

DOUGLAS DIGEST

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Douglas Digest

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The Douglas School PTO publishes the Digest seven times each school year. **Next issue: September—have a great summer!**

We welcome ideas and feedback; email Jill at jillhmaxwell@gmail.com.

From the PTO

Thank you!

We would like to take this special opportunity to extend our gratitude to every person who has generously contributed to Douglas in myriad ways. You have given your time, knowledge, and all kinds of support. Please accept our heartfelt thank you! Douglas wouldn't be the same without all you do.

Before you sign off for the summer, keep in mind that there's still more fun to be had! Make sure you save some time and Douglas spirit for these events:

- **Canobie Lake Park:** Please join us as we kick off the summer at our annual Douglas School trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH, on Friday, June 29. Douglas community members have a special \$27 rate that day. Thank you to Rachel Meehan for coordinating!
- **Lowell Spinners:** Take me out to the ball game! We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual Douglas School night at the Lowell Spinners game. This year, the game will be held on Monday, June 18, 6:35pm. Thank you again to Mary Lavene for organizing!

Tracey Zachary & Amber Harvey
PTO Co-chairs 2017-2018

A June Valentine

When you walk through the Douglas hallways, you might notice the artwork posted on the walls: self-portraits, snowflakes in winter, and maybe some hearts for Valentine's Day. I remember being taught the great secret that heart shapes can be made by simply folding red paper in half first before cutting. Fold once. Cut once. Unfold. Shazam! A heart.

Valentine's Day is not a national holiday declared by politicians. It's not run by any religion. If anybody is in charge of Valentine's Day, it's Kindergarten teachers. They introduce us to making our first red heart—just fold here, cut once, unfold—A HEART!

At some point we learn that real hearts are not smoothly symmetrical. Sometime after that we find out that real love is not symmetrical, either. Just like a more realistic heart would be a cutout with lumpy, raggedy, asymmetrical sides, real love looks more like the snowflakes the students cut out a month before—no two alike.

The same is true of learning. Imagine what a cutout of learning would look like. Mine would be a mess, especially if you tried to connect it to someone else's. No two people learn something the same way. Some people's learning cutouts would be sinuous curves leading from point A to point B. Some would be symmetrical lines between the same points. Some people would have twelve points between A and B; their cutouts would not fit on one page and might actually go through different classrooms and different grades with lots of knots and weird dead ends in the middle.

We are getting better at teaching so that each child's learning cutout has a place in our school. We are not there yet. One obstacle is our expectation that every child master a long list of standards every year. We can begin to change that by looking carefully at our progress reports.

Emerging, growing, and meets are the three important assessments you'll see on your child's progress report in June. These assessments are not A, B, or C. They report where a child is on a path to understanding. Children's learning is not a cookie cutter identical cutout so there should be no expectation that they would be at the same point at the end of the year. We do a very good job of telling you where they are, and we have lots of ideas about moving them closer to the goal. You might want to ask about that at your conference. If the answer is that your child is unique, thank the teacher for noticing. You may even want to send them a paper heart.

C. Whitbeck

Thank You...Merci...Gracias! ಧನ್ಯವಾದಗಳು 谢谢

The overwhelming contribution of time from Douglas parents is awe-inspiring. Our parents stay busy organizing, gardening, scheduling, overseeing, selling, clipping, popping, purchasing, recruiting, delivering, baking, welcoming, printing, calling, guiding, encouraging, teaching, scrubbing, inflating, creating delicious dishes, decorating, filing, taping, cooking, serving, painting, scouting, photographing, playing, announcing, scooping, translating, typing, copying, reshelving, eating, driving, computing, filming, accounting, arranging, transcribing, designing, listening, reading, and simply caring.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your time, your energy, and your enthusiasm for all of the various pursuits to which you have contributed. We hope it has been as rewarding to you as it was to us, and to Douglas School. We also want to thank a few people for some recent events and programs:

