

# DOUGLAS DIGEST

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## Douglas Digest

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The Douglas School PTO publishes the Digest every six weeks during the school year.  
**Next issue: May 5.**

We welcome article ideas and feedback. Please email Lori at [lori@fassman.com](mailto:lori@fassman.com).

## From the PTO

Well, Punxsutawney Phil was right...this winter has been long, cold, snowy, and full of skiing, sledding, and ice skating. But neither wind, nor rain, nor school cancellations will stop Douglas from its usual course of bustling activities! Our ever-popular **Read Aloud Day**, on March 3, kicked off the **March Reading Challenge**; the 3-day African Drumming Residency and Art Expo brought the world closer to our students and expanded their

global appreciation of arts and music. Our **Speaker Series on Monday, March 10** (7 PM), will feature Sandra Cortesi, Director of Harvard's Youth and Media Project, to talk about technology and our children; our high-energy **Spirit Day** will be held this **Thursday, March 13**.

To close out the month with a bang, we will gather at the annual **SPRING SOCIAL AND AUCTION on March 29**. Socialize with other Douglas families, listen to the musical stylings of The Acton Music Project, and enjoy a little bidding fun, all while you support our classroom assistants! See more information on page 2.

Our annual **Talent Shows** will take place on **April 3** (grades 4–6) and **April 10** (grades K–3) both at 9:45 AM. Bring your cameras and your smiles because “America’s Got Talent” has nothing on these kids!

Interested in tasting mouth-watering delicacies with an international flair, learning about different cultures, and seeing an impressive performance reflecting customs from around the world? If so, the **Festival of Cultures** is for you! Douglas and Conant co-host this inspiring evening event on **April 12** at the Junior High. Please see our spotlight feature on the next page for more details.

Behind the scenes, the PTO is planning our 2014–2015 budget, reviewing how funds have been raised and spent, and adjusting for next year. It's an exciting time of planning as we make recommendations for new activities and expenditures (such as a PTO gift to the school) and revisit existing spending and activities to ensure our planning makes sense. We encourage the community to get involved—your opinions count. We will present the budget for next year and our nominees for next year's PTO Board of Directors at our **General PTO Meeting on April 29**. If you are interested in getting involved with the PTO, this is a great time to contact us; we just may have a role that matches your skills and interests. Hope to see you at the meeting!

*Eileen Matarese and Karen Jarsky*  
PTO Co-Chairs

## I Say I Want a Revolution

My old Honda CRV exploded! Or more specifically, undercover gremlins infiltrated the clutch and broke it into a million pieces that embedded themselves into the gearbox. Dealing with car problems is on par with my annual dental appointment—I imagine I'll need new teeth, tongue, and a partial jaw replacement. In this case, as the CRV limped into the car doctor, my worst fears were realized. Replace the what? Come again? You're kidding. I didn't know that could happen.

Taking the car to the repair shop is like taking an old dog to the vet—knowing a dog can't live forever—and its demise may not be far away.

Sure, it's good to know what inevitably needs doing. But it's still a bummer to find out.

One new clutch later I can finally shift, but not into second or fourth gear.

Reverse is a gamble—adding excitement to each parking space.

But for 204,000 miles the CRV has been reliably trouble-free, and while it is limping, it still gets me around. So for now I drive tentatively, hoping I can start, shift into the next gear, or that the judgmental pedestrian doesn't recognize me as I grind it into reverse.

And so, as I write this, I prepare to enter the world of the car salesman. The world has changed incredibly since I was born in the 60s. I remember the introduction of the color TV, audio cassette tapes, 8-track tapes, calculators, food processors, VCRs, video games, post-it notes, CDs, DVDs, cell phones, instamatic cameras, PCs, the Mac, and the internet. Things have changed, and car sales have stayed the same! This is one of the many future (and I realize, minor) problems facing our children. I use it to illustrate the need to teach our children to think differently. They need to think creatively, to be innovative and entrepreneurial. The world of car sales seems to be stuck in the past—a world of linear thinking, conformity, and standardization—the world of the assembly line. I look forward to seeing many more years of inventions and innovations. I look forward to leading a school that prepares students to be the leaders of this innovative world! Perhaps, even, the leaders of the car sales revolution!

*C. Whitbeck*

## Dates to Remember

**Monday, March 10, 7:00 PM**

PTO General Meeting  
Speaker Series, 7:30 PM

**Thursday, March 13**

Spirit Day

**March 17, 18, and 19**

MCAS testing, Grades 3, 5, 6

**March 17, 18, 19, and 21**

MCAS testing, Grade 4

**Thursday, March 20**

APS School Committee Meeting

**Thursday, March 27, 7 PM**

Joint School Committee Meeting

**Saturday, March 29, 6 PM**

Douglas Spring Social and Auction

**Wednesday, April 2, 4:30–7:30 PM**

AB PIP Market Math, Roche Bros, Grade 3

**Thursday, April 3, 9:45 AM**

Talent Show, Grades 4–6

**Thursday, April 10, 9:45 AM**

Talent Show, Grades K–3

**Saturday, April 12, 5–8:30 PM**

Festival of Cultures

**Friday, April 18**

Good Friday, No School

**April 21–25**

Spring Break

**Saturday, April 26**

Campus Cleanup (Rain Date, April 28)

**Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 PM**

PTO General Meeting

## Snack Cart Donations

See snack details on the PTO website.

