



Douglas Digest

News of the C.T. Douglas School

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Principal: Dr. Christopher Whitbeck

June 2011

What do you need?

Douglas Digest

Editors:

Sharon Kautz
Lori Fassman

Publisher:

Sharon Metzger

Printer:

Allen Nitschelm
The Homesteader

Distributors:

Jill Maxwell
Michele Walsh

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Submissions are welcome and may be sent via email to Sharon Kautz at sharon_douglas_digest@yahoo.com.

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“Oh no, being a change agent sounds too dangerous...I don’t think I want to do that!” A second-grade boy with missing front teeth yelled across his classroom as the teacher told a story about Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King. The teacher smiled, the class laughed, and then his classmates told him, “But two billion people die every year just because of contaminated water.” Another student said, “If everyone is silent, then no one will help any of us.” A third answered, “You’re already an agent of change; you helped me tie my sneakers!”

In May, I had the opportunity to visit California schools from the Bay Area to San Diego. In four very long days with thousands of miles on my rental car, I learned more from inner city Los Angeles students about teaching social justice than I had in twenty-one years of working in schools. Social justice is a vision of society that is equitable and in which all members are physically and psychologically safe and secure. In student words, “It’s about fairness for everyone.”

As I thought about that definition, I imagined that all of us want a society in which everyone is physically and psychologically safe. We may argue about what is equitable and that, I believe, leads us to a conversation about *needs* and *wants*.

The society that I work in daily is a school. It is a society filled with conflict, and at the root of every conflict, whether it be an argument on our playground, a squabble over friends, or just nasty teasing, is a conflict over the needs or wants of different children. A typical response to these conflicts is for adults to create rules making the practice illegal, or simply to separate students. What every conflict really requires is to determine the root causes of the conflict. It’s not enough to just find out who did what to whom. The only way to create social justice, even in our schools, is to focus on fulfilling the needs and wants of the people involved in conflict.

“My teacher *stinks!*” a student yelled in my office.

“Sounds like you’re really angry.”

“All they say is blah, blah this and blah, blah that and take out this and it’s not good enough. They’re ruining my life.”

“Wow, sounds like a lot of talking. It must get frustrating. What do *you* need?”

The student looked at me dumbfounded, thinking, “I’ve just said some of the worst things that I could think of and you’re asking me what I need? Aren’t you going to send me home? I hate this place, it’s too hard, and I’m miserable.”

“I need the teacher to stop talking!”

“Well, that’s not going to happen...but maybe they can cut down the amount that they say to you.”

Total transformation of the student’s face. “Could they do that?”

The problem wasn’t completely solved. It’ll take a long time. Change always does. But at least we were on the road now.

The kids in California had signs all over their schools. “Change the world to make it a better place.” “Spread the word about problems on earth.” “Use yourself as the instrument of change.”

I’d add another: “What do you need?”

June 2011 PTO News

This month, the PTO article is a long one, as this is the time of year that we are able to thank the many people who have helped the PTO run smoothly. Please take a moment to read the names of those who have contributed their time and talents this year to help make Douglas the wonderful place that it is!

With just weeks before school ends, the PTO has been busy wrapping up the school year and even preparing a bit for next year!

Our last PTO General Meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 7, 7:00 PM** in the Cafetorium. At the meeting, we will introduce the incoming Board and Committee Chairs, and we will vote on the PTO Budget for 2011–2012. Dr. Whitbeck will announce new hires as well as news about some building updates. Please join us on June 7 for some exciting news as well as to say good-bye for the year.

As of next year, our Douglas Digest will no longer be printed by Douglas parent Allen Nitschelm. We would like to thank Allen for all his years in providing Douglas with the printed Digest. He has put so much time and effort into our newsletter and will be missed as he moves on to the Junior High. As a result, we are looking at creative ways to handle printing costs. One possibility is to circulate the Digest electronically and provide a copy on the Douglas website to print individually. The PTO co-chairs sent a survey out to the Douglas community. The results of the survey will influence this decision. Please take the time to answer this survey so we can make the best decision possible. (See page 8.)

On April 29, about 20 ABRHS seniors visited Douglas as part of Community Service Day to help with a variety of projects on the grounds of Douglas as well as painting the lobby. Thanks to the seniors and to **Phoebe Conant** and **Kristan Smith-Park** for coordinating this effort. Check out their work when you visit the school.

Thank you to **Maria Albarran** for organizing yet another successful Festival of Cultures on May 14. The countries represented did an amazing job and the show was spectacular. It was wonderful to see families from Douglas and Conant come together to share their diverse cultures through hands-on displays, food and entertainment.

