



December 2008 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

Dec 10: METCO Holiday Party
Dec 16: School Committee Meeting
Dec 24-Jan. 2: Winter Vacation
Jan 15: Dr. Chris Bellonci -- Speaker Series

What a **GREAT** time!! The Dover PTO would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Nancy Simms and her amazing team of volunteers for the tremendous effort they put forth to make the Wizards Basketball game such a huge success, and a whole lot of fun. Certainly, Chickering School would not be the same without the active engagement of the many families who pitched in, in a variety of ways, to show their Chickering Pride.

Dads, Donuts & Drop-off on November 14th was another great success, with more than enough donuts! Thanks for coming and getting connected to each other and Chickering!

As part of our staff appreciation program, on November 19th the teachers were treated to a homemade luncheon of chili, salads, cornbread and desserts. Thank you to the parent committee, led by Julie Hayes, who enthusiastically volunteered to provide the food for this event. The teachers were thrilled!

Checkwriting Campaign

Earlier this week, the Dover PTO officially kicked off the 2008-2009 Checkwriting Campaign. Contributions to this campaign support enrichment programs, provide funds to each teacher for their classroom needs, and extend the opportunity for teachers to take advantage of a grant program that funds their needs or wishes (see Grant Summary in this newsletter). Please note that in an attempt to streamline requests for contributions, the Checkwriting Campaign will be our final fundraising effort of the school year (replacing the Auction Party). Every single dollar raised during this campaign is critical in helping to distinguish our school and will contribute directly to our children's learning. We sincerely appreciate your generous contributions to previous fundraising efforts and hope that you will again play a leadership role by making a gift.

Original Works

The Original Works products are in, and ready to be picked up! Please stop by Chickering on Tues. Dec. 9th, Wed. Dec. 10th or Thurs. Dec. 11th at dismissal time. All orders will be in the cafeteria, and will be sorted by teacher and grade. Please contact Kathy Sveen at ksveen@comcast.net with any questions or concerns.

Save the Date!

The Dover PTO Speaker Series continues... On January 15th at 7:00pm, Christopher Bellonci, M.D., Board-Certified Child/Adolescent and Adult psychiatrist, and Medical Director at the Walker School, will be conducting a session on child psychiatry.

Grant Summary

The largest single part of our \$75K PTO Budget is allocated for direct Classroom/Teacher Support (46%). Each classroom teacher and specialist is eligible for \$250 reimbursement for equipment and supplies for their classroom. In addition, the PTO funds \$100 towards their classroom libraries. This fall, the PTO announced that an additional \$5,000 will be funded through the Grant Program. All teachers, specialists and support personnel were invited to submit applications for this program. We worked closely with Kirk Downing and Ginny Keniry to evaluate the applications. We are pleased to announce the funding of five requests from the Chickering staff:

- Book Room Additions of high interest, low readability texts for each grade
- Kindergarten Author Study
- Adventurer Globes (Grade 4)
- Letter Transfers to place the Chickering Mission Statement on the lobby walls.
- Sensory "Tool Kits" for classrooms to address different behavior and attention issues of all learners. This includes head phones, hand putty, lap cushions, therabands, etc.

Thanks to your support, we hope you can see how your contributions are directly benefitting our children!

Updates by Email

An email blast is sent each Tuesday with general reminders and information from the school and the PTO. If you have not received email from Chickering, please speak to Karen in the school office so she can confirm your contact information.

Waste Free Lunch Kids "Go Green"

Last month, grades 1 - 5 participated in Waste Free Lunch day by reducing the school's trash, reusing lunch containers, and recycling plastic and tin foil. The biggest reduction in school trash came from our compost collection - the students collected 30 gallons of compostable material that was then placed in the Outdoor Classroom's compost bin! Thanks to all the students, the lunch assistants, the custodial staff and the Recycling Task Force. Your child can earn blue tickets by bringing in reusable containers, so please make every day a Waste Free Lunch day!

Curriculum Enrichment

In December, the program "Cry Innocent" (Salem Witch Trials) will visit with 5th Grade.

We need your games!

Uno, Boggle, Sorry, Chess & Checkers...

As the weather turns colder, we are looking for donations of new or gently used board games so that indoor recess time can be both fun and educational. A donation bin will be in the school lobby through December 15th. Please look for the flyer listing the specific requests of our teachers.

New "Easy Money" from Shaws!

Save your Shaw's/Star Market grocery receipts and send them to school. You can help us earn some money for Chickering! Through Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program, every original Shaw's/Star Market receipt may bring 1% of the eligible amount as money for Chickering. There is no limit to the amount of receipts collected, so ask your family and friends for all of their receipts as well! Your receipts can be added to the Box Tops collection envelope located outside of each classroom.