- **Carol Buysse, Katherine Huffman, and Swetha Kapoor:** For taking us around the world in our own backyard during this year's Akiko Sensei Festival of Cultures. Families learned about other cultures, watched performances, and enjoyed food from many countries! We want to extend a special shout out to Carol Buysse, who has put an exceptional amount of time into the Akiko Sensei Festival of Cultures!
- **Judith Andrade, Christina West, and Amy Lowe:** For your fantastic dedication to the Eagle's Nest School Store every week. We thank you for the amount of time, organization, and effort required to keep the school store running smoothly!
- **Tina Leonard, Laura Schmidt, and Melissa Gaudette:** For their enormous effort organizing a super fun—and super successful—Spring Social & Auction!
- **Annie Hamill, Melissa Callaghan, Michelle Kenney, and Kathleen Ammendolia:** For the amount of time and dedication you put into the first-ever Douglas Fun Run! This event was not only exciting and fun for our children, it was one of our highest-grossing PTO events. Additionally, it garnered the highest level of family participation in our fund-raising efforts (72%).
- **Heather Lammey:** Thank you for your continued dedication to Lost and Found. As parents, we are so thankful for the mittens, boots, sweatshirts, and everything else we have been able to recover before emptying the Lost and Found box.
- **Karyn Parker:** For the amount of time and effort it takes to organize the various grade-specific cultural enrichment activities for our children, as well as the engage all-school performances.
- **TJ Quirk and Kathleen Ammendolia:** For organizing (another) Douglas Day, weather permitting, on June 8! We hope all families are able to come, participate, and picnic with your kids!
- **Anna McHargue & Susan Giulietti:** For co-hosting another delicious Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Additionally, thank you to the volunteers on the day of the event including **Narci Woods, Wendy Curtis, and Caitlin Ryan.** Thank you as well to all of the parents and volunteers who contributed supplies, scrumptious dishes, and baked goods. This luncheon once again brightened the day for all Douglas staff.
- **Melissa Callaghan** and the Baking Committee: For the scrumptious sweets for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon and all of the other events throughout the year that you contribute to!
- **Stacey Smith:** For managing the Scrip program, which continues to raise funds for Douglas School by helping us get our shopper on!

- The Eagle Rewards Shopping team of **Maria Parodos, Katherine Lee, SoYoung Chang, Marina Cronin, and Caitlin Ryan:** For their enthusiasm and dedication in their coordination of Box Tops, Labels for Education, Amazon Smile, and the Concord Bookstore event. Thank you to all of the families who supported the program by sending in receipts, labels, and coupons, as well as those who clicked and shopped their way to rewards.
- **Cydney Cotter** and all the Safe Arrivals volunteers: For never letting a day go by without making sure all Douglas students were accounted for.
- **Karen Pierce and Claire Draper:** For cochairing the Hospitality Committee. Their time and effort ensured many were warmly welcomed to so many meetings and events.
- **Jill Maxwell** and her team of volunteers including **Abigail Vargus and Sarah Protopopov:** For pulling together Douglas Digest after Douglas Digest with speed and style.
- **Katie Raymond and Christina West:** For organizing and arranging Spiritwear!
- **Karen Pierce and Nancy Stillman:** For running the beautiful and enlightening Nature Walks, along with the many parents who volunteered!
- **Bill Hekking, Holly Fitzgerald, Jakki Eckmann, and Lori Fassman:** For their amazing array of technological, editorial, and organizational skills that appear effortless to the many families who depend on the emails and website for information.
- **Holly Fitzgerald and Jakki Eckmann:** For taking the lead on the transition to the new Douglas PTO website.

Thanks to School Staff

Thank you, too, to all of the Douglas teachers, assistants, specialists, special education teachers, and staff for the support you give to the PTO. Without each and every one of you, Douglas would not be the special place that we love. Thank you to **Chris Whitbeck** and **Jenna Larrenaga** for your kindness and enthusiastic devotion to Douglas, and to **Sharen Crooks, Laurie Maylander, and Stephanie Krantz** for support and assistance at keeping everything humming at Douglas.