Thank you to **Peter Broggi** for leading our Memorial Day celebration. It was meaningful to hear our speaker, **Major Don Hammon**, remind us of the importance of this holiday. Thank you also to **Phoebe Conant** for her help with the celebration.

Thank you to **Erica Cannarozzi** and **Candace Doncaster** for organizing the Staff Appreciation Luncheon held on May 25. Special thanks to the Cannarozzi family and **Serafina's** for the wonderful food and all they have done for us at Douglas. They will be graduating this year and will be missed. Thank you also to all of the parents who helped that day as well as to those who provided desserts. This luncheon enables the parents of Douglas to show how much we appreciate our teachers and staff at Douglas!

Thank you to **Phoebe Conant** and **Michele Walsh** for coordinating the Box Tops program and the Donelan's Tapes

for Education grocery receipts. Points earned with these programs will be used to purchase special extras for the school. Thank you also to those who collected and turned in receipts and box tops.

Douglas Day, held on June 6 this year, was once again a day that Douglas students will remember for a long time. The children enjoyed activities and games and had the opportunity to dunk their favorite principal and enjoy a barbecue picnic lunch with friends and family. Please ask your children what special activity was planned after the games! Thank you to **Erika Cormier** for coordinating Douglas Day and to **Sue Cudmore** and **Linda Skolnik** for helping to coordinate the cultural enrichment entertainment for the day!

Special Thanks

This year has been an exceptional year! Thank you to our entire parent population and staff who have participated in the many Douglas PTO events, in the classroom and around school. We have an amazing community that provides time and energy to support the children, teachers, and staff of Douglas.

Thank you to:

- ◆ **Susan Kelly** for employing her talents as keeper of the Douglas Album.
- ◆ **Terry Martins** for hosting the 6th Grade Graduation.
- ◆ **Santhi Sonthi** for hosting the Alumni Reception.
- ◆ **Lori Fassman** and volunteers for providing baked goods during the year for our meetings and events.
- ◆ **Michelle Daniell** for keeping the Douglas Calendar in the lobby current and to **Cheryl Witty** for updating the Birthday Board.
- ◆ **Peter Broggi** and **Terri Carotenuto** for producing two performance-packed Talent Shows.
- ◆ **Anya Fillion** and **Naomi Martin** and their committee for their hard work planning the successful and fun Spring Social and Auction. Thank you also to all of the Douglas families and staff who contributed and attended the auction.
- ◆ **Sheryl Fox** for promoting and managing the Scrip program.
- ◆ **Lori Fassman** for taking care of our school's publicity.
- ◆ **Amy Austin**, **Lori Fassman**, **Sharon Metzger**, and **Martha Papalia** for creating the Douglas Directory this year.
- ◆ **Cheryl Witty**, **Phoebe Conant**, and **Terry Martins** for coordinating the Teachers Back to School Luncheon at the beginning of the school year.
- ◆ **Debbie Maffei** and **Sheri Palazzo** for another successful Douglas Spiritwear Sale.
- ◆ **Barbara Rennert** for managing the Ink Jet Recycling program.

