



The Dewing Dolphin

L. F. Dewing School
1469 Andover Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
(978) 640-7858



Principal Cathy Ronan
(978) 640-7858

From the Desk of Mrs. Ronan

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I am happy to report that our Homework Participation Goal is continuing to improve. The month of November had 83% participation. Our progress is moving in the right direction! Please remember that homework is your child's responsibility. Work that comes home can be completed independently but you can help by maintaining a regular routine for the work to be completed. Some education experts say that occasional help from a parent now and then is fine but children should develop independence and responsibility for this work. Both can help develop self-esteem.

You know your child best so maintain the plan that works best for you and your family. Please send a note to your child's teacher if you have a concern about homework. If your child is having difficulty it could be an issue easily remedied or extra help sessions before school could be the solution.

Let's work on this goal together. We are headed for 90% participation. Homework is an important component to your child's success in school.

Take care,
Mrs. Ronan

**Volume 1, Issue 4
January 2008**

PAC Officers

Chairperson
Krissy Polimeno
(978) 640-9741
philandkristen@comcast.net

Vice Chairperson
Loretta Ryan
macnmad@comcast.net

Secretary
Melissa Lane
mllane117@comcast.net

Treasurer
Arthy Bennett
bennetts2000@yahoo.com

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

Dewing School Important Dates

January 2nd	School opens
January 10th	Top Secret Science In-School Event 3rd Grade
January 10th	Reading Initiative Meeting 6:45 p.m. Dewing Library
January 10th	PAC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Dewing Library
January 10th and 11th	School Store
January 11th	Top Secret Science In-School Event 3rd Grade
January 15th	Last day for coats to be dropped off for Coat Drive
January 16th	Skewers—Dine Out Night 5PM to 9PM
January 21st	No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 21st	Dewing School Roller Kingdom Night - 6-8 p.m. FREE
January 22nd	No School - Professional Development Day

Stay tuned for a Dewing Family Night at the Lowell Devils in February. Details to follow next month!!

Look for more events at the PAC web site at <http://www.tewksbury.mec.edu/dewing/index.html>



PAC Meetings and Agendas

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

Happy New Year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their support of the Dewing PAC. We feel so lucky to be part of a wonderful school with great families. Just to give you a brief update so far we have raised \$15,000.00 thanks to you! Some things we have done with our money so far are:

All School Show - Rick Charette

Kindergarten Puppet Show

Story Hour Night

Purchased for staff: Kindergarten Floor Rug, Headphones & Cords for Computer Lab

Awarded two \$500.00 scholarships to former Dewing Students

Let's all continue to work together to reach our goal of \$20,000.00 this school year! If you have any ideas or suggestions for future fundraising activities please contact us at anytime. We have had wonderful input from many families and truly appreciate it. Also, if you would like to receive weekly updates please e-mail Melissa Lane at mdlane117@comcast.net

Thanks, Your PAC Officers

Krissy Polimeno (Chairperson)

Loretta Ryan (Vice Chairperson)

Arthy Bennett (Treasurer)

Melissa Lane (Secretary)

Our next scheduled PAC meeting is scheduled for 1/10/08 at 7:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.



Reading 101: A Parents' Guide to Reading

Mrs. Robinson, Dewing School Reading Specialist

"Sound it out!" - Words heard in homes across the Dewing School district as parents listen to their children read. 'Sounding out' is phonics, the relationship between letters and sounds, at work. Phonics instruction helps beginning readers understand this relationship and use it to recognize familiar words quickly and figure out unknown words. Word-study instruction follows phonics instruction. Students apply their knowledge of word parts (such as prefixes, suffixes and base words) to read and write words. Quick word recognition, resulting from a strong phonics and word structure base, allows children to spend less time struggling over word reading and more time thinking about their reading to gain meaning.

Young children can make alphabet books to begin understanding about letters and their sounds. Encourage children to tap out the sounds in words as they begin to read and write single words. As the words become longer and more complex, break the words into syllables and/or word parts (such as prefixes and suffixes).

The English language has many exceptions to its phonics rules; therefore it is important that children have strategies other than sounding out to read unfamiliar words. Useful strategies include use of picture cues, surrounding words in a sentence (context clues) or beginning sounds. Additionally, exposure to words will help children develop a large repertoire of easily recognized sight words.



Cafeteria Corner

Karen Chanaki, Food Service Director for the Tewksbury Public Schools.

