



Douglas Digest

News of the C.T. Douglas School
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Douglas Digest

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TO TAKE VIENNA

“If you say you are going to take Vienna, take Vienna.”

Napoleon said that. And he did it.

It’s usually my attitude, have a plan, engage your determination, and then patiently, go do it.

Napoleon also said he was going to take Russia. He had a long ride home in the snow, and you know the rest of the story.

All classes at Douglas agreed – “We’re going to have fun at recess, and we’re going to be respectful of one another and the recess assistants.”

Well the snow is gone, mud season is upon us, and we’ve passed through the stages of recess innocence into recess reality:

1. “How hard can this be?” I thought, “It’s recess.”
2. “This is really hard.” I realized.
3. “Maybe we’re not going to get good at this - not even adequate.” I considered.
4. “How can I get out of this – They’re never going to do it. I’m a loser.” I worried.
5. “Recess is canceled!” I wanted to yell.

As with many situations, the problem is *Them*. *They* aren’t watching. What are *they* thinking? *They* are not trying.

However, *THEY* are not *required* to be good. Not even at this point. We haven’t taught them as well as we can. By and large, people who know what they are doing are good at it and when they don’t know what they are doing, if they admit that, they ask for help. The truth about *them* is that *they* understand and need to build some skills, they need to ask for help, we need to help them, both parents and teachers.

We need to keep it simple. You can’t say you can’t play – but sometimes we don’t want to play. “*Help me.*” is not a sign of weakness, but a signpost on the way to Vienna.

And We shall take Vienna. Slowly. But surely. One step at a time.

PTO NEWS



Can we safely say spring is here? With such a snowy winter behind us, it is nice to finally see the sun shining again and the snow melted.

This month starts off with our wonderful annual Spring Social and Auction on April 4th. A huge thank you goes out to Sarah Clabault and Maryanne Chase for their hard work in leading the auction committee in putting together this important fundraiser for Douglas. The Douglas All-Star Band will head up the entertainment for the night. Thank you to all of the teachers, staff and Douglas families for their ongoing support of the auction and for the time and effort spent working on the classroom items and other donations gifted to the auction. Thanks to the funds raised through our auction, our children continue to benefit from the wonderful programs and support achieved from PTO funds.

Douglas Parents and children enjoyed the many talents of our 4th, 5th and 6th grade students in their talent show held on March 26th. On April 9th, the younger grades will display their skills in the K-3 Talent Show. Thank you to our music teacher Mr. Broggi and Douglas parent Terri Carotenuto for organizing the shows again this year.

The grade-wide movie night socials proved to be a hit again this year. Special thanks to Sarah Clabault and Jennifer Auffiero for coordinating the movie nights and to all of the parents who volunteered to help at each movie night.

With the arrival of spring, the Douglas Gardening committee will be preparing to work on our beautiful Douglas grounds and gardens. Gardening Committee Chairs, Jamie Norton and Phoebe Conant will be looking for helping hands in their effort to get the job done. More information about when they will start will be available soon.

Thank you to Erica Cannarozzi and Candace Doncaster for organizing the Teacher's Appreciation luncheon scheduled for later this month. This is a great way to show the teachers and staff of Douglas how much we, as parents, appreciate what they do for our children. If you would like to help, please contact Erica Cannarozzi at ecannarozz@aol.com.

The Festivals of Cultures is scheduled for Saturday night, May 16th. This event is sponsored by the Douglas and Conant PTOs and is coordinated by Douglas parent Kristan Smith-Park. Please watch for more information about the Festival of Cultures as the date nears. If you would like to help with the event or have any questions please contact Kristan at kmith068@gmail.com.

On March 16th, community leaders participated in our Read Aloud Program. Special thanks to Marne Geller, Marcia Towey and Kimberly Powers for putting together this wonderful day for our children.

In March, the Douglas students "Read Across America" in the March Reading Challenge. We look forward to seeing the progress we made on the map of the United States in the lobby as we track our reading success across America. The log forms are being tallied and we will have to wait to see what surprises are in store for the children once the challenge is complete.

On March 18th, Douglas hosted the Douglas-Gates Speaker Series. Thank you to everyone who attended this informative and fun evening. Special thanks to all of our presenters who led seminars; Stacey Waite, Douglas School nurse, Melissa Hubbell and June Montepeluso, 6th grade teachers, Special Educators Rena Linnell and Laurie Jaffe, Hilary Bonnell, Douglas School Counselor, Stephen Hitzrot, ABRHS Counselor and Keith Campbell, Acton Youth Officer. Over 70 parents enjoyed the excellent presentations on a host of subjects all to help us better understand our children.

Our next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6th at 7:30 pm at Douglas. At this meeting, we will be presenting and voting in the nominees for the 2009/2010 PTO Board. The PTO Budget Committee will also be presenting the proposed PTO budget for the 2009-2010 school year. We look forward to seeing you there.

