



## February 2008 NEWSLETTER

### Many Key Dates

Feb 11-14: Books From the Heart  
Feb 18-24: School Vacation  
Feb 26: Playground Volunteers Coffee 9am  
Feb 26: Dover School Committee Meeting 7pm  
Feb 29: Bus driver appreciation breakfast 8:15am  
Mar 6: Family Fun Night!! 6-8pm  
Mar 9: Daylight Savings begins... Spring forward  
Mar 12: Parent/Child "Green" Speaker 6:30-7:30pm  
Mar 29: Dover clean-up day  
April 1: Info sessions on PTO 2008-09 leadership opportunities 8:30am, 2:15pm and 5pm (DEDA)  
April 5: PTO Spring Event 6:30pm  
April 10: State of the School 6:45-8pm

In advance of town meeting and elections, Dover PTO will host the first **State of the School on April 10<sup>th</sup>**. From 6:45-8pm, parents will hear from the four groups that work together with teachers to make Chickering the best possible learning environment for children. The agenda will include presentations from Dover School Committee, Chickering Administration, School Advisory Council (SAC) and Dover PTO. Overview of the groups:

### Dover School Committee

In collaboration with Superintendent of the D-S District and the Chickering administration, the Dover School Committee sets the overall direction of Chickering and has ultimate responsibility for all aspects of Chickering's operations, including school policies and the budget. The Committee develops annual goals (see this year's goals on Chickering's website) and monitors progress in their public meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. The Committee is comprised of five elected members who are town residents: Darin Correll, Kathy Gill-Body, Susan Hackney, Bob Springett and James

Stuart. Last week, the Committee announced the appointment by unanimous vote of our new D-S Superintendent, Ms. Valerie Spriggs.

### Chickering administration

Headed by the Principal, the Chickering admin leads the school's day-to-day operations and works with the Dover School Committee to implement the annual goals. This team provides leadership and support to all teachers and specialists.

### School Advisory Council

SAC monitors the effectiveness of the school and consults on the State-mandated School Improvement Plan. SAC focuses on practices within the school building by working on continuous school improvement. SAC brings together faculty, parents, a school committee member and a community member to work with the Chickering admin to shape the school's practices and programs. SAC explores issues raised by the School Committee and/or the principal. For example, SAC recently examined the issue of school safety. After SAC determined that the school safety procedures should be strengthened, enhanced procedures were implemented and a successful school-wide safety drill occurred in December.

SAC holds monthly public meetings. Interested persons are invited to attend the remaining meetings 2/14, 3/13, 4/10 and 5/8. SAC members: Jennifer DaSilva (co-chair, parent rep), Kirk Downing (co-chair, Principal), Kristen Dennison (community rep), Pam Haggett (faculty rep/teacher), Deb Reinemann (faculty rep), Nancy Simms (Parent rep), Louise Snyder (literacy spec/faculty rep) and James Stuart (DSC).

### The Dover PTO

By now, hopefully all of you know our mission to strengthen the Chickering Community by 1) communicating, 2) coordinating volunteers and 3) funding Chickering projects!

### Mission I: Communications

#### Books From the Heart: February 11-14

Share your child's love of books! Don't forget that next week is the annual PTO-sponsored, "Books

from the Heart!" Parents may come in before or after school to help their child purchase a book to honor any teacher or specialist. Parents may also choose to have a volunteer assist their child during lunch or recess. Send in the order form that came home with your child (or print a new one from the PTO website). Questions? Rebecca Kovrlija at [Rebeccakov@yahoo.com](mailto:Rebeccakov@yahoo.com) or x2501. Thank you!

### **Family Fun Night: Thursday March 6**

Enjoy Chickering with your children! From 6-8pm, our favorite DJ will get your kids jumping, dancing and laughing with their friends... and you! For those new to Chickering, this is an annual favorite!

At the event, PTO will be selling "Note to School" pads for \$3. These make it easy to write notes for pick-up, bus change or staying-after-school.

### **PTO Speaker: Wednesday March 12**

Dr. Nicolas Oreskovic, a pediatrician from Mass General, will be discussing ways in which we can all contribute to a greener world. Bring your child and discover together the top ten things you can do to "go green!" 6:30-7:30pm.

### **Mission II: Volunteers**

#### **Playground Task Force**

Big News! The playground task force, working with Ginny Keniry and the Teaching Assistants, has defined the role of the Playground Volunteer. We're now looking for parent volunteers to "facilitate fun" on the playground, and to enhance safety by providing another set of eyes. Beginning March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'd like to begin using volunteers on the playground. If you'd like to participate, please join us for an informational coffee and sign-up session at **9:00AM on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** in the cafeteria. Bring your calendars! If you can't make it and would still like to volunteer, contact Sue Dangel at [DoverPTO@comcast.net](mailto:DoverPTO@comcast.net)

### **PTO needs you!**

It is not too early to think about next year. Interested in taking a PTO leadership position? Not sure what it involves? Come to one of 3 informational sessions on April 1 (no fooling) to learn more. Working parents we need you, too!

### **Dover clean-up day**

Mark your calendar for Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> because Dover is cleaning up and you can help! Join the town-wide effort to clean up our town and be part of Dover's efforts to "Go Green!"

### **Mission III: Chickering Projects and Fundraising** **Check campaign results**

Thank you Delphine Morton and Tonya Morrison for spearheading this year's amazing check writing campaign. Under their leadership, the campaign raised over **\$28,000** - all of which goes directly to Chickering projects. We appreciate their efforts, as well as the generosity of all who contributed.

### **Spring event: Save the date!**

Finally... it is time for our annual fundraising event - a fun, casual couples evening at the Dedham Country and Polo Club! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 5 (6:30pm start)** and find a babysitter! Hang with friends; enjoy light fare, cocktails and music; and participate in a new twist on the annual auction! We think you'll have fun "going for the Green!"

### **"Easy Money" raffle and contest**

Clipping Box Tops from products already in your house is an easy way to help Dover PTO and Chickering earn extra cash! Box Tops may be attached to the "Frog Buck" flier sent home last week (print additional fliers from the Chickering website), or in a labeled envelope. Collection envelopes are located outside each classroom. Every submission of 10 Box Tops - on a "Frog Buck" or in an envelope - will earn one entry into a student raffle (drawing at Family Fun Night, **March 6**). In addition, the classroom with the greatest number of Box Tops submitted will be the proud recipient of the first-ever Box Top **trophy!** This school-wide competition will be open until **March 7**.

### **EcoPhones**

A quick reminder that EcoPhones pays Chickering for used consumer electronics such as cell phones and ink jet cartridges. A collection bin is located in the school lobby. Your used items may be tax deductible and will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and sold.