

# DOUGLAS DIGEST

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January 26, 2020

## Douglas Digest

Editor:  
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The Douglas School PTO publishes the Digest three times each school year.

We welcome ideas and feedback! Email  
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## From the PTO

Happy New Year!

Our next general meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, January 28, at 7:30pm. In addition to a discussion of spring event planning, Dr. Whitbeck will be available to answer your school-related questions. Please log on and join us!

This is typically a quiet time of year for the PTO as we catch our breath between a flurry of fall activity and making plans for the spring and summer. In this unique school year, we are hoping to sprinkle in some extra community fun for the winter months. Plans are in the works for a virtual family drawing event with beloved illustrator Ralph Masiello; a virtual arts and crafts event; and perhaps another round of BINGO! The spirit of our community is one of the best things about Douglas School, and the PTO is always looking for ways to keep us all connected, even if that has to be virtually for the time being. If you have any ideas for a virtual event, please get in touch!

We are filled with gratitude to our school staff and all of our families who have worked hard to make our students' school experience a success this year. We wish everyone a safe and healthy 2021!

Ashley Cook and Susan Giulietti  
2020-21 PTO Co-chairs

## Cloudy With a Chance of Dinosaurs

The News provoked my thinking this week. I'm momentarily stuck between contradictory extremes: how I wish my life to be, and how some people treat each other. As I wrote to families earlier this year, the tunnel we're in seems long, and it appears at every curve that the light at the end really is the headlamp of an oncoming train.

Sometimes I want to hide. And sometimes I do. I walk for miles and hours with my dog. Then I go home and wonder. Is there news that I can find that can make me feel better? So, here is the six o'clock news at the end of this day after the second of my daily walks—thoughts while sitting by a fire, looking out the window as darkness falls.

In town, this past week, many refrigerator doors bear photographs of smiling people with missing front teeth—mostly first and second graders. And according to my calculations for the week:

- About seven couples fell in love; three fell out. Valentines Day will see 11 men and one woman propose marriage. Seven people will say yes.
- Several hundred people had sweet dreams.
- 14 people woke in the middle of the night, went to the bathroom, and paused to look out the window for snow. Summer will be dry. Lawn water rationing is on the horizon.
- 87 people found their missing eyeglasses—22 on their heads.
- Eight cars cruised to the gas station with their gas gauges empty.
- Four people found their keys—still in their ignition.
- 13 children potty trained.
- Nine teens passed their driver's test.
- Yesterday, about 10,000 people went about their business in this little town. They were polite, did their jobs, went home, slept through the night, and got up on Sunday to have a quiet morning. On Monday, they will go to work again.

Yes, some things did not go so well—but good did happen. A fox visited my deck last night and ate some acorns. In the snow last week were tracks of rabbits, a deer, and dinosaurs (a toy from my neighbor's children). Venus is the evening star. The *Beacon* will not cover these stories.

When I stand out on my porch waiting for my dogs to come in tonight, I will look up and see Orion rising in the southeast. In the fuzzy spot at the end of his belt, I will see a light that is clear evidence of uncountable galaxies with solar systems like ours, with planets like ours supporting unimaginable forms of life. And I will never, ever understand it all. And that's OK. I have enough news for today. And the local news is mostly good if you think about it.

Meanwhile, I must make my grocery list. The dinner forecast is outstanding!



## Important Reminder

School breakfast and lunch are free through the end of the year. And don't forget, every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00pm you can take home five breakfasts and five lunches for each person in your family. The pickup spot is at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, at the Hayward Road entrance by the gazebo. These meal kits are available free to any Acton-Boxborough resident.

