



October 2009 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates

Oct 7: Early Release
Oct 12: No School / Columbus Day
Oct 13: Innisbrook Orders Due
Oct 13: Speaker - Children's Nutrition, 7 pm
Oct 21: Curriculum Coffee, 8:45-9:45 am
Oct 21: Early Release (system-wide)
Oct 28: Curriculum Coffee, 8:45-9:45 am
Oct 28: Speaker - To Vaccinate or Not? 7 pm
Nov 11: No School / Veterans Day
Nov 14: DSEF Gala
Nov 20: Dad's & Donuts, 8:00-8:30 am

A Message from the PTO

One month under our belts... We have officially gotten the school year off to a flying start! Back-to-School Picnic, K/New Parent Coffee, Room Parent Coffees, Back-to-School Night, School Pictures, Quarterly PTO meeting and now our first newsletter. It has been a busy and fun month at Chickering! After our rainy days of summer, it is wonderful to get back into a routine!

We have been busy planning our PTO year: Dads & Donuts, CE programs, *nine* teacher luncheons, a Book Fair, the Auction... The plans are in the works. Thousands of volunteer hours go into helping our school. Thank you for being part of "making a difference" in the education of our children.

Chickering Blasts

Every Tuesday, Chickering School sends an email "blast" covering the weekly news for the school, PTO, and community. Everyone should be receiving these weekly blasts. If you have not received one, please email Kelly O'Donnell in the office at odonnellk@doversherborn.org. Blasts are a way to communicate with you on a weekly basis, or more importantly, in an emergency situation. Gmail users please bear with us. We will solve the problem! These blasts will also be posted on the school website on a weekly basis.

Speaker Series Begins

Celebrate National School Lunch Week with an informative movie and discussion aimed to increase awareness of the factors that influence what our children eat every day. Join other parents and local nutritionist, Laura Hartung RD, in tackling this critical national issue. Come with questions and ideas to share. October 13th from 7-8:30 pm in the Chickering Library.

On October 28th, a second speaker, Dr. Lisa Jane Jacobsen, will give a presentation on the Gardasil (HPV) vaccination. What are the risks/benefits for girls? Dr. Jacobsen is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. She is Board Certified and has been practicing in the area for the past 14 years. From 7-8:30, Chickering Library.

Fundraising Update

Fundraising events planned for this year are the Innisbrook gift wrap (see below) and our Spring Auction on April 10, 2010. This will be a **big** community-wide event held at Elm Bank. Planning for "**Rock-A-Palooza: Chickering Rocks the House**" has begun. Contact info@doverpto.org to volunteer. It is not too late to get involved in this fun event!

Order On-Line Now for Holiday Gift-giving!

Innisbrook, one of our most popular and profitable PTO fundraisers, has returned! Innisbrook offers beautiful gift wrap for all occasions, as well as delicious candies and other unique items. Innisbrook packets were sent home last week in your child's backpack (one packet per family). The deadline for orders is October 13th. Please note that all proceeds go directly back to our children through the many PTO sponsored activities and curriculum enrichment programs. Thank you for your support and participation!

And the Winner is....

Last spring, we announced a drawing contest to find artwork for the front and back covers of the 2009-2010 Chickering School Directory. Nearly 40 students, from all grades, submitted art for the contest! A list of all artists who sent in a drawing will be included on the back of this year's directory. Our front cover winner is Elizabeth Qian-Wang. Runners-up are featured on the back cover: Mary Fitzpatrick, Anna Pomahac, Dan Pomahac, and Drew Sveen. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

A big "thank you" goes to the talented group of parents who labored many hours putting together our directory. These people began meeting last Spring, worked tirelessly through the Summer, and edited and proofed 10 drafts! Thanks to committee chair, Amy Melican, and her team of Christophe Oliver, Serena Chang, Siobhan Doherty, Meg Field, Christine Gleason, Nancy Kostakos, Pam LaDato, Betsy Ryan, and Wei Zhou. Directories will be sent home in backpacks next week. Let those playdates begin....

Curriculum Coffees

Please join us for a Curriculum information session on October 21, from 8:45-9:45 am in

the Music Room. The focus of the discussion will be Reading and Writing in grades 3 through 5 at Chickering. Future topics and dates include: Mathematics K-2 (Oct. 28), Mathematics 3-5 (Nov. 18), more Literacy on (Dec. 9th and Jan. 20th), followed by Technology, Science, and Social Studies in the Spring. RSVP's are requested, but not required to: Dr. Deb Reinemann (reinemannd@doversherborn.org) or x2031.

Curriculum Enrichment Update

Each year, the PTO funds programs that impact and enhance your child's experiences at Chickering. Approximately 50% of the PTO budget is used toward curriculum enrichment.

Curriculum Enrichment programs are already underway! Last week, Matt Noyes, a NECN meteorologist, visited our energetic 5th graders. The students learned about cloud formation, precipitation, evaporation, and Doppler radar. This month, all Chickering students will have the opportunity to see, *The Power of One*, an anti-bullying presentation. *The Power of One* is a series of skits led by actors who use boxes, colors, and masks to vividly portray what bullying is, what can be done about it, and how every child has the power of one - the power to report bullying when they see it.

Upcoming programs include author/illustrator visits to classrooms, intensive writing workshops, "visits" from historical figures such as Ben Franklin, hands-on technology and math experiments, an exploration of a 32-foot dinosaur from the inside, and many more! Please make sure you ask your child about these fun and educational events!

"Few things are harder to put up with than a good example" -*Mark Twain*