Thank you to **Aaron Foley** and **Stylianios Kounalakis**, our crack custodial team that makes Douglas shine and our children smile; to **Kathie Clifford** and the kitchen staff, who make sure our kids have healthy food all year long; to **Diann Oster** and **Tory Reiersen**, the nurses who bandage, console, and care for the students at Douglas; and to **Sasha Opel** and **Sue Stewart**, who keep our children captivated by stories, ensuring they have adventures they will always treasure. We can't voice our appreciation enough to all of you!

See you all in the fall!

*Tracey Zachary & Amber Harvey
PTO Co-chairs 2017-2018*

Spring Exhibitions

The end of the school year is right around the corner, so what better time to come in and see what your kids are up to? They have been hard at work and are excited to share with you! Please join us **Tuesday, June 19**, at the following times:

6:00–6:45pm Kindergarten, Second Grade, and Third Grade
7:00–7:45pm Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade, and Sixth Grade

Summertime!

Summer hasn't even started yet, and already we're telling you about things to keep in mind for fall? Yup, it's true. But this is great information, so please read on! (Many of these links are not active yet, but will be highlighted on the PTO website when they are.)

- **Moving within Acton/Boxborough?** New email address or cell number? Update emergency contact info in PowerSchool (<https://absis.ab.mec.edu>).
- **Moving out of Acton/Boxborough?** If you are moving out of the district, please notify the Douglas School office staff.
- **Complete the online Volunteer Survey** when it opens in late August (the link will be available via email and PowerSchool, as well as on the PTO site).
- **Mark your calendar for class placement!** On Tuesday, August 21, your child's class placement will be available online via PowerSchool (<https://absis.ab.mec.edu>). Note: You will need to create an account if you haven't already. After you complete the emergency forms and PTO survey, class placement should appear.
- **Keep in touch:** If you aren't receiving weekly email announcements from the PTO, join the list (or update your email address) by sending an email to technology.secretary@DouglasSchoolPTO.org. These emails are a great way to keep up with what's going on at school all year long. They include reminders of when report cards are available, when school picture day is scheduled, which current activities need volunteers, and much more.

You can also join our Facebook page, which is a neat way to hear stories and see photos of what's going on at Douglas.

Have a wonderful summer vacation!

Dedication That Goes Above and Beyond

We would like to extend a special thank you to long-standing board and committee members who are graduating from Douglas. We thank you for the amount of time and dedication you have put into attending board meetings, general meetings, co-chairing committees, and who have generally helped out! Thank you and best wishes as you graduate from Douglas!

We understand that many of you have helped with so many positions throughout the years at Douglas, many of which we couldn't even begin to list. Please pardon us if we do not mention you in our thank yous! We assure you, it is not intentional; it is either because we no longer have a record of it, or it was before the time the current PTO members were active in the PTO.

Lynn Armstrong: Thank you for your time in various positions including the Interschool Council Representative.

SoYoung Chang: Thank you for all of the time and effort you have put into the Festival of Cultures throughout the years. Thank you as well for the amount of time you have dedicated to the ESR Team!

Darlene Crowley: Thank you for all of the time and effort you put into our unique and wonderful Nature Walk Program!

Valerie Gore: Thank you for helping with the moving Veterans Day program.

Corinne Hogseth: Thank you for the record number of years you dedicated to being the treasurer of the PTO! Additionally, for all of the time you put into all of the meetings.

Linda Huebner: Thank you for safely getting the kids to school while organizing the walking school bus.

Mimi Kirkman: Thank you for your painstaking efforts on the very valuable Douglas Directory!

Kara Letourneau: Thank you for serving as technology secretary.

Deanne O'Sullivan: Thank you for the time you put in as a PTO co-chair. We appreciate the help you dedicated to the yearbook committee, other sixth-grade activities, School Committee, the Joint PTO chair, and so much more!

Maria Parodos: Thank you for the extraordinary hard work and steadfast dedication you put into the Eagle Shopping Rewards Program. The amount of research and time you put into new programs has been incredible.

Jennifer Patenaude: Thank you for serving as an auction co-chair.

