



The Dewing Dolphin



L.F. Dewing School
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(978) 640-7858

Principal Cathy Ronan
(978) 640-7858

From the Desk of Mrs. Ronan



Dear Parents,

December will be a busy month in school with lots of new learning taking place. Review of previous skills is always an important component to learning but it is incorporated with new grade level skills as well. This is why Homework Completion is such an important part of your child's learning. I am pleased to announce that Homework Participation for the month of October has increased to 84%, compared to 79% of September. I believe we will begin to see increased student learning as a result of the increased reinforcement of skills at home.

Many family activities can contribute to a child's overall development as well. Sharing and discussing current news, sports and cultural events builds background knowledge for your child and enhances vocabulary development. Everyday activities such as shopping can contribute to writing and math skills; have your child write out the shopping list and count out money. Create family albums of pictures, stories and poems with captions. With the holidays coming, have your children help with the baking and they can read recipes, measure ingredients and develop comprehension of cooking and measurement vocabulary.

Have fun with your child during this holiday season but remember-homework first!

Take care,
Mrs. Ronan

Dewing School Important Dates

December 6	Dewing School Parent Teacher Conference Night (by appointment)
December 6	School Store for Parents Only During Conference Night 6-9p.m. Additional School Spirit Wear will be available to purchase.
December 10	Kindergarten Puppet Show 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
December 13	PAC Meeting -7:30 p.m. Dewing School Library
December 13 and 14	School Store
December 13	Literacy Initiative Meeting at 6:45PM All Welcome
December 17	Deadline for recipes for the Dewing Cookbook
December 24—January 1	No School Winter Vacation

Volume 1, Issue 3
December 2007

PAC Officers

Chairperson
Kristen Polimeno
(978) 640-9741
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Vice Chairperson
Loretta Ryan
macnmad@comcast.net

Secretary
Melissa Lane
mllane117@comcast.net

Treasurer
Arthy Bennett
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Website and Newsletter

We strive to make the PAC Website and The Dewing Dolphin Newsletter the place to go for information about our school.



Please feel free to send us questions, concerns, and/or suggestions at any time.

If you would like to submit articles, announcements, and/or news, please use the new news submission found on the PAC website.

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/index.htm>

News Editor, Amy Miller
dewingnews@verizon.net



PAC Meetings and Agendas

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Meetings.htm>

We are pleased to announce that Melissa Lane is our new Secretary for the Dewing PAC. Melissa has been a valuable member of the PAC and we are lucky to her on our team. Congratulations Melissa!

Our next scheduled PAC meeting is scheduled for 12/13/07 at 7:30 PM . All are welcome to attend. We hope you can make it.

Thank you, Krissy Polimeno

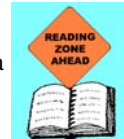


Reading 101: A Parents' Guide to Reading

Mrs. Robinson, Dewing School Reading Specialist

During this season of giving why not consider the gift of reading! It has been shown that children who read independently by choice perform better on standardized tests and earn higher grades in school. While reluctant readers may cringe at reading books, many often enjoy reading magazines. Children's magazines at book stores cover a wide range of topics from American Girl, literature, sports, animals, nature and the outdoors. Children enthusiastically anticipate receiving a magazine in the mail!

Another consideration is nonfiction books. Find your child's interest and promote that interest through books. Some good nonfiction writers include Simon Seymour (science), The Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole (science), Jean Fritz (history) and David Adler (historical biographies).



Other children find comfort in reading books containing familiar characters or written by familiar authors. There are many series written for children; at the primary level: Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel, Nate the Great by Majorie Weinman Sharmat, Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park, Cynthia Rylant's Henry and Mudge series and Mr. Putter and Tabby series and at the intermediate grade level: Matt Christopher sports books, Cam Jansen by David Adler, and Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish. Mercer Mayer, Dr. Seuss, Beverly Cleary and Marc Brown are also popular authors.

Classic holiday stories include the Polar Express, The Night before Christmas, The Nutcracker, and a Christmas Carol. New holiday stories recommended by the Reading Teacher are Mrs. Claus Takes a Vacation by Linas Alsonas (ages 5-7) and Christmas in the Trenches by John McCutcheon (Grades 3-5).

Put your child on the track to becoming a life long reader by supplying interesting and enjoyable reading material this season! Have a safe and happy holiday!



