



**DOOLITTLE
NEWSLETTER**

Our School

Mission Statement

The Doolittle School Community is committed to providing a caring and safe environment for learning in which each child can strive toward his or her full potential. We prepare our children to become life-long leaders and contributing members of a global society by fostering self-confidence, encouraging curiosity, developing individuality, and building a foundation of knowledge.

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735 Cornwall Avenue

Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

(203) 272-3549

Fax (203) 272-0546

www.cheshire.k-12.ct.us/doolittle

Principal's Message

Principal Sharon Weirsman, Assistant Principal Kelly Grillo

**WELCOME TO THE
2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR!!**

We have had a wonderful start to our new year at Doolittle School. Students are hard at work learning new material in reader's workshop, writer's workshop, math, science, social studies, art, PE, library, and music. We are focusing on our seven Cheshire Public Schools Performance Standards, in concert with our building-wide theme of RESPECT. Look for our Performance Standards posters throughout the school. They include Complex Thinker; Collaborative/Cooperative Worker; Community Contributor; Effective Communicator; Knowledgeable Person; Self-Directed Learner; and Skilled Processor. These are life long skills we want to be sure our students are prepared to perform. Each month each grade level will select a student who is demonstrating these skills as our Student of the Month. Please reinforce these important skills at

home, as well as our building-wide theme of TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESPECT and making good choices for behavior at all times. We will also be teaching the seven principles of the Responsive Classroom this year, which correlates nicely to our school theme.

We welcome new staff members to Doolittle School this year. In grade one, Nicole Rinaldi has joined our team from grade five. In grade two, Patti Dickinson joins the team, having served as a long term substitute last year. Karen DelGiudice, joins our team as a diagnostician this year. Be sure to stop and meet our new staff on Open House nights, and during conference sessions in October.

Please note the Doolittle School Mission statement, which is on our newsletter and on our website. We review our mission each year and ask for teacher input, student

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From The PTA Presidents

Kelly Cienki and Mary Simler, Doolittle PTA Co-President

Welcome back to School! We are off to a great year already! The PTA has been hard at work over the summer planning cultural events, our Fall Festival, and many new exciting programs. There are many ways to help out at our school.

The PTA is currently looking for a secretary and membership chairperson. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact myself or Co President Mary Simler through the Doolittle School Website. Our email addresses are there for your use all throughout the year. Please contact us if you

have any questions or we if we can help you in anyway.

Our first fundraiser of the year will be kicking off on September 16th. Please keep an eye out for your Genevieve packet. Thank you to Deb Kaszas for chairing this committee. Anyone interested in helping please contact Deb Kaszas.

Thank you to our beautification committee, Sandy Baker, Maura Esposito, Anne McBain and all of their helpers for getting our school gardens ready for the first days of school. The school looks beautiful with all the decorations

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Principal's Message(cont. from pg 1)

input, and parent input to its content. We work each day to fulfill our mission with the students of Doolittle School.

We are very happy to announce the completion of our new Science Room, room 40. Thanks to the efforts of the Cheshire Education Foundation, we have a well equipped room to be used for the instruction of our science curriculum for grades five and six this year. We have a new Smartboard and twelve new laptop computers, as well.

Our Parent Advisory Council is an important group. They meet to review our Strategic Plan objectives, monitor our progress, discuss issues and share concerns. Our members are Mrs. Weirsman, Mrs. Grillo, Mr. Kaplan, Miss La-Porta, Peg Cornish, Toni Bonadies, and Maura Esposito. Many thanks to our Council members.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO NOTE:

Please remember that our front office and school building is closed as of 3:30 pm. The YMCA has a separate program for after care in the all purpose room. We ask that students and parents who need assistance from the office please come before 3:30. No one will be allowed in the building after 3:30pm. If your child participates in an after school program, they will be dismissed by the supervisor of that program. Thank you.

Please be sure to send healthy snacks and party treats to school. We encourage fruits, granola bars, yogurt treats, etc.

Encourage your children to wash their hands often. We are making every attempt to keep our students healthy. If your child is ill, please keep him/her home.

As you may be aware, we have signs posted around the Doolittle

School grounds stating, "NO Dogs Allowed on School Grounds." This is a Cheshire Board of Education policy intended to protect students, families, and the grounds, as well.

We have several students with allergies to animals. Town pediatricians have requested that we once again inform parents and enforce the policy that dogs must not be allowed on school property. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy.

Be sure to have a plan with your child in the event of an unexpected early dismissal or a time that you may not be home when children arrive.

From the PTA President(cont. from pg 1)

for the fall. Anyone interested in helping on this committee please contact Sandy Baker, Maura Esposito, or Anne McBain.

At open house you can sign up for family photos with Netmartin Photography. Our school store will also be available if you would like to purchase something special for your child to find in their desk the next morning. Anyone interested in helping out with school store throughout the year please contact Harmony Glassey.