Karen Pierce: The PTO has been very fortunate to have so much of your help as Ice Cream Social Kitchen Staff, School Committee PTO Representative, Nature Walk Co-chair, Hospitality Co-chair, and much more. We have appreciated your attention to detail, your thoughts and ideas, and your humor through so many board and general meetings.



Dates to Remember

Thursday, June 7

Elementary Spring Band Concert,
ABRHS, 7pm
School Committee Meeting, RJ Grey
Library, 7pm

Friday, June 8

Douglas Day
Last Day of Instrument Lessons
Last Day of Post Office

Tuesday, June 12

Last Day to Check Lost & Found

Wednesday, June 13

Rain Date: Douglas Day
School District Building Committee,
RJ Grey Library, 7pm

Friday, June 15

Last Day of Eagle's Nest School Store

Monday, June 18

Douglas Night at Lowell Spinners,
6:35pm

Tuesday, June 19

Exhibitions, Grades K, 2 & 3, 6pm
Grades 4, 5, & 6, 7pm

Wednesday, June 20

All Library Books Due

Thursday, June 21

School Committee Meeting, RJ Grey
Library, 7pm

Friday, June 22

Sixth-Grade Graduation, 9:15am

Monday, June 25

School District Building Committee, RJ
Grey Library, 7pm

Wednesday, June 27

Last Day of School; Early Release

Friday, June 29

Douglas School Day at Canobie Lake Park

Sprinkled Throughout the Summer

Douglas Free Concert Series (Watch
Facebook for Details)

Thursday, August 21

PowerSchool opens 12pm
(<https://absis.ab.mec.edu>)

Monday-Friday, August 20-24

Douglas Vacation Program

Tuesday, August 28

New Family Orientation, 1-2pm

Thursday, August 30

Kindergarten Orientation, 1:30pm
First-Grade Orientation, 3pm

Tuesday, September 4

First Day of School!

Wednesday, September 12

Back-to-School Night
Grades 3-4, 6-6:45pm
Grades 5-6, 7-7:45pm

Monday, September 17

Back-to-School Night
Kindergarten, 6-6:45pm
Grades 1-2, 7-7:45pm

Tuesday, September 18

Photo Day

Thursday, September 20

Walk for Peace, 9:30am

Douglas PTO Board 2018-2019

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Open

Tina Leonard, Megan Kivela

Jason Fitzgerald

Farewell and Fond Memories

It's hard to believe another school year is winding down. Before we part ways, we wanted to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to the 40 families who will be leaving the Douglas community once their children graduate this month. On behalf of the PTO, thank you for all of your support and participation over the many seasons we've shared. The entire Douglas family will miss you, but we hope we'll see you soon, whether at a summer concert, the Ice Cream Social, or the spring auction. You're always welcome here!

Corinne Hogseth and Mark Albano

Lynn and Donald Armstrong

Lata and Sanjeev Bhatia

Monica and William Burke

Monica and Subir Chakraborty

Yong and SoYoung Chang

Marina and Edward Cronin

Darlene and Patrick Crowley

Madeline Cruz

Judith Marciano and Daniel Farah

Bronwen and Peter Faubert

Jill and Robert Fiore

Jennifer Patenaude and Bradley Fitts

Debora Gomes

Valerie Bauer and Jeffrey Gore

Sarah and Richard Holtz

Linda and James Huebner

Mimi and Jim Kirkman

Maria and AnnMarie Kulsick

Maureen and Peter Latham

Lee Ann Hutchinson-Layton and Russell
Layton

Kara and Larry Letourneau

Renata and Micheal Mahoney

Ana and Luis Maranga

Li Li and Bin Mo

Krista Brennan and Mohammad Nasir

Ajit Nayak and Sunita Raj

Lissett Nieto

Deanne and Sean O'Sullivan

Maria and Themis Parodos

Mary and Alex Patrick

Karen and Allen Pierce

Armin and Noy Resch

Hermas and Milton Santana

Godfrey Sebalabye

Andrey Shlyapnikov and
Tatiana Piliutova

Avnish & Roopali Madan Sikka

Manisha and Rishi Sinha

Janice and Rich Trombetta

Yukie and Kazuo Yoshizaki