Lunch menu and prices: <http://www.tewksbury.mec.edu/lunch.html>



Some new changes are being made to the Tewksbury School Lunch Program due to updates in Federal Law. These changes are for the overall benefit and betterment of the health of our children. However, we recognize that any change can bring resistance. From our end, I have attempted to make the changes in small increments, over a period of time. Examples of changes include more fiber rich cereals, dessert items with less sugar, more fresh fruits and vegetables, 100% juice, low fat milk, more salads, wheat-based pizza crusts, and honey wheat dinner rolls. Also, new food items have been introduced to expose children to items they perhaps have never had.

Manufacturers are rising to the wellness message too, and have begun to produce well-accepted items that perhaps did not historically meet dietary standards, but now do. For example, down sizing their product serving size from 7 ounces to 3 ounces. This allows us to still provide treats on occasion in our menu planning, just in smaller, healthier serving sizes.

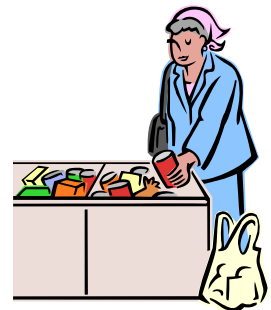
www.scrubclub.org is the link for the hand washing initiative between the National Science Foundations (NSF) and the Partnership for Food Safety Education (PFSE). This helps raise awareness about good hand washing, reducing sick days, and keeping kids and their food healthy. It has downloadable games and coloring pages and such and was sent to the food service directors, and Karen sent it to me to use.



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>

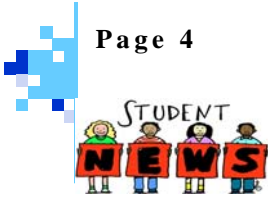


The Coat Drive is off to a Great Start

Please feel free to drop off any coats in our front lobby at the Dewing School by January 15th. **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.





Classroom News

Kindergarten: Puppet Show Sponsored by the PAC

What did you think of the puppet show?

Mrs. Marcella's Class C-5 (M-W-F)

Chelsea liked when the owl was in the tree.

Thomas, Shannon, and Nolan liked when the dog was in the tree.

Brendan and Jessica liked when the mouse chased Miss Piggy.

Rachel liked the butterflies.

Alice liked when the turkey chased the spaghetti guy!

Mrs. Elwell (A12)

Alexa - I liked when the turtle said "I'm gonna put my head under the mud."

Nicholas - I liked when the mouse chased the chef.

Harrison - I liked the dog.

Samantha - I liked when the princess came on stage.

Mikayla - I liked when the Rudolph puppet showed up.



Mrs. McSheehy & Mrs. Rodgers (C1 & C2)

Ryan, Christina & Heather - It was funny.

Cole, Sean, Sadie & Madison - I liked the toad.

Michael - I liked when the mouse tackled the princess.

Shayla, Rena, Anthony & Amber - I liked the frog.

Emily - I liked the snow princess.

Riley - I like the Christmas guys - Frosty, Rudolph and Gingerbread.



Grade 3 (Room B-2) sent in by: Mrs. Boyle

- Room B-2 experienced the true meaning of Christmas this year by making a generous donation to the Tewksbury Food Pantry. Mrs. Boyles's 3rd grade class used books and had a book sale. They raised \$121.75 for the Food pantry. They also donated food items that totaled five large boxes. The boys and girls can take pleasure in knowing they helped many people less fortunate than themselves this holiday.

Grade 4 (Room B-10) sent in by: Jamie Burger and Heather Doyle

Our class has raised money for the Lowell Sun Santa Fund for families who can't celebrate Christmas. Instead of bringing in money from our homes we decided to raise the it ourselves. We raised the money by going Christmas caroling around our neighborhood. We handed-out flyers telling what we were raising money for. We went to about seven or eight houses singing and we sang the song "Jingle Bells" for everyone who opened the door. We raised forty dollars for charity. We raised a lot of money during that night, and we hope that those people will have a Merry Christmas.



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>

We are saving PAPER at the Dewing School!



Thanks to everyone at the Dewing School we are proud to say that we have saved over \$80.00 since the start of this school year in September! This is a direct result of Dewing families using e-mail and our website to improve communication. We want to THANK everyone. In our school we are currently only printing 18 hardcopies of our monthly newsletter since mostly everyone is reading it off our website.

