



## February 2009 NEWSLETTER

### Key Dates

Feb. 9-13: Books from the Heart  
Feb 13: Read Your ♥ Out Day!  
Feb. 16-20: Winter Vacation  
Feb 24: School Committee Meeting  
Feb 27: Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast  
March 8: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - Spring forward!  
March 10: Report Cards go home

As we are in the midst of our checkwriting campaign, we thought it would be useful to provide an update on the Dover PTO's finances.

We were fortunate to enter the 2008-09 school year with substantial accumulated cash reserves. Due to these reserves, and in anticipation of a generous response to our checkwriting campaign, the PTO pledged \$60,000 to the Chickering administration for major projects and technology upgrades that would complement the grants given by the Dover-Sherborn Education Fund. Half of this amount has been already been spent on exciting items such as an EasiTeach interactive white board, a site license for the EasiTeach software that runs all six of the new interactive white boards in the school, two LCD projectors with sound and remote control capabilities (one for each art room), the computer screen which welcomes you as you enter the Chickering lobby, Montessori materials that make the math

concepts in the lower grades more concrete, a music room grant and a replacement audio-visual system for use in school wide assemblies.

We had hoped that our 2008-09 fundraising would cover the remaining \$30,000 of our pledge and fill our coffers with an amount to cover the 2009-10 operating expenses which will be in the range of \$60,000 - \$70,000. Because we are an operating entity, we feel it is prudent in this economy to begin next school year with sufficient resources to fully fund the year's programs. This policy also provides the fundraising committee with the flexibility to plan events throughout the school year without the pressure of having to generate funds at the beginning of the school year.

Given the tough economic climate, we are pleased with how well the Chickering community has responded to our checkwriting campaign - which is our major (and final) fundraising effort for this school year. Unfortunately, we have fallen short of our goal, which was established in more optimistic times. Consequently, we are in danger of not being able to follow through with the full amount of our pledge to Chickering unless we receive further donations.

If you have already donated to our checkwriting campaign, thank you! If you haven't, it's not too late and your donation will allow us to install additional interactive white boards and other leading-edge technologies in our school.

### **EasiTeach Demonstration**

The interactive white boards run on Easiteach software, an impressive teaching program to see firsthand. If you missed the demonstration at the PTO Quarterly Meeting, be on the lookout for future demos at all-school gatherings. *OR*, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nYk8mJGQ4I> to see some of the ways this incredible technology can enhance classroom learning.

### **Keep Saving Those Shaws Receipts!**

Thanks to all those who have sent in Shaw's grocery receipts! We could always use more so please keep saving them and sending them to school. Through Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program, every *original* Shaw's 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 friends and relatives, too! Your receipts can be added to the Box Tops collection envelope located outside of each classroom.

### **Box Tops for Education**

Thanks to your efforts in the fall, Chickering recently received a check for more than \$500 from the Box Tops for Education program. Let's keep clipping and earning extra cash for Chickering together! You can submit your Box Tops in a baggy or on the collection bucks which were sent home via backpack and also can be printed from our website at [www.doverpto.org](http://www.doverpto.org). Please include your teacher's name so your classroom gets properly credited. Next contest ends February 27 and the traveling trophy will find a new home in March!

### **Books from the Heart**

Why are there are so many wonderful picture and chapter books in our school library? One of the reasons is "Books from the Heart," taking place next week. At recess time, volunteers will guide children through the process of choosing a book for the Chickering Library in honor of a special teacher. A bookplate listing the child's name and the teacher honored is placed inside each book. Forms have been sent home via backpack and it's not too late to participate! If you have any questions regarding the program please contact either Linda Hain at [lhain@insourceservices.com](mailto:lhain@insourceservices.com) or Leslie Cutler at [lbcutler@mac.com](mailto:lbcutler@mac.com).

### **Family Fun Night... COMING SOON!**

Mark Your Calendars! The 3rd annual "Family Fun Night" will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

### **Penny Drive - a Great Success!**

A big thanks to Chickering students for making "Pennies for Peace" a great success. Students will present Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea* a check for all the collected change... two giant water-cooler bottles full! Thanks to all who participated in this meaningful fundraiser.

### **News from Chickering's Class of 2009!**

All information on the 5th Grade Graduation happenings can now be accessed online! Just go to [www.doverpto.org](http://www.doverpto.org) and click on the "Committee Websites" tab on the left margin. Then click "5th Grade Graduation" and you are there! Information will be updated regularly. Please feel free to contact any of the committee chairs if you have any questions.