



JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates:

June 7: Field Day
June 8: Raindate for Field Day
June 9: Fifth Grade Luncheon
June 10: Joanne Weltman Celebration, 4-6:00 pm
June 11: Dads n' Donuts, 8-8:30 am
June 11: PTO Annual Meeting, 9 am
June 15: School Committee Meeting, 7 pm
June 17: Step-Up Day
June 18: Fifth Grade Graduation, 9 am
June 18: Last Day of School / Dismissal at 12:15 pm

A Message from the PTO

Wow! What a year it has been! Thanks to an incredible team of Officers, Executive Board Members, committee chairs and hundreds of parent volunteers, we have achieved much throughout the past months. A BIG THANK-YOU to all parents who helped along the way. From the Back-to-School Picnic to Dads n' Donuts, parents have graciously shared their computer skills, artistic talents, culinary skills, fundraising expertise, playground monitoring, book-shelving abilities, games management, and crucial organizational skills. Special kudos to room parents! Yours' can often be a thankless job! Don't you love that phone tree? Our children have greatly benefited from each parent's contribution. Your time and efforts have been well spent!

We successfully navigated "Wacky Wednesday" and learned to appreciate those $\frac{1}{2}$ days. We completely revamped our Teacher Appreciation program to great success. The staff loved the chance to eat together and strengthen their community. Who would have known that we had so many gourmet chefs? We broke fundraising records with our "Rock-a-Palooza" Auction, which will enable us to fund needed capital projects.

Yet, as we celebrate our gains, we must also pause to reflect on our losses. The sudden passing of two

beloved teachers was very difficult on the entire community. It certainly reminds us how truly precious life can be.

Lastly, we wish Principal Kirk Downing continued success as he moves to the helm of Natick's Brown Elementary School. We will miss your bright smile, laughter, and leadership. Chickering is a better place because of you! As the PTO President's reins are passed to Meg Field and Anne Nolen and the Principal's to Dr. Terry Nugent, please continue to offer them your support. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

New Purchases for Our Arts Programs

Did you have a chance to attend the "Chickering Arts Night" on Wednesday? *It was an amazing and inspiring evening of art and music!* During a break, we were pleased to announce that the PTO is buying new risers for the band and chorus programs. The risers, which are currently being used for assemblies, are over 40 years old. They pose a safety hazard for both those who have to move them and those who stand on them. The new risers will be much easier to set up and will have railings. Earlier this year, the PTO purchased some additional large display "flats" for the Art Department, which were also used to exhibit artwork in the lobby on Wednesday evening. Thank you to Mrs. Pelletier, Mrs. Greenwald, Mrs. Pappas, and Mrs. Barry for making art and music such a joyful and meaningful part of our children's learning experience! We are proud to be able to support such important performing and visual arts programs at our school.

Looking Ahead

The 2010-2011 Dover PTO Executive Board will be elected at the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 11th at 9:00 am. If you are unable to attend, please send in the ballot you received in your child's backpack to the school office. Also, at the meeting, the PTO will formally give our heart-felt thanks to Principal Kirk Downing for his wonderful contributions to Chickering School over the past three years and wish him the very best in the future.

Next year, the 2010-2011 PTO will celebrate **A New Beginning!** For the very first time, the PTO will have Co-Presidents - Meg Field and Anne Nolen. Together with your help, we will continue to assist the teachers, students and parents of the Chickering community.

Continued:

We count on you! And, hope you will consider joining us in our endeavor to enrich and enhance the education of our students. Together we will promote school spirit and strengthen those bonds which make our Chickering community extraordinary!

Our "A New Beginning" initiative will:

- Continue our staff appreciation program on a monthly basis
- Hold a "Fall Fashion Show" as a community building event, where parents can enjoy a fun, festive evening
- Re-introduce "Books from the Heart" and combine it with a Book Fair to celebrate literature and reading
- Fund outstanding curriculum enrichment programs which bring authors, poets, illustrators, artists, musicians, historians, and scientists into each and every classroom
- Provide teachers and specialists with additional resources to be used to expand their literary/audio/visual libraries or for classroom materials
- Continue to involve our children in community service projects

Also, are you interested in becoming a room parent for next year? It is a great way to have a "role" in your child's classroom. Please send an email with your child's name and grade to Co-president, Meg Field, at meganandwilliam@comcast.net or (508) 785-0632. Many PTO committees are already hard at work in preparation for 2010-2011!

Mark your calendars now for our **Second Annual Back-to-School Picnic** that will be held at Chickering on **Thursday, September 2nd at 5:30 pm**. Each family should plan to bring their own picnic dinner and the PTO will provide dessert. It will be a great way to reconnect after the summer, meet new families, and kick off our new school year.

Emergency and Directory Information

Has your contact information changed in any way? It is important to let the office know by emailing Kelly O'Donnell at odonnellk@doversherborn.org. The purple forms have been sent home and were due back to school this week, but we know how often phone numbers and emails change.

Calling All Business Owners!

Would you be interested in advertising your company or services in the 2010-2011 Chickering School Directory? It's a great way to tell the Chickering community about your business. Please contact Serena Chang at serena@tjen.org or (508) 785-9090 to learn more about the newly expanded list of advertising opportunities.

Curriculum Enrichment Update

On June 16th, the Chickering Nutrition Task Force is sponsoring a performance by the world-renowned mime, Robert Rivest. Rivest, a student of Marcel Marceau, will make a mime presentation on "Healthy Choices" to the entire school. The high energy program will help students consider their options when it comes to food, exercise, entertainment, and safety. The Nutrition Task Force is excited to host Robert Rivest and to have our children head off to summer with "healthy choices" in mind.

Chickering Spotlight

When Karin Whiting Burgess was a student at Chickering, she didn't think that someday she would be an author. She liked to write, but preferred making things in art class. After college, Karin moved to Mystic, CT and started her own public relations firm. Recently, however, she published her first children's book called *It's Always a Good Day for Crabbing*. The book is a delightful tale in rhyme of a summer afternoon on the Connecticut shore. Young children catch crustaceans from a dock using a string and a hotdog - all under the watchful eye of an adorable Wheaton Terrier named Lu. The book came about through a poetry project she worked on with one of her daughters. The story was inspired by the many afternoons Karin has spent with her family and dog exploring coastal New England. Who knows what future poets and authors have been learning about writing in their Chickering classrooms today?

All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