Notes from Mrs. Moriarty (School Nurse)

1. Reminder to dress children for the colder weather! For example, coats, hats, gloves, etc. The children will be going outside for recess as long as the weather permits.
2. The cold and flu season is fast approaching so please remember that children must be fever free for 24 hours (without Tylenol, Advil, etc.) before returning to school.
3. Parent of 4th Grade Students if you have not send in a 4th grade physical (after 1/1/07 is acceptable) please do so as soon as possible.



Cafeteria Corner

The Dewing Dolphin is thrilled to have Karen Chanaki, Food Service Director for the Tewksbury Public Schools, share the great things happening with the school lunch program. She is very excited to tell the Dewing parents a little more about the food service program, some of their accomplishments, and goals. We will bring you these updates in the next few newsletters.

During the past three years all public school food service operations have gone through a multitude of new regulations and change due to federal law. With the passing of these new regulations, the Tewksbury School Lunch program is doing its part to comply with these changes as best as financially capable and with the hope that our efforts will be accepted.

Our program and staff are dedicated to on-going learning and sharing with the students. On December 5, additional food service staff will attend classes for the Serve Safe Certification program. Serve Safe is a food safety certification program for those involved in commercial or institutional food preparation. There will also be a nutrition-based theater performance called "Food Play" at the Heathbrook School on December 3. This national production is sponsored by Shaw's for the Tewksbury School Lunch program. This wonderful show teaches children the importance of healthy nutrition choices in a fun, interactive manner.

In January 2008, we plan to send home a food service survey to gain further insight into the nutritional needs of both students and parents. Our hope is that this survey will provide better focus to areas needing improvement and areas where we are doing well. Please watch for this survey- we really want your input!



Story Hour

November 15 was a rainy Thursday night, but it didn't stop 30 families (including 62 children) from "monkeying" around. Author Joanie Woodward spent a playful and interactive story hour teaching the children and their parents how to relax their body by deep belly breathing and how to monkey laugh. She followed by a reading of her book [Seven Little Monkeys](#).



Children's Comments:

"The best book ever!" Alice-grade K

"Great" Lucas- grade 1

"I rate it 5 monkeys." Megan-grade 2

"This was awesome! You should have another one." Anabelle-grade 3

"It was awesome. I love it. I love it." Rachel-grade 3 and Amber-grade K

"I liked the deep belly breaths." Josh-grade 4

Thanks to all of the volunteers and to the PAC for sponsoring the event. If you would like a signed copy of [Seven Little Monkeys](#), please contact Louise Chmela at nikobob@comcast.net.

A special thanks for Louise Chmela for organizing this wonderful event!



The Giving Tree

We are proud to say the Giving Tree was a big success this year. We had four carloads of gifts that we presented to D.S.S. in Lowell. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this truly wonderful experience. We will be posting a collage in the school with many pictures of this project!

A special thanks to the following volunteers who put this project together from beginning to end: Gerri Rubico, Krissy Polimeno, Loretta Ryan, Melissa Lane, Maria Dulock, Lori ElHakim, Kerry Quinn, Jeanann Williams, Daisy Karnall, Sandra Campo, Christine Strickler, and Mrs DeGrechie!

The Winter Festival

Did you go to Winter Festival? Did you have fun with your family and friends? If so, then you were not alone. Everyone watched with amazement as the Self-Defense Institute showed their stuff. By midday the halls were buzzing with people, old and young alike. Lots of yummy pizza and chicken fingers were munched down heartily. Along with the donated chips and so many delicious dessert treats and drinks, everyone fueled up to join in on the games. The fishing game was very popular and the new Frisbee Toss proved quite a challenge for many who weren't otherwise making crafts or getting tattooed or faces painted. Our DJ kept everyone up and shimmying only to be followed up in style by the wonderful performances put on by so many of our Dewing students from Dance Expressions. Well done everyone! There was shopping aplenty for the holidays with the new apple lady vendor garnering a lot of attention for her scrumptious double-dipped creations. We also had some terrific donations for our country store table and many happy winners. To top off all of this fun, we earned about \$1300.00, which is a wonderful bonus to a day that is surely one of the Dewing School's most family friendly, and festive. Happy Holidays and THANK YOU to all who helped make this year's Winter Festival another success. See you again next year!





Mahoney's Decorates Dewing School!

Dewing parent Christine Demers arranged for a generous donation of twenty perennial plants and grasses from Mahoney's Garden Center in Tewksbury. Thank you Christine! Thank you Mahoney's! These plants will help enhance the school grounds and make for a positive, cheerful environment. Keep an eye out for landscaping volunteer opportunities in the Spring! Contact Ann Ell

ericell@msn.com if you'd like to be part of the corps!

