



APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates:

April 2: No School, Good Friday
April 6: Speaker Series /Dr. Stembler, 7 pm
April 7: Internet Safety, Dover Library, 7pm
April 10: Rock-A-Palooza Auction, 6:30 pm
April 19-25: Spring Vacation
April 27: PTO Quarterly /State of the School, 7pm
April 30: Box Tops Contest ends!
May 3: Town Meeting
May 13: "Mingle in the Middle", DSMS, 7 pm

A Message from the PTO

Have you heard?! Our "Rock-A-Palooza" auction is just nine days away! We know you have been bombarded with lots of information about it, but the spring auction is the BIGGEST fundraiser for the PTO and for Chickering. And, do note, we will not bother you again about auction stuff - until 2012! Please find a way to participate - whether it is to attend the auction on April 10th or to bid on items online at www.biddingforgood/chickering. The money we raise directly benefits your child and is put to use in your child's classroom. As much as this is a fundraising event, it is also a wonderful opportunity for parents to get together!

We are beginning an exciting, new era at Chickering with the recent appointment of Dr. Theresa Nugent as our new principal. She impressed all with her extraordinary breadth of experience, as well as her professed joy in working with elementary school students. Your first chance to meet and greet our new principal will be at the PTO Quarterly Meeting. The evening will include the annual "State of the School" address and an opportunity to ask questions. Come learn more about Chickering!

Finally, we strongly encourage those who missed last month's parent information night to attend the session on internet safety and cyber-bullying given by Dover Police Sergeant Mick at the Dover Town Library, on April 7th at 7 pm. Parents found the information he presented to be extremely informative and eye-opening.

ROCK-A-PALOOZA IS HERE!

Are you wondering what food will be served? Silent and Live Auction items? The music? What to bring? What to wear? First of all, get a sitter - this is not a kid's event. It is not held at the school, but at Elm Bank (off Rt. 16 in Wellesley). Reserve your tickets in advance by contacting Heather Tourtelotte at 785-2881 or hkt Dover@me.com. Tickets are \$50 each. Bring your friends! Go casual - wear your jeans! The doors open at 6:30 pm. There will be cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and the chance to check-out the Silent Auction and raffle items. An auction catalogue was sent home yesterday in your child's backpack with a listing of these items and lots of information on the evening. Dinner is served at 8:00 pm and will feature multiple stations guaranteed to satisfy vegetarians and meat-eaters alike! The night will end with a variety of delicious desserts. At 9:00 pm, the Live Auction begins! Then, dance to SOUL CITY, New England's premier Motown, Soul, and R&B band starting at 10:00 pm. You can use Visa/MasterCard, cash, or check as payment for Silent and Live Auction items. Cash and checks will only be accepted for raffle ticket purchases and for bar drinks. Water and soda are complimentary.

Can't join us on the 10th? You can still bid online at www.biddingforgood.com/chickering for a selection of Silent Auction items through April 4th. And buy your raffle tickets for special items created by your child's classroom and unique "Chickering experiences". They are only \$10 each or 12 for \$100. To purchase these tickets, contact Angela Ahn at 785-0353 or angahn@gmail.com.

PTO Quarterly Meeting / State of the School

Mark your calendars for an important meeting on April 27th at 7:00 pm. This annual presentation of the "State of the School" brings together all groups which impact Chickering. Interested in meeting our new principal? Dr. Theresa Nugent will be there. Will there be changes in your child's classroom next year? We will also hear from Curriculum Coordinator, Dr. Deb Reinemann; the Dover-Sherborn Education Fund (DSEF); the School Advisory Council (SAC); the Dover School Committee (DSC); the Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC); and the PTO. The Chickering budget for 2010-2011 will also be presented. This meeting is always a great way for parents to learn about the direction of Chickering and what to expect in the coming year.

Community Outreach Update

There was something for everyone at Chickering's first Family Game Night! Barbara Dawley, Nicole Scannell, and their amazing team of volunteers created a fun-filled arena where everyone went home a winner! Big thanks to

Mr. Downing, Dr. Reinemann, and Mr. Harte for lending their special expertise and talents to the evening!

Did you know that it is the rainy season in Haiti? While there was a remarkable outpouring after the earthquake, levels of aid have fallen and the need still continues to be great. We are collecting any extra rain gear you might have lying around, as well as tarps, tents, and new school supplies. Please place your items in the clear bins in the school lobby during this month. Thank you!

PTO Leadership 2010-2011

We are beginning to think of next year! Are you interested in learning more about the PTO and our committees? 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
- provide a source of volunteer services to the school (that support may take on many forms - from Room Parents to playground and library volunteers)
- provide funds for curriculum enrichment and other needs of the school that fall outside the school's budget. These items include the discretionary funds (\$250 per teacher) and teacher grants (PTO funds approx. \$5K/year).

The PTO reports directly to Chickering's principal and is run by a volunteer board comprised of parents. Our goal each year is to have board members who represent all grade levels, as well as having varying years of experience at the school. Job descriptions and responsibilities can be found on our website, www.doverpto.org under "Who we are." Next week, you will receive a nomination form and flyer describing positions available for next year. Consider this an invitation to get involved. There are "large" and "small" roles, which can accommodate many different schedules. You will find it to be both fun and rewarding! Join us!

Calling All Kids & Volunteers!

The First Annual Dover/Sherborn PMC Kids Ride will take place on Sunday, May 23rd! 250 riders, aged 3 - 14, will participate in one of three routes (a tot ride, a 2-mile loop, and a 6.5-mile Farm Pond loop) to raise money for the Jimmy Fund /Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. After the ride, there will be a party with music, games, food, and a fantastic raffle. Want to help with the event? Please go to <http://kids.pmc.org/doversherborn/>. Register your child and/or register to volunteer. Let's all make a difference! Questions? Please contact Elizabeth Freeman at erfreeman1@gmail.com.

Curriculum Enrichment Update!

April is a busy month with MCAS and vacation. Yet, there are still many enrichment programs brought into classrooms this month. Third graders, who have been playing recorders all year, will be delighted to hear an ensemble of authentic period instruments when "A Recorder Goes to School" visits. Fifth graders, who are studying Colonial America, will get to explore the toys, games, clothing, and "learning" of the 1750's with *Bay Colony Educators*. Finally, the *Understanding Our Differences* program will provide walking sticks, Braille machines, and other hands-on devices to help second graders understand what it is like to be visually impaired. Please remember to ask your child about these programs!

Fifth Grade Celebration

There are many events planned which mark the end of the Chickering journey for the Class of 2010. It seems like yesterday when we were watching them perform at the circus! Festivities include:

- Graduation assembly
- Class of 2010 Yearbook
- Graduation luncheon
- Class t-shirt with winning student slogan and logo on the front with the names of every member of the Class of '10 on the back.
- Gift to Chickering on behalf of the Class of '10.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Chickering Spotlight

Suzin Bedell-Healy began teaching second grade here in 1997. Before that, she lived and taught in Texas, New York, and Australia. And, even before that, she was a student at Chickering School! Back then, her favorite subjects were Reading and Math. At recess, she especially loved playing "Square Ball" (kids now call it "Four Square") with her friends. One of her Chickering teachers had a pet iguana, which was very exciting to the students, especially when he would let it crawl around outside on the grass! When she dreamed of what she might be when she grew up, Ms. Bedell-Healy thought she would be an actress or a writer, as she enjoyed writing stories and acting in plays when she was in elementary school. And, look what happened? Now, she is inspiring our children to be teachers, actors, writers, and mathematicians - or maybe even zoologists!

The true harbinger of spring is not crocuses or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of the bat on the ball.
- Bill Veeck