- ◆ Jill Buonomo, Dawn Gomez (who graduated), Eileen Matarese, Paulette Stout, Naomi Martin, Todd and Julie Marvin, and the many families who contributed to the memorable Ice Cream Social. The Marvins will be leaving after this year. Thank you for all your work!
 - ◆ Kathy McCullen for serving as the Douglas Newcomer Representative and to Maria Albarran for serving as the Douglas International Representative.
 - ◆ Maria Albarran and Kristan Smith-Park for coordinating the Festival of Cultures.
 - ◆ Martha Papalia and Cheryl Witty for representing Douglas at the Kindergarten lottery.
 - ◆ Terry Martins and Kim Shamah for being the Kindergarten screening coordinators this fall.
 - ◆ Christine Phillips for sharing her knowledge of the school as she led the Kindergarten tours.
 - ◆ Terry Martins for being our Kindergarten Tour Greeter and all-around Douglas representative.
 - ◆ Jen Smyers for keeping track of the Lost and Found all year and for organizing the donation of items at the end of each season.
 - ◆ Julie Marvin and Barbara Green for arranging the Lowell Spinners night for the enjoyment of Douglas families that will be held on June 18.
 - ◆ Sara Junghans and Susan Haverstock for managing a very organized School Picture Day.
 - ◆ Laura Fay and all the volunteers for the school-wide organization of Nature Walk.
 - ◆ Christine Perraud, the parent volunteers, and the third grade students for running the Douglas Post Office.
 - ◆ Laura Fay and the parent volunteers for organizing a successful Book Fair.
 - ◆ Lori Fassman and Sharon Kautz for coordinating the Veterans Day Program.
 - ◆ Sue Cudmore for being the PIP representative for Douglas.
 - ◆ Maria Albarran and her volunteers for all their work on the Recycling Program.
 - ◆ Stacey Smith, LeeAnn Layton, and Kim Shamah for managing an amazing and exciting March Reading Challenge with its new Read-In.
 - ◆ Paula Conquest for coordinating Purposeful Change and to the students for contributing change so we could donate to building a school in Kenya.
 - ◆ Ellen Hurley and her volunteers for manning the Safe Arrival line every morning.
 - ◆ Meghan Brennan for organizing the Walking School Bus this year.
 - ◆ Debra Cox, Shana Brown, Ann-Marie Hanley, and Cheryl Witty for coordinating this year's 4th grade School Store.
 - ◆ Linda Borghesani, Aine Folan-Reine, and Vidya Kumar for maintaining the Science Kits.
 - ◆ Cassie Stewart, Scott Anderson, Lisa Racie, Tamara Ricciardone, and Judy Rowland for their work as School Council Parent Representatives and Amy Krishnamurthy and Karen Jarsky as community representatives on the council.
 - ◆ Tamara Ricciardone for handling the School Supply Packets, which will be waiting for the children when they return to school.
 - ◆ Candace Doncaster for coordinating the TAP volunteers who helped the teachers and staff throughout the year.
 - ◆ Erica Cannarozzi and Candace Doncaster for organizing and providing a spectacular and gourmet lunch for the Douglas staff and teachers.
 - ◆ To the Room Parents, Nature Walk, Computer Lab, and Library volunteers who support the classrooms all year long.
- Thank you to the Douglas Staff for their continued support to all the children of Douglas. Thank you to Dr. Chris Whitbeck for his encouragement of the Douglas PTO in all of its endeavors. We look forward to another wonderful year working with you. Thank you to Sharon Armistead, Sharen Crooks, and Paula Seaburg for knowing all there is to know about Douglas and being there to help in every way throughout the year.
- Thank you to all of the Douglas Teachers, Assistants, and Specialists, SPED Teachers, and Staff for your support of the PTO in handling the varied paperwork and in participating in so many of the PTO events.
- Thank you to:
- ◆ Caroline Murphy, Kathy Clifford, Lynn Goodwin, Robin McCrobie, and Amy Madden for providing hot food to the hungry kids of Douglas all year long.
 - ◆ John Pacelli and Tuey Guarnieri for keeping our school in running order.
 - ◆ Diann Oster and JoAnne Chadwick, our school nurses, for being there when the children were not feeling well or just needed a little help getting through their day.
 - ◆ Sasha DeMello and Sue Stewart for running the Douglas Library and creating the opportunity for our children to expand their reading abilities and develop their library skills.
 - ◆ Janice Ward for keeping the PTO information up to date on the Douglas website.
- Thank you to the following Board members for their many, many hours helping the PTO this year:
- ◆ Treasurer Corinne Hogseth for handling and presenting the finances during the year.
 - ◆ Assistant Treasurer Jen Aufiero for managing all of the deposits for the PTO.
 - ◆ Secretary Terry Martins for her recording and management of the PTO meeting minutes.
 - ◆ Technology Secretary Christine Phillips for her up-to-date and informative Constant Contact messages.

- ◆ Scott Anderson and Cassie Stewart for serving on the Interschool Council.
- ◆ Laurel Ghose for her contributions to the Health and Safety Committee.
- ◆ Stacey Smith for her input to the Playground Committee.
- ◆ Sue Cudmore and Linda Skolnik for researching and showcasing the wonderful Cultural Enrichment programs this year.
- ◆ Sharon Kautz, Lori Fassman, Sharon Metzger, Allen Nitschelm, Jill Maxwell, and Michelle Walsh for producing and distributing the informative monthly Douglas Digest.
- ◆ Phoebe Conant for her many years heading up the Gardening Committee.
- ◆ Amy Austin and Namita Davé and their volunteers for running the Douglas Snack Cart.
- ◆ Cheryl Witty and Ellen Hurley for their hospitality and preparation for PTO general meetings and other functions.
- ◆ Lori Fassman for her ongoing efforts in managing the volunteer coordination.
- ◆ Jen Aufiero and Bridget Steinkrauss for coordinating the entertaining grade-wide Movie Nights for the Social Committee.

Thank you to all who served on this year's PTO Board. As we transition from this year to the next, we would like to thank several departing board members who have given so much to Douglas. Linda Skolnik for her time spent getting our wonderful shows for Cultural Enrichment, Sharon Kautz for her many

years and tireless work editing the Douglas Digest, Allen Nitschelm for all the years he printed our monthly Digest and Ellen Hurley for her work in Hospitality. Please be sure to thank these extraordinary volunteers for the gift of their time and effort given to Douglas! It is very hard to find extra time to help at school. The kids and the school appreciate all you have done!