On **Tuesday, March 31st** Acton residents will visit the polls to vote to fill the School Committee and Board of Selectmen open positions. This year there are two (3-year term) open seats on the School Committee and one (3-year term) open seat on the Board of Selectmen. We encourage parents to cast their votes for these important positions.

Acton Town Meeting will begin the evening of April 6th. Many important town and school decisions are made at Town Meeting, including approval of the town and school budgets. We encourage you to attend Town Meeting to share in this important process.

PTO Chairs, Cassie Stewart cassie_stewart@comcast.net, Cheryl Witty ckwitty@verizon.net



GET READY FOR DOUGLAS DAY!

Mark your calendars! Douglas Day will be held Monday, June 1st with a rain date of Wednesday, June 3rd. We have planned a day of fun, challenging, and wet events! We will also have a wonderful performance - John Higby's YoYo Show (compliments of the Cultural Enrichment Committee). You never know how Dr. Whitbeck will start our day off---another YouTube worthy performance?! More information will follow after the break along with volunteer sign-up information. Parents and siblings are invited to join us, so make sure you don't miss this great event!

Erika Cormier, Douglas Day Chairperson erika.cormier@comcast.net

NEWS FROM CULTURAL ENRICHMENT



Here's a winter update on Cultural Enrichment programming.

In January, the Kindergarten and First Grade classes saw Odds Bodkin, an award winning storyteller and children's author. He has performed and taught nationally and internationally, including performances at the White House and Lincoln Center. He is recognized for his original character-voice and music-filled style, telling stories that feature compelling characters and important life lessons for young people. In his unique versions of these stories, Odds Bodkin shares wisdom and humor from around the world, including Grimm's fairytales, Aesop's fables and traditional lore of Italian, Swedish, African, Hindu, German, Tibetan and Native American origin. You can read more about Odds Bodkin on his website and listen to some of his stories. The website is www.oddsbodkin.com.

In February, the Cupcake Philharmonic Orchestra performed *Tubby the Tuba* for the Kindergarten and First Grade classes. *Tubby the Tuba* was written by Paul Tripp, with music by George Kleinsinger, and first recorded in the 1940s as a child's introduction to the orchestra. The story is about a tuba who grows tired of his role in the orchestra playing repetitive bars of "oompah". He longs to play melodies, and he leaves the orchestra to find his own song. The range and role of various orchestral instruments is explored and demonstrated throughout the story. The Cupcake Philharmonic Orchestra is an ensemble of six musicians formed especially for the presentation of family orchestral programs. Mike Roylance (Principal Tuba, Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops Orchestra) played the musical voice of Tubby the Tuba. He was joined by musicians on keyboard, trumpet, flute, piccolo, violin and cello and a narrator to tell the story. You can read more about Tubby the Tuba at www.tubbythetuba.com.

These programs were sponsored by the PTO and were funded in part by your snack cart purchases. Thank you for your support. Stay tuned for more great all school and grade level programming in the spring.

Debbie Dormitzer, Terry Martins and Linda Skolnik, Cultural Enrichment Co-Chairs

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE FROM COOKING FOR KIDS....
Healthy Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

Many healthy chocolate chip cookies aren't really as healthy as they seem. They may have less fat, but they often have more sugar. This [chocolate chip cookie recipe](#) is different. It is full of heart-healthy oats, bran flakes and nuts.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup butter or trans fat-free margarine, softened
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup firmly-packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup bran flakes
- 1/2 cup semisweet or dark chocolate chips



Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or a silpat mat. Or spray with nonstick cooking spray.
3. Stir together the flour, baking soda and baking powder in a medium bowl. Set aside.
4. In a large bowl, beat the butter until creamy with an electric mixer. Beat in the sugars. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract.
5. Add the flour mixture until well combined.
6. Stir in the oats, bran flakes and chocolate chips.
7. Drop by teaspoonsful onto prepared cookie sheet approximately 1 inch apart.
8. Bake 12 to 14 minutes.

Cook on wire racks. Serve warm or store in a tightly-covered container for up to three days.

FESTIVAL OF CULTURES – COMING SOON!!

The Festival of Cultures is coming soon! The event will occur on Saturday night, May 16th from 5:30- 8:30 pm. The event, which is co-sponsored by Douglas and Conant schools, will take place at the R.J. Grey Junior High School café and auditorium. As in the past, the evening will consist of “traveling” to various countries where ambassadors will share their countries with you, eating mouth-watering international meals, and watching children perform a variety of music and dances.

Each attendee will be able to “visit” several countries from around the world. Currently, we have families signed up to be ambassadors for Belgium, China, England, India, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico and the Philippines.

