# The Dewing Dolphin

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

*Principal Cathy Ronan*
*(978) 640-7858*

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## From the Desk of Mrs. Ronan

Dear Parents,

An important part of your child's learning takes place through the completion of homework. Homework can reinforce skills taught during the day and provide the necessary practice for the learning to take place. I've listed a few tips for you that may help the process go smoothly.

- Make sure your child has a quiet well-lit place to do homework. Avoid distractions such as television.
- Make sure the necessary materials such as paper and pencils are available. If there is a special project, get the materials in advance.
- Help your child with time management. Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave it until bedtime.

If your child asks for help, provide guidance not answers. Giving the answers means that your child will not learn the material. Contact the teacher if there is a concern. In grades 2-4 the agenda book is a great vehicle for correspondence.

I hope these tips will be of assistance to you and your child.

**Homework completion** is a **school goal** this year and it will be tracked monthly. Our school goal is to reach **98%** participation. Please help with your support.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Ronan*

## Dewing School Important Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| October 2nd | McDonald's Night (Rte 133) from 4PM to 6PM |
| October 3rd | Picture Day: Kindergarten Only |
| October 4th | Picture Day: Grades 1-4 & Thursday Kindergarten |
| October 8th | Columbus Day — No School |
| October 10th | Destination ImagiNation Registration, 7PM at Dewing School |
| October 10th / 11th | Funny Hat Day : 10th All Classes / 11th Mrs. Marcella's Class |
| October 25th | Bullying Prevention, 7PM at Wynn Middle School |
| October 25th and 26th | Boxtops Surprise Box Days |
| October 31st | Halloween |

Please check Calendar of Events section of the PAC's new web site on a regular basis for updates.
http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Events.htm

### PAC Officers

*Chair*
*Kristen Polimeno*
*(978) 640-9741*
*philandkristen@comcast.net*

*Treasurer*
*Arthy Bennett*
*bennetts2000@yahoo.com*

*Secretary*
*Michele Beckman*
*Dewing,PAC.Sec@comcast.net*

*Fundraiser Coordinator*
*Loretta Ryan*
*macnmad@comcast.net*

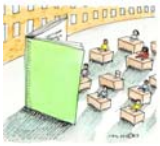
### Our New Website and Newsletter

We strive to make the New 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.

*News Editor, Amy Miller*
*dewingnews@verizon.net*



## PAC Meetings and Agendas

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

The next PAC Meeting is scheduled for October 11th, in the library. All are welcome, we hope to see you there.

Please be sure to check the PAC website for the PAC Meeting Dates, Agendas and Minutes.

# Classroom Notes

**First Grade**

The first graders in room A-5 have had an exciting start to the school year! Thanks to Angela and Joe Lombardo, parents of Kyle Lombardo, the students had a special visit from Phil Kessel of the Boston Bruins. Phil talked to the class about his first grade experience and then the children were able to ask him lots of questions. Finally each child went home with an autographed shirt , cup, and folder courtesy of the Boston Bruins! It was lots of fun.

# A Child's Path to Becoming a Reader

Mrs. Robinson, Dewing School Reading Specialist

The path to becoming a reader begins with parents at home. Children begin to learn about sounds by listening to the spoken language of family members talking, laughing and singing. Written language is introduced when the adults in their lives read stories to them and they see adults reading; newspapers, magazines and/or books. By the end of grade three children must read with ease and understanding to take advantage of the learning opportunities available in print - in school and in life. Research has shown that children become skilled and confident readers, when they have many opportunities to:

- build spoken language by talking and listening
- learn about print and books
- learn about the sounds of spoken language (called **phonological awareness**)
- learn about the letters of the alphabet
- be read to and read on their own
- learn and use letter/sound relationships (called **phonics**) and be able to recognize words when they see them
- spell and write
- develop their ability to read quickly and naturally (called **fluency**)
- learn new words and build their knowledge of what words mean (called **vocabulary**)
- build their knowledge of the world
- build their ability to understand what they read (called **comprehension**) Phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension are the five components of reading. In subsequent newsletter I will discuss in more detail these components and things parents can do to help their children become better readers.

Information from "A Child Becomes a Reader", The National Institute for Literacy.