There are many parents that are not listed here who have volunteered in so many ways either at school or from home, or even through direct donations. We just want to thank all of you for taking the time you can to help make Douglas better. It is not always about chairing a committee or spending lots of volunteer time at school. We understand times have changed and people just can not volunteer for all they want to. It is about doing what you can to make the Douglas experience for your child the best it can be. We thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

As we finish up this school year, a special thank you to Kristan Smith-Park for her hard work, dedication, and leadership as she has led the PTO in what has been a wonderful year. As Kristan steps down from her Co-Chair role, she will not be going far as she will continue to help the PTO next year in her new role on the Hospitality committee and Festival of Cultures. We welcome incoming Junior PTO Co-Chair, Martha Papalia, who brings a wealth of knowledge and ideas to our PTO for next year. Thank you Kristan for all you have taught me this year! Welcome Martha, I look forward to working with you next year!

Deanne O'Sullivan, deannewos@comcast.net
Kristan Smith-Park, ksmith068@gmail.com
Martha Papalia, mpapalia@comcast.net

Special Notes of Thanks—Faculty and Staff Departures

Mr. John Pacelli: Mr. Pacelli has been promoted and will no longer be the custodian at Douglas. He has already moved up and is now working at McCarthy-Towne/Merriam. It was a wonderful and well deserved promotion. Although we will miss him a great deal, we wish him all the best in his new role. Please visit him and tell him how much you miss him!

Mrs. Lynda Nadolny: For those of you who did not know, Mrs. Nadolny is retiring. She is currently the senior teacher in the AB system. Mrs. Nadolny's special gift of encouraging children to do their best will be sorely missed in the fourth grade. Now who is going to continue her wonderful tradition of the "seventh inning stretch?" She plans on resting, relaxing, and playing lots of golf. We wish her our best!

Mrs. Diane Hussey: June 3 was Mrs. Hussey's last day at Douglas. She has been our children's friend and guardian for many years at the playground. As parents, we appreciate all the care she has taken in watching our kids and ensuring their safety. She will be missed and we wish her the best in her future plans.

Mrs. Rose Engber: Mrs. Engber will be retiring from Douglas on June 14. She has been an assistant in Miss Hunt's classroom for the past nine years. Although Mrs. Engber will not be working at Douglas, she will still visit occasionally. She will fit us in between visits to her son Michael who will be working in Pennsylvania, attending events at BC for her son Andrew, and her winters in Hawaii. Her humor, kindness, and ability to take on any task will be greatly missed! We all wish her our best!

Mrs. Susan Davis: Mrs. Davis will be leaving Douglas at the end of this school year. She has been an extraordinary assistant in the third grade for many years, and is a former Douglas parent. We will miss her lively spirit and warm smile in the hallways at Douglas, and wish her the best!

Douglas PTO Board 2011–2012

Co-Chairs	Deanne O’Sullivan Martha Papalia
Treasurer	Corinne Hogseth
Secretary	Terry Martins
Technology Secretary	Christine Phillips (transitional) Lori Fassman Kristan Smith-Park
Interschool Council	Scott Anderson Cassie Stewart
PTO/School Committee Liaison	Heather Harer
Health and Safety	Laurel Ghose
Playground	Stacey Smith
Cultural Enrichment	Susan Cudmore Stephanie Margolien
Snack Program	Amy Austin Namita Davé
Volunteer Coordinator	Lori Fassman
Hospitality	Cheryl Witty Kristan Smith-Park
Gardening	Phoebe Conant Lisa Munson
Douglas Digest	Sharon Metzger Lori Fassman
Movie Nights	Jennifer Aufiero Bridget Steinkrauss

Last Snack Cart Day: June 9

Thank you for making Snack Cart a success this year through your donations, purchases, and volunteer efforts. The proceeds funded many educational and entertaining cultural enrichment programs that were enjoyed by the entire Douglas Community.

We appreciate your efforts to send in healthy snacks and baked goods. Popcorn proved to be a popular treat once a month and we will continue ordering pretzels as long as we receive the required minimum number of orders.

The last Snack Cart will be June 9. Please remember to send a snack with your child on June 16.

As always, please feel free to contact us with questions, comments or concerns.

