



March 2008 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

March 9: Daylight savings! - Spring forward!
March 12: Parent/Child Speaker 6:30-7:30pm
March 18: School Committee Mtg. 7pm
March 29: Dover Clean-up Day
April 1: PTO Info Sessions on leadership opportunities: 8:30am, 2:15pm and 5 pm (DEDA)
April 5: PARtee for Chickering DCPC 6:30pm
April 10: State of the School 6:45-8pm

BIG NEWS...We are on-line! The *new* official Dover PTO website is live. Stop looking at paper and check us out at www.doverpto.org. Find out what's happening. Browse through the pages. We hope this will be a wonderful resource for "everything Chickering." An unbelievable amount of time and effort has gone into launching this site. A big thank you to Dana White for being the visionary; to Laura Rinaldi, Meena Menon and Sara Muckstadt for their professional wisdom and advice; and to Gary Guzzo of Atomic-Studios in ME for translating our vision into an ADA-compliant site for the Chickering and Dover communities. Hopefully this will be our last paper newsletter, and we can really "go green!"

Mission I: Communications

Books from the Heart

We love our teachers! A big thank you to all parents, students and volunteers who made it a success. Because of you, our library will be revitalized with a record-breaking 338 new books honoring our teachers. A special thank you to Mrs. Chase who prepared the new books and make *several* extra trips to the book store. And lastly, to our PTO volunteers, Rebecca Kovrlija, Debi Shaw and Coryn Hall for organizing.

Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast

On 2/29, we thanked the Dover Bus Drivers for their hard work with a hot breakfast and gifts. It was a great way to show our appreciation. Kudos to hosts Cathy Mitchell, Siobhan Doherty, Kristen Brophy and Melissa Johnston and all who contributed food/drink for the event. The drivers sent a very nice thank you note to all.

PTO Speaker: Wednesday, March 12th

Dr. Nicolas Oreskovic, a pediatrician & internist from Mass General Hospital, will be enlightening parent and child alike with what we can do to "Go Green." Don't miss this opportunity to learn some simple things we all can do to reduce, reuse and recycle. 6:30-7:30pm

Community Outreach

Community Outreach will be sponsoring a "snack bag" drive for A Place to Turn food pantry in Natick. We will be asking for donations of juice boxes, pre-packaged snacks and brown lunch bags. Students can help put the bags together and decorate them - details to follow

PTO Info Sessions

Want to make a difference in your children's education? Take a leadership position in the Dover PTO for 08-09. Dozens of Executive Board and Committee Chair spots are available. Check out the job descriptions on DoverPTO.org and come talk to us on April 1 at 8:30, 2:15 or 5.

State of the School

Plan to attend the first "State of the School" on Thursday April 10 from 6:45-8pm. Hear the Dover School Committee, School Advisory Council, Chickering Administration and Dover PTO present on their initiatives, successes and plans for 08-09. Four groups who impact your children's education all in one meeting and all before Town Meeting on May 5! Don't miss it.

Mission II: Volunteers

Thank you to volunteer Karen O'Brien (mom of Brady Tsourides). Karen completed and submitted all of the PTO's federal and state tax returns and non-profit filings for 2007.

Next, we need volunteers for several things:

The Chickering Newspaper

Two enterprising 4th graders in Mrs. Haggett's class recently approached Mr. Downing and the Dover PTO with a proposal for a student-run newspaper. Ellie Burger and Allie Patenaude presented their idea and requested help making their vision a reality. Here is their request:

"Help us make a difference at Chickering School. Inspired by our mission statement, The Chickering Newspaper needs a parent volunteer to be the editor-in-chief. In this program, we will be distributing a newspaper once every two months. In the newspaper, we will state all upcoming events, a report on each grade, news, books and play reviews and fun games. We hope you will volunteer to help create The Chickering Newspaper."

[Chickering Mission statement: Chickering School is a place where kids can learn, laugh, grow, care and make a difference.]

They need a parent who is willing to ask the right questions, help them organize their ideas and create a project plan. Please contact us at volunteer@doverpto.org if you can help them.

PARtee for Chickering (Sat April 5)

We are looking for parents to help us during this fun event. Help check-in, sell raffle tickets, and assist check-out. Contact Lisa Turo at jlturo@comcast.net.

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.

Playgrund Volunteer (all days!)

New equipment has been purchased - balls, hoops, jacks, chalk. We have found a collection of 10-minute games. All we need are parents to help "facilitate fun" at morning and lunch recess. Sign up for a day or a day per week! Email us at our new email: volunteer@doverpto.org.

Mission III: Funding Chickering Projects Fundraising

The big event of the year is almost here. PARtee for Chickering is April 5 from 6:30-11:30pm at the Dedham Country and Polo Club (just down the street). Get your babysitter, buy your tickets and get ready for a fun way to support your school. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, dancing, live auction and raffles - a new twist on winning other items. If you misplaced your invitation, just print out a new one from DoverPTO.org (Flyers & Forms). See you there!

Easy \$ for Chickering

There is a new store in Dover! **Backroom Gifts** is a new gift store selling hand-made products from home-based artists. Gifts range from art, to mudroom benches, to jewelry and more. Tell them that you are a Chickering parent and 10% of your purchase goes to the Dover PTO.

Backroom Gifts is located at 14 Dedham St in the Springdale Crossing building (enter through the Whistle Stop or the door on the parking lot side of the building). Hours are 1-4 pm.

Curriculum Enrichment: March Programs

- * Native American Perspectives- grade 2
 - * Duncan Sings Alone- Native American Storyteller - grade 2
 - * Jeff Kelly -Author - grade 4
 - * Barbara O'Connor- Author- grade 5
- See the whole list at DoverPTO.org.

Teacher Support: Staff Relaxation

Chickering staff recently indulged in an afternoon of massages, yoga and relaxation amidst rose petals and chocolates. Sound like home?? This special Valentine's event, sponsored by Dover PTO, was part of our staff-appreciation initiative organized by Wendy Darragh and Michele Mandel. Teachers and staff members were invited to participate in an on-site "Assisted Rest and Relaxation" class, conducted by Yoga-Now instructors, which combined supported, restorative yoga postures with the assistance of certified massage therapists. The participants were thrilled with the program.