



April 2008 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

April 15: School Committee Meeting. 7pm
April 21-24: Spring Vacation
May 6 & 9: Grade 5 Talent Show Auditions. 7pm
May: MCAS. See Chickering web site for dates
May 20: School Committee Meeting. 7pm
May 21: Art Night 3-7pm
May 22: Grade 5 Mingle in the Middle. DSMS. 7pm

Mission III: Funding Chickering Projects Fundraising

Do the parents of Chickering kids know how to PARtee? A big, resounding YES! Saturday's event was a smashing success in so many ways! Thanks to you, we raised \$59,800... a profit of over \$48,000 after subtracting the cost of food, entertainment and supplies! But more importantly, 41% of families participated in the event by either purchasing event tickets, providing auction/raffle items, or buying raffle tickets. Kindergarten had the highest participation at 55%, which earned them an extra 10 minutes of recess. Huge thanks and congratulations to Annemarie Thompson, event Co-Chairs Emily O'Marah and Kathy Sveen and to all volunteers! Special kudos to Angela Ahn, raffle ticket sales team leader, who was stationed within the raffle tables until they were cleared for dancing!

Over the next months, the PTO Board will work on how best to spend this money to benefit Chickering students. Our 2008-09 budget will support our mission to 1) communicate, 2) enable volunteering and 3) fund Chickering projects. Chickering projects will include an extensive Curriculum Enrichment calendar, expanded teacher support (discretionary funds and grants) and community building. We will also consider more sizable projects such as improved recess options. We also plan to

create a multi-year fundraising strategy. Input? Please contact us at info@doverpto.org.

Box Tops

The classroom submitting the most Box Tops for Education was Mrs. Cronin's 1st grade class with over **450!** Congrats! The trophy rests there, but only temporarily. Stay tuned for more details about Spring Box Tops contests.

Go Green reusable shopping bags

Have you seen friends with lime green **Go Green/ Dover Recycles** reusable shopping bags? Attendees of the PARtee left with one for their family. Now you can have one (or five). They will be sold at Chickering events this Spring. 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20! Stop using plastic *and* support your school.

Curriculum Enrichment: April Programs

- * Bug Works- 1
- * Sharp9 Big Band (MS Jazz Band)- 3
- * The Recorder Goes to School- 3
- * Sara Hunter-Author-3
- * David Biedrzycki -Author/Illustrator -K

Granting additional teacher requests

Thanks to the success of our fundraising, we are able to say "YES" to teachers with additional ideas to enhance their classrooms and/or curriculum. Beyond our initial grants, we have been able to fund the following requests:

1. Broadmoor will provide teacher professional development in early June for Nature Journaling. According to Dr. Reinemann, Nature journaling fits with next year's Outdoor Classroom use and the Balanced Literacy connection (next years' focus is "reinforcing reading workshop" and "integrating writing.")
2. New fish tank! After the old tank sprang a leak, we began working with Mr. Wadness on a new home for our fish, hopefully in the lobby.

Mission II: Volunteers

Got Games?

We still are in need of playground volunteers to cover recesses. The weather is improving, so get outside with the kids! volunteers@doverpto.org.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Wed May 21)

Our annual lunch for the Chickering School staff is always a favorite event. Volunteer to decorate,

cook or serve and show our staff how much they are appreciated. Contact Cathy Mitchell at peterandcathy@mindsping.com.

PTO Leadership

Time to start thinking about how YOU can help support your child(ren)'s education through the Dover PTO. We need Moms and Dads to serve as Board Members or Committee Chairs for 2008-09. Job descriptions and responsibilities are on DoverPTO.org under "Who we are." Look for a letter calling for self-nominations.

Mission I: Communications

Chickering Directory 08-09

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

Energy Task Force

One of our **Go Green** efforts has been to help the school address a long-standing problem of overheating and temperature-balancing in the building. The problem was first brought to the Dover PTO's attention during our 2005 Teacher Survey. At that time, we thought that air conditioning might be the solution. But given its expense, we hoped that there were more efficient (and cheaper) options.

In 2006, Dover PTO convened an Energy Task Force, led by parent Paul Wood and comprised of parents Larry Fisch, Kim Cone, Sara Molyneux, and teacher Ken Wadness. To address the teacher complaints, the group's goal was to prove **with data** that 1) there was an overheating problem, 2) that the current HVC system wasn't working correctly, and 3) that something had to be done.

The group has worked tirelessly for the past year to generate temperature data and to identify problems during two times of the year - the winter *and* the shoulder seasons (early Fall, late Spring). This data has helped the D-S school district and the Dover School Committee articulate the problem and hire a consultant to investigate and recommend solutions. The D-S Superintendent and the Central Office are

now involved in addressing the situation.

Principal Kirk Downing has been incredibly involved in the process and will be taking the lead role in the next stages of investigation and resolution. He has recommended that it be included as one of five goals in the 2008-09 School Improvement Plan, which is managed by the School Advisory Council. If parents have temperature feedback or concerns, please contact Kirk: downingk@doversherborn.org.

A huge THANKS to Paul Wood and his team for being the catalyst to make this an important agenda for the school administrators. They are now heavily invested in this issue. Together, we will create a better learning environment for students.

Community Outreach

To benefit Metro West Families, Dover PTO Community Outreach is sponsoring a **snack bag drive** for "A Place to Turn" food pantry in Natick now through 4/17. Please bring in donations of "healthy" drinks and snacks to the bin in the front lobby. We are working with Chickering to have the students involved in putting the final bags together.

Fifth Grade Graduation

The wheels are in motion for events that celebrate the end of the Chickering journey for the Class of 2008. As the fifth grade families have heard, the celebration includes a graduation assembly; Class of 2008 Yearbook; Graduation luncheon; Class t-shirt with student-created slogan and hand-drawn logo on the front and the signature of every member of the Class of '08 on the back; and gifts to Chickering on behalf of the Class of '08. This year's gifts will be for the Outdoor Classroom and will include rain gauges and equipment, a sundial, walkway pavers and engraving of the big boulder.

The winning slogan was "*The Pats are good, the Sox are great, but guess who's even better the Class of 2008!*" Congratulations to Molly McGill for the slogan and to John Kirby for the hand-drawn logo that goes with it. Honorable Mentions go to all finalists including Brianna Borghi, Kristen Kinchla, Maggie Polk, Andrew Cempellin, Chip Doherty, Caroline Rossi, Sophie Grossbaum, Alex Blizard, Maddie Murphy and Caroline Egner.