*Amy Austin and Namita Davé,
Snack Cart Chairs*

Buy a Board Program Continues

It’s not too late to buy one or more custom-engraved boards to support Phase II of rebuilding the boardwalk that runs between Douglas and Gates! Imagine having your family’s name engraved on a board, or engraving a milestone message for someone special! The cost is \$80 per board. You can use the form below, or print an order form off the website: <http://boardwalk.westacton.net/BuyABoardForm.pdf>. Be sure to take a walk on the new boardwalk sometime and see how wonderfully Phase I turned out!

Board owner’s name _____

Youngest child at Douglas _____

Email or phone (email preferred) _____

How many boards? _____

Make check payable to the Acton Public Schools with the Boardwalk indicated in the memo section. Please return your information and payment to the Douglas School Office in an envelope marked “Buy A Board, c/o Jill Maxwell.”

Please return this request by backpack express by June 21. When we receive it, we will contact you asking what you want engraved on each board. You can still purchase boards throughout the summer by contacting Jill Maxwell (jillhmaxwell@gmail.com).

Douglas at Dawn/Dusk Program Wraps Up a Successful Year!

- ◆ Breakfast Club families loved the flexibility of signing up in advance or being able to drop off their children when they had conferences, appointments, and meetings.
- ◆ Work and Play continued to provide the essential service of after-school care available until 6pm every school day. Our high school student volunteers Gary, Nick, Jenn, Michelle, Megan, and Kathryn added to the fun with arts and crafts and lots of basketball on the courts!
- ◆ Enrichment Classes were held after school this year. We welcomed a popular new tennis class and plan to offer two sections of this class in the fall so as to accommodate the overwhelming interest. Now is the time to pre-register for Math Olympiad which will be offered both before and after school in the fall. Please contact Sasha DeMello to sign up and if you are interested in teaching an enrichment class in the fall.
- ◆ Our February and April vacation programs were a resounding success with fun activities, special guests, and a field trip!

We thank you all for your support and are pleased to be able to offer such a valuable service to you and your families. Remember that now is the time to register for Breakfast Club and Work and Play for next year. Registration forms are available on the Douglas School website and outside the office. All profits from our programs directly benefit Douglas School! Happy Summer!

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

Cultural Enrichment: Douglas Day Performance

Your Douglas student was treated to an amazing performance at the conclusion of Douglas Day. We were thrilled to have the internationally renowned percussionist and composer Tony Vacca. Tony presented an educational show that was visually stunning and musically astounding. Tony has been performing arts education programs in schools all over the Northeast for the past 25 years. Tony is known for his balafon and gongs in addition to his djembes, dundun, and tama drum performances. He uses music, spoken word, and rhythm to address topics like cultural diversity and global and social awareness. Tony Vacca gave the Douglas Day audience a very high-energy performance with audience participation.

Tony Vacca's sensational performance was intended to provide a great finish to Douglas Day. For the last six years, cultural enrichment has brought a performer to Douglas Day—it has become a very welcome tradition! We hope your child had a terrific time and learned a lot about world music. This program was partially funded by Douglas snack cart purchases. Thank you for your continued support.

Linda Skolnik and Sue Cudmore
Cultural Enrichment Co-Chairs

Library Wrap-up

We have had a great year in the library! We extend our deepest thanks to Carol Thaller and Sharon Kautz for running the highly successful Book Benefactor program; to Beth Bennett, Linda Roberge, Pat Jackman and Olga Filatova for repairing and covering books; and to Linda Borghesani, Aine Folan-Reine, and Vidya Kumar for maintaining our Science Kits. Many thanks to over 70 faithful library volunteers who shelve an endless stream of books, help students find the books of their dreams, and much, much more!

We still need adult library volunteers through the end of the year, especially the week of June 13–17, to help out with library inventory and book repair. **The last day of library classes is Friday, June 10**, and all books are due back to the library by that day.

If your child has lost a book, please make a check payable to the Douglas PTO and return the check to the library. If you find the book later, we will be happy to reimburse you.

Have a wonderful summer and
read, read, read!

Sasha DeMello and Sue Stewart



Summer Reading Program 2011: Award-Winning Books

In the next few weeks your child will be bringing home a form for the Douglas School Summer Reading Program. This year we are excited to explore the world of Award-Winning Books. Your child need only read 5 award-winning (or honor books) to participate. Books are awarded reading prizes for excellence in illustration, inspirational and educational content, and more. This summer is a wonderful time to expose your children to quality literature and to engage in a discussion of what qualifies a book as an award winner. Explore the Caldecott, Newbery, Coretta Scott King winners... and more!

Read, have fun, and be enriched!

Sasha DeMello and Sue Stewart

Festival of Cultures—Thank You!



Thank you to all who helped to make this year's Festival of Cultures a wonderful event! It was a special evening of talent, culture, and community. We had 14 ambassadors, a delicious international feast, amazing performances, and over 500 attendees from Conant and Douglas.

