



December 2007 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

Dec. 6: Playground Task Force Meeting
Dec. 11: Superintendent Dr. Davis's Retirement Reception, Lindquist Commons, 4-7pm
Dec 18: School Committee Meeting 7 pm
Dec: PTO Check writing campaign
Dec 24-Jan. 1: Winter Vacation

Here we are at the close of 2007; where do the weeks go? A 2007 highlight has to be 100 dads gathered in the Chickering cafeteria for the first-ever Dads, Donuts & Drop-off on 11/9! Thanks for coming and getting connected to each other and Chickering! PTO's 2008 resolution is to keep communicating! A review of our progress toward our mission (in reverse order this time):

Mission 3: Funding Chickering projects Classroom/Teacher support

For 2007-08, over 30% of the PTO budget is dedicated to direct Classroom/Teacher Support. Each classroom teacher is eligible for \$250 reimbursement for supplies and equipment for their class. Each specialist receives \$50-\$150. In addition, teachers are entitled to \$100 towards books for their classroom libraries.

This year, \$5,000 was available for the Dover PTO Teacher Grant program. We worked closely with Kirk Downing, Ginny Keniry and Curriculum Coordinator Deb Reinemann to evaluate applications and are pleased to announce the funding of 7 requests from the Chickering Staff:

- Toolkits for Comprehension (Gr 3-5) to teach lessons in non-fiction reading/writing
- Tomie de Paola Author Study (Gr 2).

- Globes and maps of US (K)
- Digital camera/memory cards (Gr 4)
- Engineering Bridges Science Unit (Gr 4): K'nex for Scientific Method unit
- It's in the Bucket (Gr 5): Organizational buckets for Readers Workshop materials.
- Keyboarding without Seeing (Gr 2-5): Covers for 25 keyboards in 2nd computer lab.

As you can see, your contributions are directly benefiting children in their classrooms.

Curriculum Enrichment

Keep an eye out for these terrific programs happening in December:

- Norah Dooley (Author) - Gr 2
- Cry Innocent (Salem Witch Trials) - Gr 5

Outdoor Classroom

If you have driven to Chickering lately, you will have noticed a new addition to the landscape. Our learning space has expanded to the outdoors! The space is anchored by the potting shed with trails, steps, planters, benches and built-in irrigation all waiting for us to start "learning" in the Spring 2008! An exciting project 100% funded by the Dover PTO!

Fundraising

The annual check writing campaign is in full swing! A huge "thank you" to those who sent in contributions. We have had a wonderful response so far, and would love to see 100% participation. Contributions of ANY amount will further us toward reaching our goal. Please consider making a 100% tax-deductible contribution before the end of the year. Checks can be sent via backpack in an envelope marked "PTO Campaign". Please ask your employer if this campaign qualifies for corporate matching funds.

Unlike the DSEF, which generously provides district-wide grants, 100% of funds from the Dover PTO check-writing campaign go solely to the Chickering community. And please remember that besides the Tupperware campaign, this will be the only Chickering fundraising program before the celebratory Spring Event **Saturday**,

April 5, 2008.

Thank you for your generosity!

Easy Money for Chickering

A reminder that you can earn free money for Chickering based on your family habits. Box Tops for Education, EcoPhones, Target REDcard, PatronBooks.com, Upromise, DineGift.com. If you lost your flyer, visit the Chickering web site.

Mission 2: Volunteers

On 12/6, the Playground Task Force met to discuss the best use for volunteers on the playground, as well as potential short and long-term equipment enhancements. Interested in joining the effort? DoverPTO@comcast.net

Mission 1: Communication

- **Community Outreach:** Thank you to all families who donated to the Thanksgiving holiday food collection for "A Place to Turn" food pantry in Natick. The drive was a great success! You helped make the holiday a little brighter for those in need; your effort was greatly appreciated!

Don't throw away those old sandals, Crocs, Texas or tennis shoes! We will sponsor a "shoe drive" this spring to benefit a community in Haiti... an opportunity to "Go Green" by reusing and recycling gently worn footwear. Details to follow.

- **Emergency:** Working with Chickering admin, PTO has created an emergency phone tree to connect with families in case of emergency. Please make sure that room parents have cell numbers, etc. This tree will only be initiated by Chickering when advised by Dover Police.
- **Pine Hill:** Dover PTO has been collaborating with our neighbors. Board members from Dover PTO and Pine Hill's Community School Association (CSA) met in November to share best practices. Lots of great ideas.
- **School Photographer:** 70 responses so far! Please weigh in with your satisfaction (on a scale of 1-10) of school photographer Coffee Pond. Email us at DoverPTO@comcast.net.

- **PTO Web Site:** Stay tuned for the new Dover PTO website in 2008. We expect this to be the "go to" place for all PTO info. Can't find that flyer? Need to check a date? Want to ask a question? Need to link to the teachers' and school sites? **DoverPTO.org!**
- **DSC:** As of 1/1/08, Dover School Committee has no recorder of minutes. \$100 per meeting. Call Richard Mathieu 785-0036 x7514.

07-08 Initiative: Kids "Go Green"!

November 15th was National Recycling Day. Becky Gladstone, our tireless liaison to the Dover Recycling Committee, shared ideas with Chickering students during each lunch period. Here are some easy ways you can involve your child(ren) in "Go Green" efforts.

- Put and use a recycle bin in your home
- Reusable water bottles...not plastic!
- Turn off water when brushing teeth.
- Turn off lights/TV when leaving room
- Turn off the computer
- Wear sweaters when cold
- Unplug DS/iPod chargers when not in use. Better yet, get solar chargers
- Reusable canvas bags at the grocery store (you save \$0.05!)
- Have a weekly "Unplugged Evening" - only toys/games without plugs or batteries
- Close outside doors when coming or going
- Compost home scraps
- Plant a vegetable garden
- Replace light bulbs with compact florescent bulbs
- Donate or swap reusable clothing
- Encourage walking/biking instead of driving
- Take the bus to school -- reduces emissions!
- Visit local U-Pick farms. Seeing where food comes from helps kids understand why it is important to take care of the earth.
- Stock your child's art supplies with used printer paper and paper grocery bags. Bonus points for using the paper as wrapping paper. kinderart.com/recycle has neat ideas.
- Offer to take Chickering's weekly recyclables to the Transfer Station.