March 13	Grades K and 2
March 20	Popcorn, Grade 6
March 27	Grades 4 and 5
April 3	Pretzel Day
April 10	Grades 2 and 3
April 17	Popcorn, Grade 1
April 24	No School
May 1	Pretzel Day

## Save These Dates

**May 5, 6, and 7**

MCAS testing, Grades 3, 4, 6

**May 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13**

MCAS testing, Grade 5

Douglas has a vibrant online Facebook community. Join the **Douglas Elementary School** group to receive timely news and announcements, and have access to great photos and videos of school happenings.



Find us on  
**Facebook**



Spotlight

## Spotlight:

### Festival of Cultures

Love to travel? Enjoy exotic cuisines? Revel in the glitz and glamour of the theater? Come celebrate our cultural diversity at the annual Festival of Cultures. Together, Douglas and Conant

schools sponsor this one-of-a-kind event to bring you a fantastic international experience.

You'll travel to different countries as you view artwork, books, music, photographs, toys, games, and hands-on activities and chat with our ambassadors. You will taste flavorful food at the international potluck (each family brings a dish to feed 6–8 people). This is a great opportunity to try something new!

The evening ends with a first class performance including traditional music, songs, and dances reflecting customs from around the world—all done by students with the participation of music teachers and principals.

The Festival of Cultures will be held on **Saturday, April 12, 5–8:30 PM**, at RJ Grey Junior High. This event has become more popular every year; we need a lot of volunteers! If you are interested in being an ambassador, performer, or volunteer, please contact Maria at [mayiyoalbarran@gmail.com](mailto:mayiyoalbarran@gmail.com).

## Purposeful Change

Remember the colorful boxes sent home this fall? Are they filled with change? We need \$5,000 to meet our goal—that's about \$13 per family.

Help your change realize its purpose—building a school in Osenetoi, Kenya. Send your change and send Kenyan children to school! Donations are due by **March 31**.



## Douglas Spring Social and Auction—Coming Soon!

You may realize the Spring Social and Auction is the biggest Douglas fundraiser of the year, but it's also the biggest social event of the year! Here are some highlights and important dates.

Douglas Rock-n-Roll Social and Fundraiser: **Saturday, March 29, 6–10:30 PM**

**Buy tickets** online at [www.douglasschoolauction.com](http://www.douglasschoolauction.com) or via the paper RSVP form sent home in your child's backpack. The deadline for purchasing tickets is **Friday, March 21**. (\$35/guest)

Book your sitter, or register your children for **Movie Night**, the on-site kids' social event of the year: send an email to [auction@DouglasSchoolPTO.org](mailto:auction@DouglasSchoolPTO.org) or send in the paper form. (\$20/child)

Sell those **raffle tickets**, whether you can go to the event or not. Ticket stubs and money due to the Douglas office by **Friday morning, March 28**.

**Volunteer** the day of the event, for set up, check-in, raffle ticket sales, balloon sales, or clean-up. Send an email to [auction@DouglasSchoolPTO.org](mailto:auction@DouglasSchoolPTO.org).

Find lots more information about the Douglas Rock-n-Roll Social and Fundraiser and see what's already in the auction catalog online: [www.DouglasSchoolAuction.com](http://www.DouglasSchoolAuction.com).

## Spotlight: Band-Aids and Fevers and Headaches... Oh My!

We thought we'd get to know a treasured member of the Douglas community: our nurse, Diann Oster. She was kind enough to answer a few questions about herself. We're giving you just a little tease here; visit [www.DouglasSchoolPTO.org](http://www.DouglasSchoolPTO.org) for her complete answers.

Diann grew up in Watertown, MA, where she was the captain of her basketball team. She and her husband moved to Acton in 1994; her son Joe is an AB graduate (now studying business at Babson College) and her daughter Nina is a junior at AB. The family also includes Molly, a golden retriever, and Sebastian, a cat.

Diann has worked at Douglas since 2010. She loves the variety of her job, and has helped update the district's concussion protocol and field trip medical guidelines and implement new technology to support local school nurses.

Diann says one of the best things parents can do is update the Online Emergency Card via PowerSchool: "Working phone numbers, emails, and a contact person who could get to school within an hour for your student is very helpful for nurses."

Diann expressed gratitude for the annual CVS gift card (funded by you through the PTO!) that helps her buy "extras" to care for our children. Overall, Diann said, "I very much enjoy being with your children and at our great school!"

## Thankful, Appreciative, Grateful, Obligated...

To everyone who volunteered for Kindergarten Tours, Winter Nature Walks, Read Aloud Day and the March Reading Challenge, the African Drumming Residency and the illustrious Spring Social and Auction—Douglas School wouldn't be the same without you! **Thank you!**