The ambassadors did a wonderful job of showing and sharing their family's culture. This year's Douglas ambassadors were

Samantha Augst (England), George and Francesca Bamfo (Ghana), Dorita Cava (Peru), Namita Davé (India), Gie and Debbie Kerr (Korea), Joe O'Donoghue (Ireland), Hugo Rivero (Mexico), Judith Mmari (Kenya), Lex Parker (El Salvador), and Ghada Bitar (Lebanon).

We want to thank all of the amazing volunteers who helped out during the event. Everyone was extremely capable, organized, and generous in their time. Here is a list of this year's volunteers: Laurel Ghose, Lauren Gilman, Mira Greenland, Tanaz Hashemi, Corinne Hogseth, Ruhan Inanoglu, Sharon Kautz, Melanie Liu, Stephanie Margolien, Robin O'Donoghue, Uma Raman, Angie Tso, Janice Yee, and Bev Zambarano.

Thanks to our sixth graders Guillermo Cava, Matthew He, Luca Ilic, Laura Izotova, Haley Magliozzi, Madhuri Raman, Daniela Rivero, and Sarah Varley who made possible the Free The Children table. They shared information about the village Douglas is adopting and the school we are building in Kenya. They made crafts with young children and they also sold books and collected donations. Good job, sixth graders!

A big thanks to all of the students who participated in the outstanding performances for Japan, India, China, and Mexico, as well as Douglas teacher Akiko Morii and Dr. Whitbeck. Thanks to Mr. Jeffries, as well, for coming in on his Saturday to help out!

Finally, thanks to all of you who came to the event and contributed to the potluck meal.

This was special evening that gave us the opportunity to come together as a community with another school and share the qualities that make Acton so rich—its diversity, talented youth, and their families.

Thanks again, and see you next year!

Maria Albarran and Kristan Smith Park, Festival of Cultures Co-Chairs

Happy Gardening—Many Thanks!

Thank you to all of you who came out to help over the past year! Everything is looking wonderful, and we couldn't have done it without you.

The Garden Committee usually does an end-of summer clean up (mostly weeding). If you are interested in receiving an email about when this happens, please let us know.

We wish you all the best with your own gardens, and hope to see you in the fall.

Phoebe Conant, pconant@bluelink.andover.edu

Lisa Munson, mgmunsonfamily@verizon.net

Volunteer Reception

The Douglas School cordially invites all volunteers to a reception in their honor to be held Thursday, June 16, 9–10 AM, in the library. If you've volunteered at a school-wide event or in the classroom for library or nature walk—no matter how big or small, regular or irregular your act(s) of service—please join us. Children are welcome. Stop by for refreshments and conversation and be sure to pick up your special gift!

Lost and Found

Please have your children check Lost and Found for any items they may have misplaced.

Lost and found for Kindergarten–grade 2 is located downstairs in front of room 5 in two blue containers; lost and found for grades 3–6 is in the cafeteria to the right of the entrance into the gym in two white cabinets. Articles still unclaimed by June 21 will be donated to Big Brother and Big Sister. Thank you.

Jen Smyers



**Parents Asked to Take Douglas
Communication Survey (It's Quick!)**

The Douglas PTO has posted a very important survey, aimed at evaluating and improving the way we communicate information to the Douglas School community. Today, the primary forms of communication include the printed monthly Douglas Digest and the weekly Constant Contact email communications.

We are hoping the majority of Douglas parents will take the survey. With maximum participation, we can:

- ◆ Prioritize the types of articles that parents are most interested in reading.
- ◆ Assess whether we can be greener and reduce costs by distributing the Douglas Digest electronically, versus monthly paper distribution.
- ◆ Ensure that whatever changes we make, we enhance rather than reduce the regular readership of Douglas news and information.

The Douglas School thrives when parents are involved and informed. Good communications are key to parent participation. Whether you are a fan of the way we communicate today, or see many ways we can improve our service, now is the time to speak up. We are ready to listen.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete. To take it, go to the Douglas web site (<http://douglas.ab.mec.edu>), where you will find a link to the "Douglas Communications Survey." If you do not have electronic access, you should receive a hardcopy via backpack mail. There are also hardcopies available in the office. (Please return hardcopies to Deanne O'Sullivan, PTO Co-Chair.) The deadline for participation is June 21, the last day of school.

School Store Wraps up a Great Year

The fourth graders did a tremendous job as clerks at the Eagle's Nest this year, opening the store every Tuesday and Friday and serving hundreds of customers. Some of the proceeds from the store have been used to help pay for the 4th grade class trip to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, and some will be donated to a charity of the kids' choosing. The last day the school store is open is Friday, June 3.

