even music! Plans include the introduction of new shrubs, creative habitat development for living creatures and birds, and planting vegetable and flower seeds. Before too long, we will see the bright blooms of the many daffodils the second graders planted in the fall.

Volunteers, led by Megan Field, Dawn Fattore, and Deb Reinneman, are looking for parents to assist in spring cleanup and garden readiness, as well as helping students participate in planting, journaling, and learning about nature. Please contact Megan Field meganandwilliam@comcast.net 508-785-0632 for more information. We are looking forward to a prosperous garden filled with hope and renewal!

Chickering Spotlight

When Alexandra Moore was a student at Chickering, she loved to collect rocks. Today, she is a Ph.D. scientist and professor at Cornell. Her specialty is earth science, which combines two of her favorite pursuits - travel and learning. Alex has worked with many college students on four continents and currently directs an environmental science field program in the Hawaiian Islands. Yes, volcanoes! She and her students have created the first carbon-neutral environmental field program for a US university. Be inspired!

Answer to last month's question: How many of our teachers were once Chickering students? We are proud to have two: Suzin Bedell-Healy and Laurie Whitten!

Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.
-Helen Keller