



# 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,

We are at the mid point of the school year and a time when much of grade level learning takes place. Two areas where parents can assist with which can enhance learning are to maintain both a homework and bedtime routine. Children thrive on routines because they can anticipate the next step and know what to expect.

A nightly homework routine should consist of written work completion, such as worksheets or workbook pages, independent reading and skill reinforcement. Parents can help with the skill reinforcement. Ten to fifteen minutes, depending on the grade level, spent studying sight vocabulary, math facts and subject area content can make a difference in your child's progress. A bedtime routine is another important piece to the equation. Experts maintain that students who have sufficient sleep (ten hours) fair much better in school than their peers who do not.

Thank you for your support in all our work to provide your child with a good education.

Respectively,  
Mrs. Ronan

## Dewing School Important Dates

February 5th	Top Secret Science In-School for 4th Grade
February 6th	Top Secret Science In-School for 4th Grade
February 7th	PAC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Dewing Library
February 7th and 8th	School Store
February 7th	Reading Initiative Meeting 6:45 Dewing Library
February 13th	Dine Out with a DISH Night!
February 11th	Spirit Wear Day - Show your Dewing Pride
February 11th	Deadline to Place Orders for Dewing Dish Dine-Out Night
February 13th	Dish Dine-Out Night Pick-Up
February 15th	Half Day of School (Dismissal 12 Noon)
February 18th—22nd	No School - Winter Vacation
February 24th	Dewing Family Night at the Lowell Devils
February 26th	Dewing Dolphin Article Submission Deadline

Volume 1, Issue 5  
February 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>

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

News Editor, Amy Miller  
dewingnews@verizon.net



## PAC Meetings and Agendas

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

We would like to THANK you for your past support regarding all our PAC activities and ask for your continued support as we looked toward the rest of the school year. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 and we are heading in the right direction. We have many exciting things coming up that we hope you will participate in to help us reach our goal. Just to name a few for you: Gift Card Sales, Cook Book Sales, Movie Night, Square One Art Project, Book Fair, Ice Cream Social, etc.

As always, if you have any questions please let us know. Thanks for all that you do to help us make a difference for our children.

Sincerely,  
Your PAC Team

Our next scheduled PAC meeting is scheduled for 2/7/08 at 7:30 PM . All are welcome to attend.



## Reading 101: A Parents' Guide to Reading

Mrs. Robinson, Dewing School Reading Specialist

Another building block to becoming skilled and confident readers is **fluency**, the ability to read accurately, quickly and naturally. Fluent readers recognize words automatically, allowing them to read phrases and sentences quickly thereby gaining meaning from what they read. Fluent readers read smoothly with expression, as if they were speaking. To read with expression, readers must be able to divide text into meaningful chunks. Readers who have not developed fluency read slowly, word by word, with lots of mistakes. Most beginning readers do not read fluently, but by the end of grade one children should be reading grade level material fluently.

Fluency is important because it serves as a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding, they can focus their attention on the meaning of the text.

How can parents help their children become fluent readers? Fluency develops gradually through substantial practice.

- Have children read and reread a text while providing guidance.
- Practice orally reading short text that is easy, so child can focus on the fluency. (Poetry is a good choice.)
- Child-parent reading - Parent reads text first, and then child reads same passage to adult.
- Tape-assisted reading - Choose a tape with no music, etc. Child listens and points to each word for the first reading.



Next, try to read along with the tape.

- Partner reading - Take turns reading to each other.

Fluency is important because it allows readers to comprehend what they read. It can be developed by modeling fluent reading and having children read and reread orally.

## Cafeteria Corner

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

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



First, thank you to everyone who filled out and returned the Food Service Survey. The results will be very valuable in helping the Tewksbury Food Service program improve and evolve. I hope to share the results with you in a future Dewing Dolphin newsletter.

I'd like to share with parents and teachers the kinds of on-going activities I am involved with in order to keep our Food Service Program the best it can be. I attend several state sponsored conferences each year which keep me updated with current Child Nutrition trends, new food items that meet the USDA regulations and exciting ideas to improve our programs. I am affiliated with the John Stalker Institute from Framingham State College. This affiliation is instrumental in providing the A-List, which consists of Acceptable products for consumption in our programs and works directly for Action for Healthy Kids of Massachusetts. I also work closely with the New England Dairy Council and have provided Posters for 3-A-day of Dairy, nutrition information and several contests which have been passed along to K-6 schools for savings bonds. Last September I joined with one of our manufacturers to provide Kits for physical activity with our after school program which included, wellness challenge certificates, Nike head bands, gym bags, water bottles and basketballs.

