



Douglas Digest

News of the C.T. Douglas School

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Douglas Digest

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Contents

PTO News	2
February vacation program	2
Recipe	3
Spring social	3
Festival of cultures	3
March reading challenge	4
Health office	4
Important dates	5

The Roar of Tigers

During kindergarten tours last month, a parent asked me what I thought of Amy Chua's book *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mom*. I was initially tempted to talk at length about the outrageous demands placed on the children and the lasting negative psychological effects the children would live with. However, once I got past the controversial parenting anecdotes of six-hour piano lessons, expectations that anything less than an A is failure and the rejection of a Mother's Day card, I see that the Tiger Mom is simply trying to raise children who are strong and ready for a very competitive global community. And yet, I am nagged by the feeling that such personal success often leads to collective failure.

Chua places great emphasis on intellectual rigor as a means to success. On this point we agree. But if we follow her model, I believe that we will raise a society of children who are solely inwardly focused on personal success, almost always at the expense of others. At Douglas, I always explain that being a member of our community means that you are responsible for the success of everyone.

I am not an opponent of competition. I do not believe that everyone has to win. I also believe that the current state of our own world crises are the perfect example of what happens when we focus only on self-oriented success. In the years leading up to our current Wall Street collapse, investors were relentless in their need to reap more and more. They missed the moral grounding to consider how much their personal gain would cost others. Ultimately, the system failed and we all suffered.

You can't blame Tiger Mom for wanting her kids to be successful. That's what every parent wants. But how we define success is where Chua's argument falls short. She forgets that part of preparing kids for the big, bad world is helping them realize that they're not alone within it. I want my children to be well informed, intelligent and competitive members of society who know how tough the world can be. I also want them to have the empathy and compassion to think about how their actions effect the greater good. I believe that their compassion will help them get ahead and that their collective success will far outshine the roar of the tigers.

C. Whitbeck

March PTO News

We hope that every Douglas family enjoyed themselves this past February vacation! Now that the kids are back in school, there are many exciting events going on for students, parents, and families.

On March 3, we kicked off our annual March Reading Challenge. This year the theme for the challenge is “Reading to Kenya, Africa.” Many thanks to librarians Sasha DeMello and Sue Stewart, and Douglas parents Stacey Smith, Lee Ann Layton, and Kim Shamah, for organizing an exciting and rewarding challenge to “reach our way to Africa” in reading! We look forward to hearing what surprises Dr. Whitbeck has in store for the students to help celebrate the end of the March Reading Challenge.

On Tuesday, March 22, we will join Gates School for our annual PTO Speaker Series Night hosted this year by Douglas. We will start at 7 PM with a brief PTO meeting followed by a series of pertinent presentations. The seminar choices will be:

- ◆ 5th and 6th grade Human Growth and Development movies
- ◆ Building Healthy Communications with Your Child
- ◆ Reviewing Results from the Bullying Survey

The movies are important for *this year's 4th and 5th grade parents* who may only have this chance to see the movie before their children do next year. The presentations are enlightening and informative. Please consider coming.

On the social front, thank you to Jen Aufiero and Bridget Steinkrauss for organizing the entertaining Movie Night Socials. The Kindergarteners and 1st graders enjoyed “Toy Story 3” on February 4. Grades 2 and 3 will choose a movie for March 25, and Grades 4–6 will have their movie night on March 11. The children have a great time eating popcorn, seeing friends, and watching an exciting movie.

Music teacher Peter Broggi and Douglas parent Terri Carotenuto will be running the Douglas Talent Shows again this year. The shows will be on March 31 for kindergarten–3rd grade and March 24 for grades 4–6. Peter and Terri do a great job of putting together a wonderful event where children are able to showcase their talents. If you are able to help with either talent show, please contact Terri at jtcarotenuto@verizon.net.

Come April, it is time for the parents to have some fun and meet other Douglas parents. The Douglas Spring Social and Auction is just around the corner on Saturday, April 2, at the Wedgewood Pines Country Club in Stow. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other Douglas parents while raising funds for our school. All of the funds raised at the auction go to support classroom work and to help enrich our children's Douglas experience. A group of dedicated parents, headed up by our Auction Co-Chairs Anya Fillion and Naomi Martin, have been working hard to prepare for what will certainly be a wonderful evening.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or comments. Thanks!

Kristan Smith-Park, ksmith068@gmail.com,

Deanne O'Sullivan, deannewos@gmail.com

2010–2011 PTO Co-Chairs

February Vacation Program a Resounding Success!

