



November 2007 NEWSLETTER

Key Dates to Remember

- Nov 3:** DSEF Gala
- Nov 4:** Daylight Savings Time begins!
- Nov 9:** Dads, Donuts & Drop-off 8:00-8:30am
- Nov 12:** No school - Veteran's Day
- Nov 13 - Dec 31:** Check writing campaign
- Nov 20:** School Committee meeting 7pm
- Nov 23-25:** Thanksgiving recess
- Nov 26:** No school - Teacher Professional Day

It is definitely the month of counting blessings! Another World Series win, a return to normal bedtime, and of course, Thanksgiving! At Chickering, the Dover PTO has been busy with programs that will benefit all of our children.

As you know, the mission of the Dover PTO is: 1) **communication**, 2) **organizing volunteer services**, and 3) **directly funding Chickering activities**. And we reach these goals thanks to **YOU**. Parents provide thousands of volunteer hours as well as the \$120/per child spent annually on direct programs. We wanted to focus this newsletter on how we raise that money.

Fundraising

Chickering's "Go Green" Tupperware product sale has wrapped up, and we thank those families who participated. We hope to see less trash clogging our bins at Chickering when those "reusables" arrive. The additional water bottles will soon arrive also. At this point we thought a brief overview of the remaining '07-'08 PTO fund raising events and ongoing initiatives would be of interest.

Beginning in mid-November, we will launch a Check Writing Campaign in response to those of you who

continue to say, "just let us know what you need and we'll happily write the check". Soon, you will be able to do just that! Stay tuned for info in backpacks about our Check Writing Campaign, which runs through the end of the year. 100% of these funds will go directly to classroom teachers.

Our final fundraiser of the school year will be a Spring Casual Couples Party. The spring event is scheduled for Saturday, **April 5, 2008**, so reserve the date now! This fun evening promises light fare, music, cocktails and a new twist on the annual auction. The committees are being formed and our plans are in the works. If you are interested in helping with the event planning, or just helping the day or evening of the event, and have not already let us know, please email us at DoverPTO@comcast.net. Just let us know which of the following committees interest you: Invitation/Program, Decorations, Ticket Sales, Auction or Volunteers (assistance at event).

By offering multiple fund raising opportunities throughout the year, we hope to provide each family with an opportunity to contribute in a way that best suits you. Our overall goal is 100% participation for all Chickering families in support of the PTO programs that impact and enhance your child's classroom experiences and the Chickering community as a whole.

Finally, many national corporations have programs that made it possible for schools to take advantage of "free money." Often these are easy ways to benefit the school simply by clicking on a website or clipping a box top. Please take a few moments to read the flyer in today's backpack entitled "**Free Money for Chickering**". At no cost to our families, we may be able to earn free money for our school based on your family habits. Feel free to take advantage of as many of these programs as make sense for your family; most are easy to incorporate into your existing habits.

Thanks for your continued support and participation in your PTO! We look forward to continued FUNdraising this year!

Mission Part 1 - Communication

Outdoor Classroom Project

The landscape is changing! Stage 1 of the Outdoor Classroom is being installed. You will soon see carved-out pathways, timber-framed garden beds, steps, wooden benches and a potting shed... everything necessary to start the "teaching" and planting in the spring. We were fortunate to have personnel from the Mass Horticulture Society donate their time in designing our area and we are utilizing one of their contractors to facilitate the installation. The PTO is funding the \$25k Stage 1 costs. Deb Reinemann and the teachers are looking forward to sharing the news about the new classroom with the children as they roll out their spring assignments. We would like to thank the chairs, Meg Field and Elizabeth Freeman for their tireless efforts on this project. Keep watching!

Dads, Donuts & Drop-off

Okay Dads, this is for you. Skip the bus and drive your kids to school. Drop in for coffee, donuts and talk with Kirk Downing, Dr. Deb Reinemann (Curriculum Coordinator), Louise Snyder (Literacy Specialist) and other staff. Connect with Chickering. Don't forget to bring the kids!

Chickering Directories

We hope you are enjoying your 2007-2008 School Directory! We have a limited supply of directories in the office for \$15. Very special thanks to Amy Piemonte, Christophe Oliver, Laura Wood, Phuong Tang-Tso and Linda Holiner for putting in *many* long hours to make this happen. If you only knew how long it took to make that map!

School Pictures

Pictures have arrived! If that smile is not to your liking or your child was absent, retakes are **November 15**. Please note: *complete* portrait packages must be turned in for the re-take.

Mission Part 2 - Volunteer Services

Isn't it great?

28 parents have stepped up to the plate.

To plan graduation for Chickering's class of 2008!

And, if you'd like to join in, it's not too late!

Simply contact one of the co-chairs:

5th Grade Luncheon Committee

Diane Hardin x0817 Sue Monleon x8183

5th Grade Yearbook & Class Photo Committee

Joanna Brach x9099 Becky Gladstone x1850

5th Grade T-shirt & Gift Committee

Jean Brown x3498 Lisa Kirby x2365

Note: The **5th Grade all-class, grade-wide photo** will be taken on Nov. 15 at 11:30am. This is for the cover of the yearbook, so we want everyone there! The time & date of this photo has been scheduled around Chickering's re-take day. Please do everything you can to have your child present for this photograph. Thanks, and look for a reminder flyer via your child's backpack."

Web Task Force

The Web Task Force is working furiously to design and implement our new site, DoverPTO.org, and we need help! Email DoverPTO@comcast.net. You don't need to be a tech guru; anyone who uses the web and is willing to help will be appreciated!

Mission Part 3 - Funding Chickering projects

Curriculum Enrichment

The entire school enjoyed "Bash the Trash" on 10/29. It was a lively and entertaining program that, hopefully, taught the kids a few things about "going green." Thanks to the Corrells, the assembly will be broadcast on DSCTV-8 (cable channel 8) on 11/6 and 11/7 at 6pm. Keep a look out for the following programs scheduled for Nov:

- Len Cabral - grade 3
- Wompanoag Indians (Plimoth) - grade 3
- Discovery Museum - grade 2

November Food Drive

Dover PTO Community Outreach is sponsoring a holiday food collection to benefit "A Place To Turn" food pantry in Natick. The drive runs from 11/1 - 11/15, and a collection bin is in the school lobby for donations. An email with specific item requests went out this week. Additionally, Community Outreach will sponsor an initiative with "A Place To Turn" in the spring, in which the children will have the opportunity to be more directly involved. More details later. Thanks!