**Dates to Remember**  
**(All Meetings Listed are Virtual)**

**Wednesday, January 27**

All-School Community Meeting:  
Holiday Traditions, 8:50am

**Thursday January 28**

PTO General Meeting, 7:30pm

**Thursday, February 4**

AB School Committee Meeting, 7pm

**Tuesday, February 9**

Douglas Kindergarten Information  
Night, 6:15–7:15pm

**Thursday, February 11**

AB School Committee Meeting, 7pm

**Friday, February 12**

Online Registration for Kindergarten  
Closes

**Monday, February 15–Friday,**

**February 19**

NO SCHOOL—February Break

**Thursday, February 25**

Flannel Thursday for Blue Cohort  
and All Kindergarten Students

**Friday, February 26**

Flannel Friday for Gold Cohort

**Thursday, March 4**

AB School Committee Meeting, 7pm

**Friday, March 26**

Term 2 Progress Report Distribution

**Wednesday, March 31**

Gold Cohort In Person

**Friday, April 2**

NO SCHOOL—Good Friday

**Mon., April 19–Fri., April 23**

NO SCHOOL—April Break

**Thursday, April 29**

General PTO Meeting with Budget  
Presentation, 7:30pm

**Thursday, May 27**

Final General PTO Meeting of the  
School Year, 7:30pm

**Monday, May 31**

NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day

**Wednesday, June 2**

Blue Cohort In Person

**Spring 2021 MCAS Dates\***

**Gold Cohort**

Tuesday, April 6: ELA, grades 3–6

Tuesday, May 4: Math, grades 3–6

Monday, May 10: Science, grade 5

**Blue Cohort**

Thursday, April 8: ELA, grades 3–6

Monday, May 3: Math, grades 3–6

Tuesday, May 11: Science, grade 5

**\*All MCAS dates are for hybrid  
students are subject to change**



**Spotlight: Open PTO Roles for the 2021–2022 School Year**

It's an exciting time to be a part of the PTO! This year has flexed our creative muscles, and we are looking ahead to see how we can incorporate some of the successes and lessons learned this year into our plans for next (and beyond). We also have on the horizon the transition to our new twin school building for the 2022 school year. Several of our dedicated PTO Board and Committee members will be moving on at the end of this school year, leaving open a number of opportunities for new community members to get involved with the PTO in a large- or small-scale role.

**Secretary:** this Board position involves taking minutes during our Board and General meetings

**Cultural Enrichment:** Our cultural enrichment team would welcome an additional member to help coordinate grade-level and schoolwide performances throughout the coming school year; also a Board position

**Festival of Cultures:** Coordinates a team of volunteers for our annual celebration of cultural diversity at Douglas; can be a shared role

**Fundraising Coordinator:** A liaison with local businesses to set up profit-sharing or other community-focused fundraising events throughout the year  
Are you interested in one of these roles or looking for another way to get involved? Contact us today at [cochairs@douglasschoolpto.org](mailto:cochairs@douglasschoolpto.org) for more information!

**Gracias! Danke schoen! ありがとう! Merci! !הודות Grazie! Thank you!**

It's hard to believe we're almost halfway through the school year! While this year has certainly looked different than years past, we still have many people to thank.

**Annual Giving:** Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your contributions to our Annual Giving Campaign in October. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we nearly met our goal of \$10,000. Those funds will go a long way in supporting our teachers and many programs and services for our students!

**Photo Day:** Thank you to **Megan Kivela** and the school office staff who coordinated multiple Photo Days for our hybrid and remote students and helped our students showcase their smiles from behind the masks!

**Directory:** Thank you to **Ashley Cook** for putting together the directory and helping keep us all in touch in a year when there is an added challenge to do so!

**Trivia Night:** Thank you to **Liz Dimeling** for coordinating a fun virtual Trivia Night for our community!

**Veterans Day:** Thank you to **Jill Maxwell** and **Melissa Callaghan** for finding creative ways for us to still celebrate and learn from our community veterans this year!

**Staff Appreciation:** Thank you to **Kaarin Jeanson** for coordinating the staff appreciation event before Thanksgiving and to all of the members of the community who donated treats to share in gratitude with our faculty and staff!

**Book Fair:** Thank you to **Liz Dimeling** and **Rhona McFarlane** for coordinating this year's Book Fair with the Silver Unicorn Bookstore. We appreciate all your hard work in promoting the online event and making sure everyone's books were delivered!

**Eagle Shopping Rewards:** Thank you to **Caitlin Ryan** and **Katherine Lee** for keeping us earning money for our school with Amazon Smile, Staples Rewards, and Box Tops for Education!

**Tech Team:** This virtual school year makes us appreciate more than ever all the ways there are to find answers to our Douglas-related questions! From the Eagle Eye Weekly to Facebook to the PTO website, our technology team has kept us in-the-know. Thank you, **Julie Zeller**, **Cristina Sousa**, **Holly Fitzgerald**, and **Sandy Wellinghoff**!

As we look ahead to the new year, there are many volunteer opportunities available. If you are looking for a way to get involved with volunteering at Douglas, contact the co-chairs at [cochairs@douglasschoolpto.org](mailto:cochairs@douglasschoolpto.org) for more information and ideas for how you can help.