As always, let's continue to work together to improve communication in our school. If you are not receiving weekly updates or notification when our monthly newsletter is available on line please contact Melissa Lane at mdlane117@comcast.net to be added t our distribution list. Thanks, Your PAC Team

Dewing  "Dolphin" Spiritwear

A big thank you to everyone who purchased Dewing Dolphin Spiritwear. We had great participation and the hallways at school are full of children sporting their new clothing!

We still have Flannel Pants for \$16.00 available (in both Pink & Blue - in many sizes), some great tye-dyed Dewing T-shirts for \$10.00 and also some Zipper Clips for \$1.00. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact LaShanta Magnusson at lashanta_magnusson@yahoo.com.

Look for a 'Spirit Wear Day' coming soon (similar to 'Silly Hat Day' - but with Spirit Wear or Pink & Blue clothing!)



Dewing Dine-Out Nights

Thank you to all of you who participated in our monthly "Dewing Dine-Out Night" fundraisers. By participating in these events the Dewing Families made \$200.30 from Chuck E and \$177.49 from Papa Gino's. Both were great events and fun for all! During your next visit to the school be sure to check out the "Dewing Dine-Out Night" photo collages which have been posted outside the library.



This months, will be on January 16th at Skewers from 5PM to 9PM. Stop by for some take-out or to dine-in. Skewers will be giving \$50.00 towards gift certificates. Look for the flyer / entry form in the backpacks.



Gift Cards—A BIG Hit!

Thank you to all who participated in the Gift Card Fundraiser. Our School made almost \$9,300.00 with this program! This is a great way to support your school while doing your everyday shopping!

Thank you for supporting the Dewing School PAC. Gift Cards will return in the Spring!



Dewing School Store



Congratulations to our monthly drawing prize winners. So far this year, we have given away prizes to Brooke DeSimone, Sean Covel, Ally Kelly, Jane Kirby, Sarah Pontes, Felicia Ragucci, Michael Sarno, Joseph Skowronski, Rachael Strangie, and Aaron Whitehouse. Keep filling out entry forms each month for a chance at some great prizes.

December's Candy Estimating prizes went to Evan McCarthy, Peter Sullivan, and a very shy, lucky young lady, that didn't want to try and was convinced to and won!!! You snuck out before I could get your name!! Great Job Guessing!!

Thank you to the parents that came in on Parent/Teacher Conference night for your support. We thought it would be a great opportunity for you to see how it is run! The Country Store Raffle Winners for that were LaShanta Magnusson, Lynn Accancia, and Karen Gouveia. Congratulations to you all!!

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.



GOT BOOKS?

Did your children get a lot of new books and movies / music for the Holidays? Now is a great time to clear out the old ones - and donate them to the Dewing School! If you have any used books, CD's, DVD's or VHS tapes that you don't want anymore - You can bring them to the container located on the right-hand side of the Dewing School (by the Gym Doors.) This receptacle is available 24/7 for your convenience. We received our first check from this program, for \$ 84.05. It is a great way to clean up and support your school at the same time!



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>



Campbell's Labels for Education (LFE)

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

Boxtops & Campbell's will unite once again for a 'COMBO Contest ! Look for a Memo coming home soon about this exciting contest. In the meantime, keep clipping and saving your Boxtops & Campbell's UPC's !

Thanks for saving labels!



Box Tops Education CONTEST WINNERS!

The Students below won a Gift Card to a local restaurant:

- Kyle Lombardo - A5
- Cameron Fuller - A6
- Jane Kirby - A7
- Sarah Deluca-Gifford - B1
- Melanie Fleury - B8



STAFF Members who won in the Boxtops ' and the Envelope goes to' Contest:

- Envelope # 1 (Yellow) = Teresa Oberg A9/10
- Envelope # 2 (Pink) = Kristen Kosiba Art Room
- Envelope # 3 (Orange) = Pam Paquin Cafeteria
- Envelope # 4 (Green) = Trish Maia B2
- Congratulations to ALL !

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



Registered Nurses Needed

Tewksbury Public Schools is always looking for talented Registered Nurses as per diem staff. There is often a need for substitute nurses in the school buildings. If you feel this is a way you can help support children during the school day, give the school nurse a call. You may choose to just sub at your child's school, or offer to help where needed in the district. Even if there is only one day of the week you could offer, please let us know! Call 978-640-6875 for more information. Thank you!



Enrichment Program Instructors Wanted

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