# 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 very 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

# School Council Representatives

The Dewing School Council is in need of two parent representatives on the School Council. The Council is responsible for designing and implementing the School Improvement Plan and is made up of parents, teachers, a community representative and the Principal. Membership involves a three year commitment and monthly attendance at the Council meetings which take place from 6:15 to 7:30 preceding the PAC meeting, typically on a Thursday. Interested parents should send in a letter of introduction and interest to Mrs. Ronan.

DestinationImagiNation
The Most Important Course In Education.

# Destination ImagiNation Information/ Registration

**Wednesday, October 10th at 7 pm in the Dewing**

**You must register in person.**

Come find out more about the program and register on the spot for our **fourth** season of *DI at the Dewing*. We welcome all returning members as well.

*DI at the Dewing* depends on adult volunteers. The number of teams and members accepted will depend on the number of parents volunteering to be Team Managers.

DI is a non-profit organization offering a global, youth-centered, creative problem-solving program. DI emphasizes creativity, problem solving and teamwork. DI challenges have open-ended answers, empowering participants to create solutions that are imaginative, original, divergent and ingenious. Students work together in teams to tackle these challenges under the (hands-off) supervision of team managers.

At the Dewing, motivated students in grades 1-4 are allowed to register. Please take some time to see if the program is for your child. You may even want to discuss it with your child's teacher. The season runs from mid-October to mid-March. New teams meet Wednesdays after-school for about an hour at the Dewing.

# Student Arts & Entertainment

Sponsored by the Dewing Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

As a singer and songwriter, Rick Charette has been capturing the hearts and spirits of young and old alike with his delightful and inspiring children's songs. His performances blend original contemporary pop music and lyrics with imaginative activities that generate all kinds of audience participation. For more details please feel free to visit his website at http://www.pinepoint.com/rick.html

Rick performed two shows on September 24, 2007 at the Dewing School. He had all the children and teachers singing and dancing. It was lots of fun for all! Some songs included, I LOVE MUD, BUBBLE GUM, YELLOW SCHOOL BUS and many more. It was a great event!

# Calling All Cooks

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

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. Contact Melissa Lane at mdlane117@comcast.net or (978) 851-8385 to volunteer or submit a recipe. *All recipes must be original.*

# Help Make Difference at Dewing!

http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/HelpWanted.htm

On our website we have a new section called "Help Make a Difference at Dewing" which will be used to post items that we need at the school or have been requested by staff. This is an opportunity for families to take a look and see if any of they could potentially donate these items. These are things that the PAC will try to provide overtime as well. Things we are currently seeking for the Dewing School:

**Artificial Christmas Tree:** We are looking for an artificial tree that will be used to hang the children's stars for our Giving Tree project for the holidays. This is a project where we give gifts during the holidays to families that are less fortunate. We are once again working with DSS in Lowell.

**Dewing Landscaping:** We are looking for donations (time, monies, products, etc.) to beautify the landscaping in and around the Dewing school. We are looking for shrubs, plants, holiday decorations, etc. Contact Ann Ell, ericell@msn.com.

**Wooden Box:** Our kindergarten staff would like a wooden box, with a lock, in order to store all the toys used for outdoor play.

**Rug:** Kindergarten teachers Mrs. Rodgers and Mrs. McSheehy would like an 8' x 11' floor rug that will be used for circle time.

**TV & DVD/VCR:** The B-Wing (3 and 4th Grade) would like a 27" TV and DVD/VCR player.

**Glare Shield:** Mrs. Miranda of the second grade would like a Gila - smoked glare control for all the lower windows (3 x 6 1/2 - 5 boxes). Ms. Devincentis in the fourth grade too (3 x 6 1/2 - 6 boxes; 55 x 42 - 4 boxes).

**Overhead Projectors & Carts:** 3 Overhead Projectors and 3 Overhead Project Carts are needed. Mrs. Deslinger, Mrs. Degrechie and Mrs. Miranda (2nd Grade teachers) would like Overhead Projector Carts and Mrs. DeGrechie, Mrs. Kaloyanides (2nd Grade) and Mrs. Pincher (4th Grade) would like Overhead Projectors.

