

DOUGLAS DIGEST

office: 978.266.2560
principal: Dr. Christopher Whitbeck
school: <http://douglas.abschools.org>
PTO: <http://www.DouglasSchoolPTO.org>

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Douglas Digest

Editors:

Sharon Metzger
Jill Maxwell

Distribution:

Michele Walsh

The Douglas School PTO publishes the Digest seven times each school year. **Next issue: June 3.**

We welcome article ideas and feedback. Please email Sharon at Sharon.metzger@gmail.com.

From the PTO

Dare we say it? It's finally spring! The day lilies and daffodils have finally pushed through, and Douglas has been abuzz with its usual level of hustle and bustle:

- Nearly 200 of us went Back to the 80s at the 16th Annual Spring Social & Fund-raiser on March 21. We raised more than \$27,000, which will help fund our classroom assistants. Thank you to everyone who pitched in, from solicitations to raffle tickets to set-up to simply showing up. Each one of you made a difference!
- Talent show season is upon us. Our 5th and 6th graders have already dazzled us with their abilities, and our younger grades are waiting for their cue. Many thanks to our gifted music teacher, Mr. Broggi, for working with parents Joan Luciani and Sheryl Fox to organize these fabulous shows. And thank you to this year's master of ceremonies, John Greenland!
- Did you travel the world without ever leaving Acton at our 17th annual Festival of Cultures? Kristan Smith-Park, Maria Albarran, and Joan Luciani worked with parents from Conant School and a bevy of volunteers to put together another incredible evening of food, crafts, music, and conversation. A true Douglas favorite, for so many reasons!
- And a great big thank you to Hayley and Suki Reynolds, Nancy and Torben Stillman, and David and Eli Jarsky for spending a Sunday afternoon raking, weeding, and pruning the Douglas gardens. The spring blossoms have never looked better!

There are many more wonderful events to look forward to before the end of the school year:

- On Wednesday, May 20, we will show our appreciation for Douglas teachers and staff by hosting a delicious luncheon for them. If you'd like to volunteer an hour, contact Eileen Matarese (mrsematta@verizon.net).
- The Douglas Memorial Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 22, 9:30am. The event includes a performance by the 5th and 6th grade band, a guest speaker, and a patriotic sing-along. Parents are welcome to attend!
- On May 28, we will welcome graduating AB seniors who attended Douglas to our Alumni Reception, where they have the opportunity to gather with teachers and enjoy light refreshments as they wax nostalgic about their Douglas years. (Want to help out with this simple, sentimental affair? Contact Karen Jarsky at ptokaren@gmail.com.)
- Douglas Day is fast approaching on Tuesday, June 2. All are welcome—and many are needed!—on this special day of games and revelry. See the Spotlight on page 2 for more details.
- On Saturday, June 27, Douglas takes its annual trip to see the Lowell Spinners play! The deadline for ordering tickets was April 30, but if you missed that date, you can ask Mary Lavene (melavene@yahoo.com) about available seats.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and who will help to make these events a wonderful success!

Karen Jarsky and Abigail Vargus
PTO Cochairs

Suddenly, Everything Happens at Once

One day it is cold and windy and snowing. Everyone is sluggishly enduring the last days of winter. The next day the weather turns warm, the sky blue, the land green, and the flowers burst from the soil. Our piles of snow disappear, leaving little trace of this confusing winter. Now, there's pollen in the air, and explosive sneezes set off car alarms and scare dogs. The sight of goo running from a nose alarms mothers, and the reflexive parental act of producing a wad of tissue, in turn, alarms children.

At some age we become aware of the social implications of tending to the nose. It's just not a public act. You have a nose, and you have to deal with it sometimes. If you really want to clear all the goo out of your head, seek privacy. Go where you can't be seen or heard and blow good. In the meantime, it's messy and all of our adult intervention can make it messier.

This reminds me of learning. Just like the snotty nose, learning can be messy and there is nothing wrong or shameful about the mess. It only seems nasty, but the mess can really bug adults. These are two small conditions that unite the human race. If you have a nose, or ever had to struggle to learn something, you know what I'm talking about. Suddenly, everything happens at once and you have learned how to deal with it.