Our school Fall Festival is on Saturday October 3, 2009 from 1pm to 5pm. This is a great place to meet new friends from our school community. We will be selling spiritwear and Doolittle car magnets at the fall festival this year. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the food concessions, games, and auction. If you would like to donate something to the auction please contact Danyael Downing. If you would like to

help out with the food concessions please contact Mary Simler. Hope to see you there, it is always a lot of fun for our Doolittle community.

Our Boxtop committee will be sending in our first submission October 31. Please send in all your boxtops you have been collecting over the summer. Last year we raised over \$1400. Great Job by all!! This year we are going to be giving the top class in each grade an ice cream/popsicle party and the top class in the school will get a pizza party! Good Luck to all the classes! Updates will be posted on the PTA Bulletin board by the office at school and in the newsletter. Anyone interested in helping please contact Kelly Cienki.

This year Spiritwear will be available all year long. Extra order forms will be available in the school office. Another exciting program we are offering this year is the Doolittle Tiger Cards, they are cards with discounts from merchants in Cheshire. and are \$10 per card. Order forms will be coming home soon. The cards are good from 9/09 to 9/30/10. They make great gifts for birthdays and holidays!

Our PTA meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the multipurpose room of our school. This is another great way to meet parents. We are always interested in hearing new idea that parents have. At our October meeting we will getting a look at the new science center room. We hope to see you there!

Fall Festival
October 3rd
Come join
the Fun!!

Guidance News

with Mr. Kaplan

I am off to a busy start! I am already providing individual and group counseling support for students, and consulted with numerous parents to ensure a successful start for their children. I am also in the process of meeting with teachers to review their class lists and inform them of the needs of their students. In the near future, I will be having lunch with new students, grades 2 - 6, to discuss and ensure their successful transition to Doolittle. As always, I am available to parents to discuss any aspect of their child's social, emotional, and academic needs. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 272-3549.

Student Council Happenings

Supervisors Mr. Kaplan and Mrs. Schult

Mrs. Schult and I will continue to supervise Doolittle's Student Council and its wonderful programs of service to our school and surrounding communities. Our Student Council provides outstanding opportunities for student leadership, and is a vehicle for involving the entire Doolittle community toward common service goals. Some of last year's Student Council representatives served as greeters and escorts on Opening Day. Also, selected representatives from last year talked about the theme of "Respect" at our September 11th Town Meeting. We will shortly conduct elections for Student Council representatives in all classrooms, grades, 4 - 6. As always, we welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have for activities and programs; please feel free to contact Mrs. Schult or Mr. Kaplan.

The PTA³ Corner

Room Parent

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to be room parents. We truly appreciate all the parents who are eager to help out this year. Many classrooms had multiple volunteers so we had to make choices based on parents who have not been chosen to be room parents before as well as spread out parent volunteers if they volunteered for more than one grade/class. If you have been selected as the room parent for your child's class, you will receive notification along with an invitation to an informational tea to be held within a couple weeks. If you were not selected, you will still be called upon to volunteer throughout the year as needed! Once again, we thank you for the support you have shown the teachers and children at Doolittle by offering your time to volunteer. If you have questions regarding room parent issues, please contact Molly Barto (439-0793 mollybarto@cox.net) or Jeanne Cail (272-1636 jeanne-cail@yahoo.com).

Remembrance Garden

Thank you Keith, Cheryl and Nick Terrien for taking care of Doolittle's Remembrance Garden over the summer. The Remembrance Garden is located next to the main doors of the school and contains many lovely flowering plants and trees that were either donated in memory of persons who contributed to the school in a positive way or in memory of loved ones. Plants may be contributed to the garden by contacting the Terrien family @272-3981. Again, we thank the Terrien family for taking the time to maintain such a prominent spot in our school.

Beautification

Welcome to all returning and new

students and their families. For new students and families, our committee is responsible for maintaining the gardens around the school and the courtyard gardens. We had an exciting year last year establishing the courtyard as a certified Monarch "waystation" or resting stop for the threatened Monarch butterfly on their journey back and forth to their wintering grounds in Mexico. To parallel their science studies, the 1st and 2nd grade students helped build the foundation for the garden by planting 400 bulbs. They later voted and named the garden the Doolittle Outdoor Adventure Garden. You may see a monarch resting on a coneflower or a skipper on the chocolate eupatorium. Fritillary butterflies have also been spotted. There are many nectar and host plants for the varieties of native butterflies we have in our area. In our plantings, we try to incorporate aspects of what the different grades are studying. Sixth graders voted on a plant (the Peruvian Lily) to be added to the garden which was dedicated to them and reflected their studies of the native people of South America.. A boxwood was also added highlighting the studies of fossils. Boxwood species have been around since the age of the dinosaurs. A surprise to many is that we actually have a true fossilized dinosaur footprint in the courtyard. Overall, in addition to keeping the grounds of the school a welcoming sight, we strive to provide a stimulating and enriching environment for the students in their studies. If you would like to help care for the gardens, please join us Friday, September 25th at 1:30. We'll meet by the entrance to the school. Thank you. Sandi Baker, Maura Esposito, Anne McBain Co-Chairs