The Second Annual Douglas School February Vacation Program was a smashing success! The kids were thrilled to do lots of arts and crafts, play bingo with prizes, and go on a walking field trip for pizza. Special surprise guests had the kids making journals from paper they created themselves. If you ask the kids, they will say the highlights of camp were cup-stacking contests and structured games in the gym. The flexibility of the program appealed to the parents. Some kids attended all four days, others for a day or two.

We look forward to our April Vacation Program which will be offered Tuesday, April 19–Friday, April 22 from 8:30 AM–3:30 PM, with extended hours 7:30–8:30 AM and 3:30–6 PM. Plan on it!

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

12th Annual Douglas Spring Social and Auction Update and Special Request

The Spring Social and Auction committee continues to make great progress as we prepare for the big **April 2** event. Check out dozens of auction items that have been donated so far at www.douglasauction.webs.com/auctionitems.htm. In the coming weeks before the auction, we'll continue to post new donations, including photos of the creative items prepared by each classroom, which are always so popular at the event. Our biggest push right now is for the sale of raffle tickets. A few weeks ago, each Douglas family received a packet of raffle tickets via your child's folder, showcasing exciting prizes such as a 16 GB Apple iPad, a 4 GB Flip MinoHD, and a generous gift certificate for dinner at The Capital Grille. This is a great opportunity for families to help raise money for the auction, by selling a few tickets to friends and family. Remember, you don't have to be at the event to win a prize. If you've already sold tickets, please send them in, as directed on your packet. If you haven't sold any yet, there's still time! Finally, have you RSVPed to attend yet? RSVPs have been rolling in, so make sure you reserve your spot – in past years we've sold out!

RSVP forms, along with lots of other information about this year's auction, can be found at: www.douglasauction.webs.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Anya Fillion and Naomi Martin, Auction Co-Chairs

Douglas Around the World—Festival of Cultures

Get your passports ready to travel around the world! We will visit several countries in one evening! All Douglas families are invited to attend the Festival of Cultures on Saturday, May 14, at RJ Grey Junior High from 5:30–8:30.

The Festival of Cultures celebrates our student population's rich ethnic and cultural diversity. Our ambassadors, who are volunteer parents, set up booths that children can visit and learn from. The booths typically have items of clothing, books, music, photographs, artwork, and games from the country being represented.

This year we already have ambassadors representing Argentina, China, England, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. We hope to recruit even more ambassadors from other areas and cultures of the globe.

We also have a program featuring children performing music and dance from around the world. The program for this year is quickly filling up, so please contact us if you know of a student or group of students who would like to perform.

As this event has become more popular every year for its cultural flair, we need many more volunteers to help with planning, set up, clean up, etc. Please consider helping so we can all enjoy this great evening!

Please contact Maria Albarran to sign up as an ambassador, performer, or volunteer. Thanks to all of you who have already contacted me!

Maria Albarran, 978.263.6807, rivero_albarran@yahoo.com

This month's recipe from Eating Well Magazine: Frozen Chocolate-Covered Bananas

Kids will love dipping bananas in melted chocolate and rolling them in coconut to make this tasty frozen treat.



12 servings. Active time: 15 minutes;
Total time: 2 1/4 hours

4 large ripe bananas, peeled and cut into thirds crosswise
3/4 cup semisweet or bittersweet chocolate chips, melted (see Tip)
1/4 cup shredded coconut

Peel 4 large ripe bananas, cut in thirds, and insert a popsicle stick into the cut end of each piece. Melt semisweet or bitter-sweet chocolate chips. Cover each piece of banana with melted chocolate and sprinkle with coconut. (Reheat chocolate, as needed, to keep it melted.) Place the bananas on a baking sheet lined with parchment or wax paper and freeze until frozen, about 2 hours.

- ◆ Tip: To melt chocolate, microwave on medium for 1 minute. Stir, then continue microwaving on medium in 20-second intervals until melted, stirring after each interval. Or place in the top of a double boiler over hot, but not boiling water. Stir until melted.

Nutrition Information per serving: calories: 100, total fat: 4g (3g sat, 1g mono), cholesterol: 4mg, carbohydrates: 6g, added sugars: 6g, protein: 1g, fiber: 2g, sodium: 7mg, potassium: 207mg.



March Reading Challenge

The annual Douglas March Reading Challenge kicked off on Thursday, March 3. The theme this year is “Reading to Kenya, Africa.” Students will be reading above and beyond their assigned school work to make their way to Kenya, Africa, where the Douglas community hopes to build a school. Each 10 minutes read by the students will get us one mile closer on our 7,200 mile journey!