## 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>



## Have a Heart: Give a Can if you Can

Community Food Pantry Drive: Students in the Tewksbury Public Schools will be collecting can goods to benefit the Community Food Pantry. This collection will take place from Friday, February 1st through Friday, February 15th. Our goal is to replenish the shelves of the Food Pantry following the busy holiday season. Thank you to everyone for their continued support.



## Classroom News

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 news submissions form found under FORMS on the new PAC webpage:

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

## The Dewing Children Care!

Written and Illustrated by Emma Plourde in Room B-9 on December 20, 2007



The Dewing School is as splendid as looking out at the horizon watching a butterflies wings glisten against the wonderful sea. B-wing students have been donating money to charities instead of having a gift swap and I think this is what we should try to do instead of getting since we are only a few days away from the holidays. B-2 and B-6 are donating to the Tewksbury Food Pantry. The Tewksbury Food Pantry helps families in our community get well fed because of all the gracious donations we provide them with. B-7, B-8, B-10, B-11, and B-12 all donated to the Sun Santa. The Sun Santa provides toys to underprivileged children in the Greater Lowell Area to be joyous on Christmas Day. Lastly, B-9 is donating to the Children's Hospital. The Children's Hospital is a hospital only for children who need special surgeries and B-9's donations will help them get well again! Dewing School's example should inspire us all to give instead of get, after all the holiday's are all about sharing, caring, and helping in our communities! Have a safe and spectacular holiday!

## “Donations Pour in from the Dewing School students for the less fortunate”

Written by Jess Ambrosio in Room B-9 on December 20, 2007

Happy Holiday's! We are very proud to report that some of the students from the Dewing School have decided to donate food and money to some charities this season instead of having a gift swap in the class. B-2 and B-6 donated food and money to the Tewksbury Food Pantry. Many classes donated to the Sun Santa fund. B-7, B-8, B-10, B-11 and B-12 all donated to that fund. B-9 is proud to announce that they have raised \$400.00 which will be going to the Children's Hospital in Boston. We are very proud that all of this money and food is going to a good cause. We are very proud of the children who decided to think of the less fortunate before themselves. Happy Holiday's to all and to all a Merry Christmas.

Written by Alley Kelly in Room B-9 on December 20, 2007

Attention to all readers to the Dewing School! There has been a big and important event right here. All B-wing classes decided to donate to different charities instead of class gift swaps. B-2 and B-6 decided to donate to the Tewksbury Food Pantry. B-7, B-8, B-10, B-11, and B-12 have all brought in money for the Sun Santa which provides toys to underprivileged children. B-9 voted to give money to the Children's Hospital Trust of Boston Fund. All the places we donated to will be as happy as clams! As you can see the Ella Fleming Elementary School cares and adores very much for the needy!

*Dewing*



*“Dolphin” Spiritwear*

We still have Flannel Pants for \$16.00 available ( in both Pink & Blue - in many sizes ), some great tie-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](mailto:lashanta_magnusson@yahoo.com).

REMINDER: 'Spirit Wear Day' is February 11th (similar to 'Silly Hat Day' - but with Spirit Wear or Pink & Blue clothing!)



## DestinationImagiNation at Dewing 2007-2008

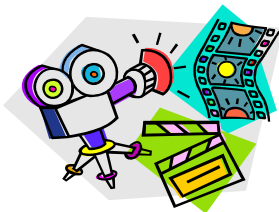
By Cheryl Edwards

The '07-'08 Dewing Destination Imagination program is in full swing and gearing up for the regional tournament this March. The Dewing has four teams this year, covering all grades from 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>. We'd like to thank the managers of the teams: Maggie Butler, who manages our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team the DI Dewing Dolphin Doers; Beth McGaffigan, who manages our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade team the DI Champions; Laura Canto, who manages our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team the DI Dolphins; and Christine Strickler, who manages our newest members in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, The Webkins Club. Susan Carman and Cheryl Edwards are Assistant Team Managers.

The tournament on March 15 will require each team to perform a long-term challenge (which they are currently working on) as well as an instant challenge that they'll have to solve on the spot. To help them along we've held a few workshops: Ms. Susan O'Neill led an Acting Workshop to help the teams learn what makes a story and how to present it; and Ms. Lauren Sprague led an Improv Workshop at the Ryan School to help the teams energize and think "out of the box". Maggie Butler organized a costume workshop where the kids learned the basics of making their own costumes for the tournament. Each team has selected their long-term challenge by now and is using this knowledge to solve their challenge as best they can! You can check out [www.IDODI.org](http://www.IDODI.org) for more information about the world-wide challenges.