Tewksbury Food Pantry Distribution

Any parents interested in obtaining the food Pantry Distribution and/or Food Assistance Application may do so by downloading the forms off the Dewing Website.

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/MrsRonanTips.htm> or
<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Forms.htm>



Jean Drive Success

Dewing School families donated 152 jeans to the Lowell Wish Project. These jeans will be distributed to low income/homeless families through out the Lowell area who can really use them. Thank you to everyone who donated!!

The Coat Drive is off to a Great Start

We have collected over 70 coats so far! We still have a month to go so please feel free to drop off any coats in our front lobby at the Dewing School. A perfect opportunity is to drop a coat while you're at the school for your parent teacher conference. **GO DEWING!** Thanks to everyone who has already helped this drive.



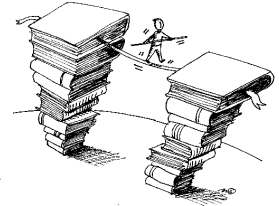
Coats will be distributed by community agencies to those in need. Distribution Partners: BU Medical Center's Outreach Van, Cradles to Crayons, Community Giving Tree, Lowell Wish Project, Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP), Southern New Hampshire Services, and The Salvation Army.



Calling all Literacy Lovers

We are at the early stages and want to start brainstorming re how we can incorporate something fun into promoting literacy at the Dewing School. We are looking for all and any ideas to help us promote this sometime after the first of the year. If you want to help in any way please contact Andrea Regina at a_regina@comcast.net. Please feel free to send any and all your ideas

too! We are looking for ideas and suggestions as we will be forming a group to work on this project and implement at our school! Examples would be having a read a thon or a reading contest, etc. We need your help! It's takes a village to succeed!



Reporters Needed



Students are encourage to submit the news of the class. The Dewing Dolphin would like to report what is going on in all the grade levels and all specialists every month. Staff and students, please take note of all major activities and events and use the new news submissions form found under FORMS on the new PAC webpage:

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Forms.htm>



Calling All Photographers

My name is Lori El Hakim. I've taken over the Publicity/Photography Committee Head for the 2007/2008 school year. I'd like to set up a list of all who would like to volunteer to take pictures of the various events throughout the year. If you are interested in taking a pictures or putting together collages of the events, please email me with your contact information. Thanks, Lori elhakim5@verizon.net



Recipes Needed

Do you like to cook or have a favorite recipe? Interested in volunteering to help your child's school? The PAC is working on a 2008 Dewing School Cookbook. We need recipes and volunteers to help compile recipes, draft the book and then sell the book to raise money for our school. Please contact Melissa Lane at Dewing.recipes@verizon.net or (978) 851-8385 with any questions. The link to the submission form is below.

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/cookbookletter.doc>



Enrichment Program Instructors Wanted

We are always looking for new programs. If you have talent or idea, please contact Joyce Hamlyn either by e-mail at phamlyn@comcast.net or phone 978-640-8925.



Gift Cards Round 2!

Thank you to all who participated in 'Round 2' of the Gift Card Fundraiser. We had a great response and have raised over \$9,000.00 for the Dewing School PAC! Hopefully we made your Holiday Shopping a little easier this year. Thank you to all of you who sent nice e-mails & notes about how much you liked this Fundraiser . Look for a Memo soon with dates & times for Gift Card Pickup. **Thank you for supporting the Dewing School PAC. Gift Cards will return in the Spring !**

Dewing Dine-Out Nights

Thank you to all of you who participated in our monthly "Dewing Dine-Out Night". This past month, we held it at Papa Gino's and had fantastic turnout. The night raised \$177.49 for our school. It was great to have all the kids together for a fun night.



Dewing School Store NEEDS HELP



As many of you know, many Dewing School students love to come shopping during the school store. To keep it running efficiently, we need your help. **If you can donate even an hour of your time it would be greatly appreciated.** Please contact Kerry Quinn at kaquinn97@msn.com for dates and times she is in need of assistance.

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/SchoolStore.htm>



The Dewing



“Dolphin” is back!!!

Please watch for pick up dates for Dewing Spiritwear soon!

If you have any questions please see LaShanta Magnusson at 987 851-5761.



GOT BOOKS?

As the Holiday season approaches - it is a great time to clear out the old books, CD, DVD and VHS movies to make way for new items. All of the items listed above can be dropped off in our Got Books container located at the front parking lot on the right side of the school. This container is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please let friends and neighbors know about this - as they do not have to be a Dewing Family to donate these used items. Our school will get credit for items donated. For more information about Got Books, please go to www.gotbooks.com.