There will be a large map in the lobby displaying the progress of the students. Animal markers on the map will show how far the students travel each week based on their number of minutes read. There will be a new system for recording the students’ reading this year; a weekly e-mail from Dr. Whitbeck will include a link to a form for each parent or student to fill out recording the number of minutes read for that week. A paper form will be available for anyone for whom this process is not possible.

This year’s March Reading Challenge will continue the Douglas tradition of reading toward a school-wide goal to help others outside the Douglas community. This year, we will be asking for pledges to help build the school in Kenya, Africa. We hope you and your students join us on this journey of reading, community, building and fun! What do you think Dr. Whitbeck will do this year if we read all the way to Kenya, Africa?

Sasha Demello, sdemello@mail.ab.mec.edu

Sue Stewart, sstewart@mail.ab.mec.edu

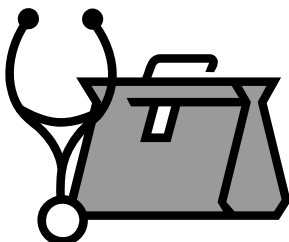
Stacey Smith, sbtsmith@verizon.net

LeeAnn Layton, layton.family@yahoo.com

Rising Fourth Graders: Physical Exams

State law requires a physical examination for all students **entering grade 4**. It is preferred that the child’s primary health care provider, who knows the child best, administer the physical exam. If your child does not have access to a private primary care provider, you should contact your school nurse for assistance.

Please forward a copy of your child’s physical, completed in 2011, to the school nurse. If you have already done so, thank you!



Immunization Requirements: Important Notice for Parents/ Guardians of Sixth Graders

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has the following requirements for all students **entering Grade 7** in September 2011:

- ◆ **MMR:** 2 doses
- ◆ **Varicella:** A physician-certified history of chicken pox disease or two doses of varicella-containing vaccine for students under 13 years old.
- ◆ **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses
- ◆ **Tdap:** a single dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine
- ◆ A copy of an up-to-date physical examination will also be required for all students before entering Grade 7.

Many of these vaccines may have been administered during elementary school. Please check with your healthcare provider to be certain that your child’s immunizations are up-to-date and documented in his/her record. Send a copy of the exam and updated information record to the Douglas health office and the information will be included in your child’s health record when it is transferred to the Junior High in June. If you do not have the necessary paperwork completed before the end of school, send it to the school nurse at the Junior High by August 26.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, March 1	March Reading Challenge kickoff
Friday, March 11	Scrip orders due
Friday, March 11	Movie night for Grades 4–6, 7 PM
Saturday, March 12	Daylight Saving Time begins—turn clocks forward
March 21, 22, 23, and 25	MCAS testing, Grades 3–6
Tuesday, March 22	PTO General Meeting and Douglas/Gates Speaker Series, 7 PM at Douglas
Wednesday, March 23	Douglas Digest deadline for April issue
Thursday, March 24	Talent Show for Grades 4–6
Friday, March 25	Movie night for Grades 2–3, 7 PM
Wednesday, March 30	Read Aloud Day
Thursday, March 31	Talent Show for Grades K–3
Saturday, April 2	Spring Social and Auction, Wedgewood Pines Country Club

Snack Cart Donations

March 3	(Grade 5 and ADK) Mrs. Cherkerzian, Mrs. Rand, Mrs. Sharp, Miss Fitzpatrick
March 10	Pretzel Day
March 17	(Grades 4 and 6) Mrs. Bethel, Mrs. Breslin, Mrs. Nadolny, Mrs. Hubbell
March 24	(Grades 3 and 6) Mr. Cail, Mrs. Ritter, Mrs. Simeone, Mrs. Christensen
March 31	(Grades 2 and 6) Mrs. Kay, Mrs. Littlefield, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Oxnard

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MCAS Dates—2011

Dear Parents of 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students:

Your children will be taking the MCAS tests on the following dates:

- Grade 3: March 21, 22, and 23
May 9, 10, and 11
- Grade 4: March 21, 22, 23, and 25
May 9, 10, and 11
- Grade 5: March 21, 22, and 23
May 9, 10, 11, 16, and 17
- Grade 6: March 21, 22, and 23
May 9, 10, and 11

Please make every effort to have your children attend school on these dates and arrive promptly by 8:30 AM; tests will begin shortly after the start of school.

Your support is appreciated.

Dr. Christopher Whitbeck