The store was organized this year by purchaser Cheryl Witty, scheduler Ann Marie Hanley, and treasurer Shana Brown. Thanks so much for all your time and talent. Thanks to all the parents who stepped up to be school supervisors—we really appreciated your leadership. Finally, thanks to all of the fourth grade parents who drove their kids to school early for their two week shift and a special thanks to those who stayed to help.

Third grade parents, we are looking to fill the school store positions for next year. It is a wonderful program and for a great cause, so please consider volunteering! Please contact Debbie Cox if you are interested.

*Debbie Cox, School Store Manager
dcox@yahoo.com, 978.274.2026*

Notes from the Health Office: Got Water?

Adequate hydration is one of the easiest, most economical, and most overlooked ways to stay healthy. Water is essential for life. The human body is composed of 60–70% water. Water is involved in every metabolic process in the body. Our bodies need water to regulate metabolism and body temperature, transport oxygen to our cells, remove waste products, and lubricate joints and organs.

Every day we lose water naturally from breathing, sweating, and waste elimination. We also lose water as a result of exercise and/or environmental conditions such as heat and humidity. Many people are unaware of the fact that caffeine, alcohol, and high sugar content drinks can dehydrate you more. To estimate how much water the body needs, take weight in pounds and divide by 2 and drink that many ounces of water per day. (A 160-pound person should drink 80 ounces of water). Remember if you are an athlete you require more than that.

When dehydration occurs, blood becomes thicker and the body has to work harder to help it circulate. As a result, the brain becomes less active, the body becomes tired and it becomes harder to concentrate on any task. Some symptoms of mild dehydration may include muscle aches, headaches, constipation, irritability, and dizziness. Susceptibility to viruses also increases with mild dehydration.

Remember that thirst is a late sign of dehydration. Our bodies need water long before we feel thirsty!

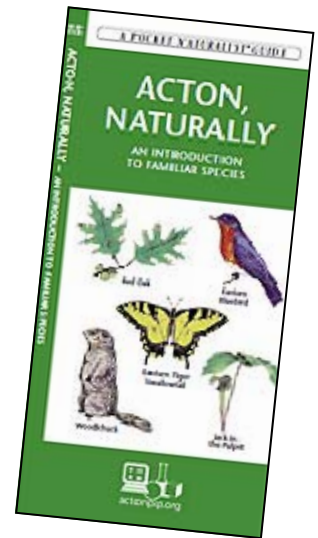
AB PIP Offers Summer Skills Workbooks and Nature Guide

PIP (Parent Involvement Project) is coordinating the sales of *Summer Skills* review books, a series of math, language arts, and world language workbooks for pre-K to Grade 12. These workbooks are designed to reinforce the skills learned in the just completed school year. Parents are generally advised to select the book grade level that corresponds with the grade their student has just finished. More information about Summer Skills may be found on the PIP website: www.actonpip.org.

The cost is \$17 per book (at least \$2 of each book purchase will go to support PIP's math and science enrichment activities, even more if we have a big order). The order forms are available online at www.actonpip.org/pdf/2011summerskillsorderform.pdf and at the Acton Memorial Library. **The order deadline was Friday, May 27, but we are able to take some last minute orders. Please place your order ASAP to guarantee backpack delivery by the last day of school.**

In cooperation with the Acton-Boxborough schools, AB PIP is selling *Acton, Naturally: A Pocket Naturalist's Guide*, a great introduction to our local plants and animals. There is more information at www.actonpip.org/pdf/2011natureguideflyer_spring.pdf; the guides can be ordered right along with your workbooks.

Contact Susan Krikorian at 978.635.0174, email PIP at actonpip@yahoo.com, or visit the website for more information about Summer Skills and PIP.



Douglas Day Volunteers

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who made Douglas Day 2011 an enormous success!

Scott Anderson	Sarah Holtz
Lynn Armstrong	Alex Horovitz
Jennifer Aufiero	Torri Horovitz
Amy Austin	Lilly Hu
Natalia/Alex Balashova	Jennifer Jaroch
Shaun Blake	Karen Jarsky
Linda Borghesani	Ruhan Inanoglu
Christine Bourque	Sharon Kautz
Alyssa Bozian	Virginia Kondracki
Jill Buonomo	Ann Marie Kulsick
Mark Burak	Heather Lammey
Erica Cahill	Gie Lee
Abraham Caliskan	Kara Letourneau
Maryanne Chase	Lisa Magliozzi
Jie Chen	Stephanie Margolien
Heidi Clasby	Marc Martin
Debra Cox	Naomi Martin
Susan Cudmore	Terry Martins
Colleen/Dan DiPietro	Eileen Matarese
Suzanne Dirstine	Susan Mathisen
Liz Ellis	Mary/Ernest Messier
Brad Fitts	Jamie Norton
Eileen Flannery	Deanne O'Sullivan
Shannon Ford	Sheri Palazzo
Joe Formaggio	Christine Perraud
Lauren Friedman	Christine Phillips
Valerie Gore	Beth Poulton
John Greenland	Karen Roehr
Beatrix Gyimesi	Renate Ruszczyk
Corinne Hogseth	Suzanne Schultze