C. Whitbeck

Dates to Remember

May 4, 5, and 6

MCAS testing, Grades 3, 4, 6

May 4, 5, 6, 11, and 12

MCAS testing, Grade 5

Friday, May 8

ADK Field Trip, Big Apple Circus

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

Friday, May 15

Grade 2 Field Trip, Old School Day

Monday, May 18

Grade 3 Field Trip, Lowell Mills

Wednesday, May 20

Staff Appreciation Luncheon, 11am

Thursday, May 21

Mini We Day, 1pm

School Committee Meeting, 7pm

Friday, May 22

Memorial Day Program, 9:30am

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day, No School

Tuesday, May 26

Grade 4 Field Trip, Chelmsford Playhouse

Wednesday, May 27

Grades 1 and 4 Japanese Graduation

Thursday, May 28

K-Grade 2 Talent Show, 8:50am
Alumni Reception, 3:30pm

Monday, June 1

PTO General Meeting, 7:30pm

Tuesday, June 2

Douglas Day (rain date: June 9)

Save the Dates

Friday, June 5

Grades K, 2, 3 Japanese Graduation
Last day of Douglas Post Office

Thursday, June 11

Spring Band Concert (at Jr. High), 7pm
School Committee Meeting, 7pm

Thursday, June 25

Last Day of School; half-day release
Grade 6 Graduation, 9:30am
School Committee Meeting, 7pm

Saturday, June 27

Douglas Night at Lowell Spinners, 5pm



Spotlight: Douglas Day

It's an annual tradition that signals the approaching end of another school year, and the beginning of summertime fun:

Douglas Day! This year, the event will be held on Tuesday, June 2, with a rain date of Tuesday, June 9. The whole Douglas community—teachers, staff, students, and parents—will come out to play!

What kid wouldn't want to dunk a parent in the dunk tank, race with classmates, and eat a picnic lunch with friends and family? Each class divides into four color-coded teams for a morning of field events like scooter racing, catapults, bucket brigades, parachute games, and three-legged races. And everyone gets a chance to dunk a teacher or parent in the dunk tank! Students buy or bring a picnic lunch and sit outside on blankets to eat with family and friends. At the end of the day, thanks to our Cultural Enrichment team, the students will enjoy an incredible magic show.

We need many adults to help set up and run the games. Volunteers are needed from approximately 8:45am-1:15pm (including time to eat lunch with your child/children). If a full shift is too much, split a shift with a friend! Contact Katherine Lee (kwylee@yahoo.com) for more information, and keep an eye out for a sign-up link coming soon in the Eagle Eye Weekly. (Note: All volunteers and lunch guests must have valid CORI forms on file.)

How Will YOU Get Involved Next Year?

Have you been wanting to dip your toe into the Douglas PTO waters, but weren't sure where to begin? We can help! As we think ahead to next year, we are beginning to fill some very exciting PTO roles. For example, are you...

- A good listener, and free for several evening meetings throughout the school year? Join us as the PTO secretary!
- Handy on the computer and/or a good networker, even if your free hours aren't school hours? Sign on as the technical or liaison Volunteer Coordinator and help the volunteer train chugging.
- A shopping guru, always looking for a great deal? Coordinate the Scrip gift card program!
- Fond of the Douglas staff AND a good party? Coordinate the Staff Appreciation Luncheon next spring!

If you would like to get involved, please contact Abigail Vargus (abigailpto@gmail.com). We'd love to have you aboard!

Auction Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey following the Spring Social & Fundraiser. What a lot of great advice you gave us! Here are a few of the highlights from the results:

The majority of you (87%) felt this event is somewhat or very important, primarily because it's an opportunity for adults in the Douglas community to come together and have some fun.

Along the same lines, 74% of you said it would be a bad idea to replace the auction with a larger annual appeal.

More than half of you (54%) prefer a band to a DJ at an event like this.

We have a pretty good balance across types of auction items, and the new grade-level gift baskets and Wine Grab were a hit.

Many of you thought we could get more people to the event if we publicized it in new and different ways.

Most often, families who didn't attend said they simply had other plans. With that in mind... Next year's event will be held on Saturday, March 19. Mark your calendars now!

Do you have ideas for how we can make next year's event even better? We're all ears! Send a note to auction@douglasschoolpto.org.

Snack Cart Donations

See snack details on the PTO website.

May 7 Grades 2 and 3
May 14 Grades K and 1
May 21 Popcorn; Grades 5 and 6
May 28 Grades 3 and 4
June 4 Grades 1 and 2
June 11 Last day of snack cart