We are also looking for children from Douglas and Conant who would like to perform music or dance from around the world. If you would like to sign up or know of a group of children who would like to perform, please contact me as soon as possible.

Finally, we always need helping hands on the day of the event. If you would like to help out, please let me know. We are especially in need of someone who is willing to organize donations for the meal.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our schools to celebrate our rich cultural backgrounds and enjoy each other’s company. We look forward to seeing you on May 16th!

Kristan Smith-Park ksmith068@gmail.com 978-263-3514

BOX TOPS/DONELAN'S REGISTER TAPES/CAMPBELL'S LABELS



Listed below is a brief update as to the status of each of these programs:

- Douglas will earn nearly \$1,100 from clipping Box Tops this school year. General Mills sends the PTO semi-annual checks for the Box Tops submitted. Keep clipping throughout the year.
- The Donelan's Register Tapes for Education program ends March 31st. Please send in all register tapes as soon as possible as the program submission deadline is April 10th. Only register tapes dated from 9/1/08 - 3/31/09 are eligible. Douglas will redeem these points for free educational equipment in May.
- Keep clipping UPC codes from Campbell's products. A final submission for the Campbell's Labels for Education program will be made in May. With the nearly 5,000 bonus points earned earlier in the year, this program is off to a great start. Campbell's points are redeemed by the teachers for free classroom supplies.

NATIONAL READ ALOUD DAY

Monday, March 16th was a fabulous day at Douglas as we celebrated National Read Aloud Day. We were very fortunate to have a great selection of readers who all donate their time to make Acton such a special place. If your child has not already spoken about their special reader to you, please ask them about it...



Here is the list of readers that joined us:

Senator Jamie Eldridge - Miss Fitzpatrick's class
Ann Chang from Friends of Acton Memorial Library - Mrs. Bloom's class
ABHRS Principal Alixe Callen - Mrs. Smith's AM class
Former Douglas mom Connie Huber - Mrs. Nadolny's class
Beth Petr - Mrs. Rand's class
Acton Town Manager Steven Ledoux - Mrs. Hubbell's class
Acton Memorial Children's Librarian Lee Donahue - Mrs. Savage's class
Acton Selectwoman Paulina Knibbe - Mrs. Bethel's class
Former Gates teacher, HGRM volunteer Marguerite Mazzone- Mrs. Breslin's and Mrs. Smith's pm class
Ellen Krueger, Acton author- Mrs. Ritter's class
Vicki Greene from the Discovery Museum - Mrs. Sharp's class
Acton Town Selectman Andy Magee - Mrs. Littlefield's and Miss Hunt's class
Lucille Kiklis- Mrs. Ingraham's class
Acton Memorial Librarian Marilu Nowlin- Mrs. Cherkerzian's class
Local Author Ainslie Sheridan- Mrs. Tajima's and Mrs. Simeone's class

Thank you Kimberly Powers, Marcia Towey and Marne Geller for all you work organizing this special day.

UPDATE: THE APRIL VACATION PROGRAM IS DEFINITELY RUNNING---SIGN UP NOW!

Sign up now for our second annual Douglas April Vacation Program located here at Douglas School. The program will be offered April 21-24 (Monday, April 20 is a Holiday). Our week of fun will include surprise guests, field day events, art instruction, music and movement, exploring world languages, story-time, fun foods and much more. You pick and choose the day(s) your child(ren) will attend. The program is available regular hours 8:30-3:30 and extended hours 7:30-8:30am and 3:30-6pm. Registrations will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

For more information, questions or a registration form please contact:

Chris Borgman cborgman@mail.ab.mec.edu; Sasha DeMello sdemello@mail.ab.mec.edu



Douglas Dates

- March 31** – Reading Challenge Ends
- March 31** – Town Elections
- April 2** – Pretzel Day
- April 4** – Douglas Spring Social & Auction – Wedgewood Pines
- April 6** – Town Meeting Starts
- April 9** – K-3 Talent Show
- April 10** – Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
- April 20-24** – Spring Recess – NO SCHOOL
- May 1** – Community Service Day
- May 4, 5 and 6** – 6th Grade Nature's Classroom
- May 6** – PTO General Meeting, 7:30 pm, present Board and Budget FY 09-10
- May 7** – Pretzel Day
- May 16** – Festival of Cultures

SNACK CART DONATIONS

4/2/2009	Pretzel Day			
4/9/2009	Mrs. Sharp	Mr. Cail	Mrs. Oxnard	Mrs. Kay
4/16/2009	Mrs. Ingraham	Mrs. Cherkerzian	Mrs. Nadolny	Mrs. Ritter
4/23/2009	No School			
4/30/2009	Mrs. Hubbell	Mrs. Bethel	Mrs. Savage	Mrs. Smith (AMK)