Box Tops Education– ‘No Such thing as a Free Lunch’



If you haven't signed up for the BOOSTER Club with Boxtops -you are missing out on all kinds of Contests, recipes, projects, and more! You can also support our school when you shop on-line with the Boxtops Marketplace. Our school will earn credit for each purchase. They often have better deals through this website than shopping directly at the retailer's website. Check it out!

Five lucky students will receive a \$5.00 Gift Card to various local restaurants. Collection sheets have been sent out for this Contest. Entries are due **12/14/07**. If you need more forms, go to 'Fundraising Initiatives' on the PAC website and you can access the form and print more. NO LIMIT - Good luck to all! <http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/FundraisersIndex.htm>

Boxtops Program: Last year we raised \$ 2,417.00 just by turning in all those little square pieces of paper !!!! This school year our goal is to raise \$ 3,500.00. We are already at the \$ 2,000.00 mark - and I *know* the Dewing families and Staff will help get us to that goal. We have great participation and lots of *FUN* !

Winterfest Winners: Congratulations to both **Tyler Ward of B6** & **Caitlin Sheehan of A3**. Both of these lucky students won a Family Night at the Movies prize. Thanks to all for participating!

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Boxtops.htm>

Shop at Hannafords



The Hannaford's Helps Schools program ends 12/1/07. Please turn in any certificates ASAP to: Loretta Ryan, PAC Box. We will let you know the final count in January's Newsletter and our Website. Thanks to all who passed in Certificates for our school.

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Hannafords.htm>



Campbell's Labels for Education (LFE)

www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Campbells.htm

CONGRATULATIONS: Please congratulate Room C5 students Sarah P. and Justin M. as the winners of the Trick-or-Treat bag contest. Also, please congratulate Megan C. from Room A12 and Sean W. from Room A8 as the winners of the Winterfest contests. Megan chose the fish silly hat. Sean was awarded the turtle silly hat. Thanks to all of the families who participated and saved labels for education!

CAMPBELL'S PURCHASES: Ever wonder where all of your clipping and saving time is really going? Since the last Newsletter, the PAC "purchased" a DVD/VCR Combination Player for the B-Wing classrooms; 6 swing-n-hops for the Kindergarten classrooms; and, 18 playground balls, 12 jump ropes, and 6 equipment bags for all students for outdoor recess. Campbell's pays the Dewing school with Labels For Education points and we select items from a merchandise catalog. The PAC selects items that are available to support a teacher or recess monitor request. Thanks to everyone who saves labels and other Labels for Education point coupons! Great job Dewing families!

CURRENT CONTEST: There are two contests running concurrently through December 14th. The Beary Happy Holidays contest will award a stuffed holiday bear to 6 lucky students who submit 10 LFE UPCs/lids. The Super Sleuths contest will award one secret prize to a student who submits 15 LFE UPCs/lids. (shhhh! Don't tell anyone – The secret prize is an "I Spy" book...) All prizes will be awarded via a random drawing. Please feel free to enter either or both contests as often as you'd like. Each student may only win one time in each contest. Good luck!

WIN RECESS SWEEPSTAKES: The Dewing School could win an "all-day" recess with the Harlem Globetrotters! Go to www.winrecess.com and see how you might become the MVP of recess.

CLIPPING REMINDER: Please remember to clip the entire UPC/bar code. At this time, Campbell's will not accept submissions of front labels or the Labels for Education kid (see picture in the heading above) without the UPC code or the lid (note: lids are for). **Please note that Campbell's now accepts the UPC from the Prego jars – the lids are no longer required.** When Collection Sheets are used, please make sure that the UPCs are GLUED to the sheet. Campbell's will not accept sheets with staples or tape.

LFE is not just for soup anymore – Save UPCs/lids for the following products Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, V8, Prego, Pace, Franco-American, and Swanson. Check the PAC website for the full list of the participating products.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Beckman via the PAC box or at TewMoms2@comcast.net.

Thanks for saving labels!



Ink Jets

Keep them coming. Slowly but surely we are making progress and making money with these items. Please go to the PAC website to get detailed information on these programs.

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Inkjet.htm>



Tyson Labels

<http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Tyson.htm>

Keep on saving those Labels ! Turn them in with any Collection Sheet. or Contest and they count just like Boxtops! For Program info go to: <http://www.tyson.com/projectaplus>