Michelle Shoemaker
Dan Silva
Vaishali Sirsikar
Kristan Smith-Park
Heidi Streeter
Angie Tso
Nancy Vaccaro
Cathi Welch
Judy White
Sandra Wolf
Jin Yang
Janice Yee
Greg Young
Shelley Zhao

...and many more who volunteered at the last minute! Thank you to all the staff who helped—without them, nothing would be possible. And a special thank you to Douglas' Mary O'Brien, who helps make this a special day for all Douglas students.

*Erika Cormier,
Douglas Day Chair*

Douglas School Outing: Canobie Lake Park

Come celebrate the beginning of summer with your Douglas School friends! Wednesday, June 22, the day after school ends, we will have a group rate at Canobie Lake Park for our school. Canobie Lake is a great, clean amusement park with plenty of rides for all ages, including a water park. Acton to Canobie Lake Park in Salem (NH) is about a 45-minute drive. A flyer with details has been sent home via your child's backpack; we need to get an idea of numbers for families interested in joining us. The kids will love riding the rides with their friends! Please email Suzanne Schultze with any questions.

*Suzanne Schultze,
schultzefamily@verizon.net*

Dates to Remember

Monday, June 6	Douglas Day (rain date: June 8)
Tuesday, June 7	PTO General Meeting at Douglas, 7:30 PM
Thursday, June 9	Last Snack Cart: (Grade 1 and AMK) Mrs. Browne, Miss Hunt, Mrs. Ingraham, Mrs. Smith (Spring AMK)
Thursday, June 9	Spring Band Concert at Douglas, 7 PM
Thursday, June 16	Volunteer Reception, library, 9–10 AM
Saturday, June 18	Lowell Spinners vs. Connecticut Tigers, 5:05 PM
Tuesday, June 21	Sixth Grade Graduation
Tuesday, June 21	Last Day of School, 12:15 PM dismissal (regular Thursday schedule)
Wednesday, June 22	Canobie Lake Park Douglas Outing (rain date: June 23)
Friday, August 19	Class placement available online after 3:00 PM at https://absis.ab.mec.edu . After you complete the emergency information and PTO information, class placement should appear.
Monday, August 29	Back to School Teachers Luncheon
Monday, August 29	Kindergarten Orientation
Tuesday, August 30	First Day of School!

Goodbye and Thank You

As the school year approaches its end, there are many sixth grade families that will be leaving the Douglas community. On behalf of the PTO, we would like to say a final goodbye and thank you for all the contributions and support these families have provided to the Douglas School over the years.

Regina and Frank Azzolino	Patricia and Thomas Jackman
Francesca and George Bamfo	Prayong Techasouvapak and Srirath Kaewsiripong
Nadia and Gerald Bluhm	Judy and Steven Kaplan
Erin and Laurence Boisvert	Lisa and Tim Kelly
Nancie and Mark Boudreau	Allison Norton and Owen Kimball
Erica and Kevin Cahill	Julia and Matthew Kline
Lynne Kondracki and Jeffrey Calvert	Julie and Todd Marvin
Erica and Sam Cannarozzi	Lori and Richard Marzullo
Terri and Joe Carotenuto	Susan and Paul Mathisen
Dorita Angelats and José Cava	Mari-Louise and David Messuri
Aparna and Amit Chakraborty	Margaret Kohin and Allen Nitschelm
Sarah and Michael Clabault	Mary and Alex Patrick
Suzanne and Brendan Cotter	Kathy and David Peduto
Sumita Sinha and Amitabha Deb	Julie and Daniel Rabideau
Jane and Garry Ferguson	Debra and Michael Ryan
Heather Gonzales	Kathleen and Stephen Shirley
Joan and Scott Gower	Santhi and Janardhan Sonthi
Anne and Tom Heinlein	Karen and Brian Sullivan
Claire and Scott Howe	Susan and George Triantafillou
Dragana and Rajko Ilic	Gina Ghioldi-Varley and Patrick Varley
Irina Izotova and Kirill Izotov	Lori Weissberg