



May 2008 NEWSLETTER

Final Key Dates

MCAS: See Chickering Website for dates
May 20: School Committee Meeting 7pm
May 21: Staff Appreciation Luncheon
May 21: Chickering Art Night (grades 1-5) 3-7pm
May 22: Grade 5 Mingle in the Middle 7pm DSMS
May 26: No school; Memorial Day
May 27: No school for current Kindergartners
May 30: Kindergarten Show 9am
June 2: Field Day K-5 (rain date June 3)
June 4: Celebrate Chickering Day (see below)
June 6: Grade 5 Talent Show for parents
June 11: Grade 5 Luncheon
June 20: Grade 5 Graduation 9AM
Last day of school - early release

Mission I: Communications

Celebrate Chickering Day, Wednesday June 4

8:00-9:00 Dads, Donuts & Drop-off
9:00 Outdoor Classroom Dedication
9:30-10:00 Annual PTO Meeting
10:00-11:00 Volunteer Appreciation Coffee

One final big day at Chickering...

Back by popular demand, the morning begins at **8AM** with a return of **Dad's, Donuts and Drop-off**. Dads, bring the kids to school, meet other dads in the cafeteria and enjoy some donuts and coffee. We promise *more* donuts this time.

At **9AM**, our Outdoor Classroom Ribbon Cutting and Dedication will begin. Hopefully some dads can stay and some moms can join us! The shed and planting beds are in place and ready to accept spring plantings. Come see what the kids have been working on all winter and hear how the Outdoor Classroom will integrate into the Chickering curriculum.

At **9:30AM**, attend the Dover PTO Annual Meeting. We will present a brief summary of the year's activities including financial reports. Both the 2008-09 PTO Executive Board and 2008-09 PTO Budget will be presented for approval. This will become the starting point for next year. Conference calling will be available; details to follow.

At **10:00AM**, we want to thank **all** parent/family volunteers who have dedicated their time, talents and resources to Chickering this year. Anyone who has spent time...

in the classroom (indoor or outdoor), as a room parent, in the library, on the playground, on Hospitality, at school pictures, with Books from the Heart, on a Fundraiser, on the directory, auditing, doing communications, with community outreach, on speakers, providing curriculum enrichment, aiding graduation, etc. are invited. More donuts and coffee/tea! We hope this will be an annual THANK YOU event.

Go Green!

The Dover PTO is in the news... in a national publication! Our "Go Green" initiative was recently featured in April's Earth Day edition of PTO Today magazine. See www.doverpto.org for the article and a picture of our "Green Team."

Community Outreach

Snack Drive

Thanks to your generosity, Chickering students will be filling approximately 100 snack bags on Friday May 9th. These bags will be delivered to A Place to Turn in Natick and distributed to Metro-West families in need of healthy snacks for their school-age children. Thank you to all contributors and to Mr. Downing for involving our students!

Shoe Drive

Next, Dover PTO is sponsoring a shoe drive to benefit the village of Juampas, Haiti. Every four months, several groups from around the US - including some from Dedham - travel to Haiti to assist the villagers with medical, educational, and spiritual needs. Juampas is located approximately 40 miles from the capital city, Port-au-Prince.

These projects include: supporting the medical staff at the clinic, a school sponsorship program with a goal to ensure that every child in Juampas is able to attend school, a clean water project, providing mosquito nets to pregnant women to prevent malaria, and most recently, a shoe market.

During their next trip in June, they hope to replenish the shoes for the shoe market to keep this a sustainable business. Your donations of shoes (and/or suitcases) *in good condition* are very much appreciated. Last year, Chickering responded to a similar request for clothing and shoes and your generosity was outstanding. Thank you for your continued support of the residents of Juampas, who are so appreciative of your support.

Mission II: Volunteers Dover PTO Needs YOU!

The Dover PTO has worked very hard to assemble a broad group of leaders who represent all grades at Chickering and bring diverse perspectives to the organization. In 2007-08, over **45** parents held leadership positions in the Dover PTO! Today (May 9th) is the deadline for nominations for the 2008-09 Executive Board. Open positions and job descriptions are listed on www.doverpto.org. If you are still interested, email a self-nomination ASAP to info@doverpto.org.

Following the Call for Nominations, the process will run as follows:

- The Nominating Committee (Chair Annemarie Thompson, Shelly Windle, Jennifer Friesen) reviews all nominations and prepares a **single-slate** of the 2008-09 Executive Board. The slate includes only Executive Board positions.
- If there are multiple nominations for an Executive Board position, the Nominating Committee will 1) solicit input and recommendations from the current board member; 2) conduct a phone interview with each candidate; 3) factor in the number of years at Chickering as well as previous volunteer experience inside and outside of Chickering; and 4) inquire as to other positions that might interest the candidate.

- The Nominating Committee will present the single-slate ballot via backpack/e-mail distribution prior to the **June 4** PTO Annual Meeting. All candidates who submitted their names will be notified prior to the public announcement of the ballot.
- The Executive Board slate is voted on for approval at the **June 4th** PTO Annual Meeting. Ballots for the slate can be cast up until 9AM on June 4 and will be included in the vote tally that morning.

Following the election, Executive Board Members will start appointing their Committee Chairs.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Wed May 21)
Volunteers are busily preparing for this annual event. This year's theme is a **hoedown**, complete with all the fixin's! It is always a highlight for the Chickering staff.

Mission III: Funding Chickering Projects Fundraising

1. The Boxtop Trophy is looking for a new home; please remember to submit boxtops by May 16, so your child's class can claim victory.
2. Look for another great opportunity for *Free Money* in today's backpack. Blue Tulip - a new gift boutique in Wellesley - is sponsoring an event to benefit Dover PTO during the weekend of May 16-18, so shop, shop, shop!

Curriculum Enrichment: May Programs

- * Kids Lab - grade 1
- * New England Aquarium - grade 4
- * Techsplorations- grade 5

Teacher Grants

The Dover PTO has been working closely with DSEF to ensure that many of our teacher grants are funded this year so that teachers are ready to go in the Fall of 2008. With the success of the PTO's 2007-08 Fundraising, we have been able to fund a *second* round of Teacher Grants for this year. An additional \$5,000 will be spent on teacher grants to benefit our children's education. A complete list of these grants will be in our final June Newsletter/Annual Report.