



March 2009 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

March 8: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - Spring forward!
March 10: Report Cards go home
March 11: Parent Conferences begin
March 17: School Committee Mtg. 7pm
March 25: Family Fun Night! 6:30-8:00 pm
March 27: Waste Free Lunch Day!
March 28: Dover Clean-up Day

Think Spring!

Spring is packed with many Curriculum Enrichment programs funded by the PTO. In March alone, we have six programs coming to Chickering. The kindergartners will be delighted by an Origami specialist. The first graders will enjoy a visit from Marty Kelly, author and illustrator of hilarious children's books such as *Twelve Terrible Things* and *Winter Woes*. Second graders will continue their monthly *Understanding Our Differences* program, with incredible hands-on experiences aimed at enlightening our children about the physical and learning challenges some children face. The third grade will be visited by Ben Franklin "himself," who will give a historical and scientific perspective on his many accomplishments. Jeff Kelly will be coming to conduct an intense writing workshop with our fourth graders in preparation for their upcoming MCAS exams. Lastly, author Barbara O'Connor, who has written fourteen novels and biographies for children, will visit with fifth grade. Her books have received many awards, including the Massachusetts Books Award and Parents Choice Award and have been nominated for young readers' awards in nineteen states.

Later in the spring, we are bringing back the exciting and memorable rollercoaster presentation by Techsplorations as well as Bug Works. In addition, we have added the exciting new author of *One Hen*, a children's book about one person making a difference in the world. Dave Epstein, more widely known for his weekend weather forecasting on Channel 5 but also a successful landscaper, is planning a Spring visit to give our fourth graders some tips on planting. Finally, the year will end on a high "note" when the renowned group, "Ball in the House," will knock the socks off our students in a school-wide a capella show.

Don't forget to ask your child about these great programs!

Books from the Heart

The Chairs of the program and the PTO sincerely thank all the parents and students who helped make this a banner year for Books from the Heart. Our Chickering library has over 350 new books thanks to the Chickering community's enthusiasm and dedication. The PTO also sends their heartfelt thanks to the teachers, administrators and volunteers who made this such a successful year for Books from the Heart. THANK YOU and HAPPY READING!

PTO NEEDS YOU!!

It is not too early to start thinking about next year. Interested in taking a PTO leadership position? Not sure what it involves? Contact Wendy Darragh at w_darragh@comcast.net to find out more.

Family Fun Night -- NEW DATE!

We've changed the date! Mark your calendar! Family Fun Night will be held on Wednesday, March 25th from 6:30-8:00. Come for dessert, entertainment, raffle prizes, and a great time! If you can volunteer to help with this event, please contact Denise Linden at deniselinden@comcast.net.

Chickering Spring Apparel

With warm weather approaching, are you in need of a fresh new tote bag? Shorts for the kids? Be sure to check out our new apparel, which will be displayed in the lobby during parent-teacher conferences. In addition to the tote bag, we'll have other warm-weather items including a long-sleeve tee shirt, girls' raspberry tee, soccer shorts, tie-dye shorts and baseball cap. All great for spring and summer birthdays! Questions? Interest in helping with Chickering Apparel? Please contact Rebecca Kovrlija at rebeccakov@yahoo.com.

Penny Drive - a Great Success!

THANKS to all students and families for an incredible response to the *Pennies for Peace* drive. We collected **119,196** pennies to make a \$1,191.96 contribution to Greg Mortenson's education efforts highlighted in *3 Cups of Tea*. Those who attended the lecture saw the impact this money can make. Greg Mortenson was SO impressed and touched by what our K-5 students achieved. He thanked YOU on behalf of the children of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

News from the Class of 2009!

*** Logo Contest Winner**

Congratulations to Kendall Worrell for her winning entry in the Logo Contest! Kendall's art, along with Anthony Borghi's winning slogan, will be printed on the 5th grade graduation t-shirts and appear in the yearbook. Great job Anthony and Kendall! A big thanks to all students who participated in both contests.

*** Yearbook**

A reminder to all families to return the Memory Page for the yearbook along with your child's kindergarten and 5th grade photos by March 16th. This is also the due date for candid photos.

Additional information regarding all 5th grade graduation activities can be found by visiting the PTO website www.doverpto.org.

Shaw's Rewards Program Has Changed! No More Paper Receipts...

Thanks to all those who saved their Shaw's/Star Market receipts and sent them into school. The response to this program was fantastic and even though we only collected receipts for a short time period, we have earned over \$250 in "easy money"! We appreciate your continued support of Chickering. The Shaw's program has changed so there is no more need to save your receipts. There is a new and easier way you can help, though. Through the Shaw's Community Rewards program, simply link your Shaw's Rewards Card number to Chickering (ID #: 49001019881) on their website "Learn" link, at www.albertsons.com/cp/shaws/. If you shop at Shaws or a Massachusetts Star Market on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and use your registered Rewards Card, Chickering will earn up to 1% of your eligible purchases. Also, a Rewards Cardholder can select up to four participating non-profit organizations to support, so spread the word to your family and friends and ask them to link their cards to Chickering as well. For more information, visit www.shaws.com.

Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast

Heartfelt thanks to our wonderful bus drivers! Last Friday we honored them with a hot breakfast and tokens of our appreciation. Thank you to Kristin Brophy, Melissa Johnston, Jen Atwood and Amy Caffrey for heading up this event.

Spelling Bee

The 2009 Dover Town Library Spelling Bee will take place on Thursday, March 26th at 7pm. This is a wonderful community event and fundraiser for our library. Come support and cheer on the Spelling Bee teams from Chickering School!