We recently held a pizza party for the Dewing teams and their families. Thanks to Irene Benson and her volunteers! There was great food and lots of fun for everyone. The families got a chance to solve an instant challenge (creatively organized by Beth McGaffigan) and saw what the kids are doing. The solutions were tremendously varied and exciting -- just like they always are with DI! The tournament on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Byfield High School is free and open to the public. Anyone interested in a schedule for the tournament or any information about the DI program at the Dewing can contact School Coordinator Holly Fleury at [hdffleury@comcast.net](mailto:hdffleury@comcast.net).

## Movie Night



Movie Night at the Dewing School! Please cast your vote for which movie you would like to see on March 19, 2008. Please visit our website under PAC Movie Night Poll. Anyone interested in helping with this event please contact Krissy Polimeno at 978 640-9741 or [philandkris-ten@comcast.net](mailto:philandkris-ten@comcast.net). We are looking for baked goods and people to help out at this event so please let me know if your interested in making something.



## Roller Kingdom Night

Roller Kingdom Night was a big hit!! Over 150 people attended! It was great to see all the children and parents try skate around and dancing to the music. Many children walked away with prizes during the skating contests.





## Dewing School Night at the Lowell Devils

What better way to end the Vacation Week, Dewing School Night at the Lowell Devils!! Come join us Sunday February 24th at 4:05 pm to cheer the Lowell Devils on against the Hartford Wolf Pack. Tickets are only \$ 10 and this includes a free post-game skate!! Skate rental is free, so come give it a try!! Order forms will be going out the first week of February. Any questions, contact Kerry Quinn 978-851-4624.

## Dewing Dine-Out Nights

**Skewer's Dine out Night:** A good time was had by all who attended the Dewing School Skewer's Dine out Night. Great food, a Basketball net for the kids and the chance of winning a gift certificate all made the night a lot of fun! Our school made \$ 175.00 that night, and Two lucky winners received \$25.00 Gift Certificates donated by Skewers! *The Lucky winners were: Christine Demers and Sean Covel.* Congratulations to both for winning.



**Dinners by DiSH** - a great way to enjoy quality food and support the Dewing...all at the same time! What is DiSH? Check out the Event Flyer and Menu for details. You can pick up pre-made meals to cook right away or freeze for future use. Place your orders by 2/11/08 and pick-up your orders on 2/13/08 ( hey, NO ONE should have to cook on Valentine's Day - so grab a meal to celebrate !)



## Dewing School Store



Congratulations to the January Prize Winners: Colby Brown, Emily Chmela, Garrett Miskell, Felicia Enos and Ryan Briggs. They won some great prizes!! There are some festive items for Valentine's Day - crafts for grandparents, pencils, puzzles, tattoos...for friends! We will be a Candy Jar Contest: Guess how many conversation hearts!! Come take a guess, and see what other new things we have!

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](mailto:kaquinn97@msn.com) for dates and times she is in need of assistance.

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

## WHAT'S "DEWING" IN THE KITCHEN?

A cookbook containing recipes from  
Dewing Students, Families & Staff!



Appetizers  
Salads  
Soups  
Entrees  
Desserts  
And lots more!

**ON SALE SOON!**

Watch your child's backpack for more information, February 12th!



### GOT BOOKS?

Doing Some Winter Cleaning and Clearing Out? Don't forget to drop all your old books and VHS Tapes in the "Got Books" container located in the Dewing School parking lot by the gym. Its a great way to recycle and help raise money for the Dewing School. When the box is emptied Got Books sends us a check to be used in our school. For more information visit our website at <http://www.tewksbury.mec.edu/dewing/index.html> click on the "Fundraising Initiatives" button and then "Got Books".



### Box Tops & Campbell's Labels for Education (LFE)

[www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/](http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/)

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 !





## 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>

## Copy and Laminating Team Members Needed

Fourth Grade Copy and Laminating Team is in need of volunteers.

Due to workload and the loss of a team member, the Friday team is short three (3) people. Volunteers will join a rotation of one Friday every 3-4 weeks. Most volunteers work in the morning but afternoons may be available. Training provided on usage of the Rizo (copier) and laminating machines. You would be providing a valuable service to teachers who use these materials in the classrooms. Please contact Team Leader, Helen Ahmed at 978-851-4669 or [hahmed69@comcast.net](mailto:hahmed69@comcast.net) for more information.



## 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](mailto:phamlyn@comcast.net) or phone 978-640-8925.