**Headphones & Splitter Cord:** Mrs. Santilli (Technology Specialist) would like 30 Headphones and 14 Splitter Cords.

# Dewing School Store

Let me explain "The School Store" to any newcomers to the Dewing School. This is a small store we set up monthly, for the children to come in and shop, (1st graders through 4th graders) pick out what interests them, and learn to spend their money wisely! This is a great opportunity for them to have a little independence, (use their math skills). Parents usually send in anywhere from $ 2 - $ 10. Items range from $.25 - $3. Some items that we sell are seasonal crafts, animal shaped pencil pouches, fruit scented highlighters, sports water bottles with the Dewing School logo, pencils, pens, and lots of other exciting, child oriented items.

I'm looking forward to a great year with all the kids and their excitement to be able to shop for whatever they wish... The week of school store, a notice will be sent home, telling you the exact day for your child's grade. Thursday, October 11, and Friday, October 12 will be the first school store dates. For the kindergarteners I will send home an order form, which they can decide with your help what they would like, you fill out the form, and return it with the money and I will fill their order, and deliver it to their classrooms. We feel they are too young to make these decisions in the store, until next year. If you have any questions, or need another order form for your child, please e-mail me, Kerry Quinn at(KAQUINN97@MSN.COM) and I will gladly send home another one. Current items for sale can be viewed on the PAC Website.

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

# Campbell's Labels for Education (LFE)

**CURRENT CONTEST:** Hey Dewing Students! Enter our Back-To-School contest by submitting 10 Labels for Education UPCs/lids and receive one entry to win a black lab Webkinz in a random drawing. Submissions must be made before September 26, 2007 so send in an entry form (check the PAC website if you don't have one) and start counting those labels! 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 juices and Prego sauces).

**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 Dewing.PAC.Sec@comcast.net. Thanks for saving labels!

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

# Shop at Hannafords

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

If you do, look for a 'Hannaford Helps Schools' Certificate when you check out. If you buy participating brands - you will earn $3.00, $6.00 or even $9.00 for our school! Go to: http://www.hannaford.com/ Send Certificates to: Loretta Ryan, PAC Box.
This is a short-lived program - and will end on December 1st, 2007.

# Ink Jets

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

Don't toss those empties ! Send them in & help support the Dewing School ! Any empty ink jet ( the kind that fit in your hand ) can be sent in to: Loretta Ryan, PAC Box. These can help our school earn money to support on-going programs in school.

# 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: www.**tyson**.com/**project**aplus

# Box Tops Education– We Are on Track!

The Summer Collection Contest results are in & 100 names were chosen as winners. We raised over $ 300.00 in Boxtops over the Summer ! Congratulations to all - keep clipping ! **Next up:** Boxtops Surprise Box Day is **October 25th, 2007.** Look for your new Collection Sheet coming out soon - fill it in and bring it to school on 10/25 & pick a prize out of the Box after Lunch... NO LIMIT! (The box will be available on 10/26 for the Friday Kindergarten Class that will miss the 1st date). Join the Boxtops Booster Club! go to: www.boxtops4education.com/club and look for current Dewing School contests at http://www.tewksbury.k12.ma.us/dewing/pac/pages/Boxtops.htm

# GOT BOOKS?

If you do, the Dewing School wants them ! We have partnered with Got Books in a fundraising program that accepts used books, DVDs and CDs. You can drop them off in the new GOT BOOKS fundraising receptacle located next to the side entrance of the gym at the Dewing School .

Help the PAC raise funds & clean out your book shelves at the same time! All proceeds to fund the Dewing PAC, which supplies much-needed programs & supplies for our school. Unload all your books, CD's, DVD's, VHS & audio books into the receptacle any time 24/7. For more information about Got Book, please go to WWW.GOTBOOKS.COM.

*You can help make a difference at the Dewing School by supporting this program! Thank you.*

# Livingston Street Haunted House

Don't forget to get your Haunted House tickets through the Dewing School! Tickets on sale now -contact Beth McGaffigan at: beth.mcgaffigan@comcast.net if you need an Order Form.

# 20th Annual Applefest Craft Fair

Tewksbury Memorial High School
Saturday, November 3, 2007 / 9:00AM-3:00PM
Get your holiday shopping done early!

Food, crafters & vendors! Tables still available. For further information call: Laurie Angelo @ 978-851-6297