



A Note from Your FRIEnds

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2009

Friends of Ipswich
Elementary Schools
Doyon Chapter
216 Linebrook Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

FRIES-Doyon Board

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Secretary	Janine Hannibal
Fundraising	Jessica Murphy
Enrichment	Sarah Player
Hospitality	Christine Fionda
Finance	Tracey Fonzi
Communications	Kathy Spinale

Email

fries.doyon@gmail.com

What are FRIES?

Yes, they're something most of our kids beg us for when we pass by any fast food restaurant, but they're something else for students and parents in the Ipswich schools.

FRIES are the FRiends of the Ipswich Elementary Schools. We are the parent-teacher organization (PTO) for the two elementary schools, and each school, Doyon and Winthrop respectively, has its own chapter.

Our primary goal is to support and enhance educational programs at the school.

We provide volunteer staff where needed, organizes and funds enrichment programs and activities and provides funding for educational materials requested by teachers but not covered by the school budget.

We encourage all parents to get involved with school activities. This can be a way to meet teachers, staff, other parents, to increase a sense of community among families, and to give support to the school.

There are many ways to be involved, including: sharing ideas and decision making at monthly FRIES meetings,

participating on a specific committee, and or volunteering 1 or 2 hours on a regular basis or for a special event.

FRIES meetings are open to members of the Doyon community, and take place in the Dr. Kenneth B. Cooper School Library unless otherwise noted. Please feel free to join us. If you have questions, suggestions, or comments, please also feel free to contact our Board.



Upcoming Events

- Fri., 10/23 Classroom BoxTops contest ends
- Fri., 10/23, 6:30-8:30 pm Halloween Monster Mash at Doyon
- thru Sat, 10/31 Coins for a C.A.U.S.E. ends (see Fundraising for details)
- Tue., 11/10, 7:30 pm FRIES-Doyon meeting in school library (All are welcome!)

Other upcoming November events include Grandfriends Luncheons. Be sure to check your weekly Doyon News for this and other important school dates.

If you haven't signed up for the Doyon School list serve, please see the back page of this newsletter for more information!

Halloween Monster Mash

Calling all Kids,
(Moms and Dads a must!)

Join us for the Doyon School
Halloween Monster Mash

Friday, October 23rd
6:30 to 8:30 pm
Doyon Cafeteria

\$5 a child
Ages 4 and under free



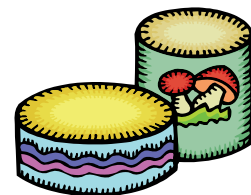
Sponsored by
FRIES-Doyon -
with your help,
making Doyon better,
because
"we're all in this
together!"

Crazy Dancing
Cool Costume Parade
Creepy Refreshments
Spooky Activities

Bring a decorated pumpkin
(NOT carved, please!)
to be put on display
in the Doyon lobby
until Halloween.
Most creative wins a prize!

Meet Meg Quinn-DeBoer,
author of
Postcards from Ipswich,
who will be selling and signing
her delightful new book!
(\$2 from the sale of each book
goes to FRIES-Doyon)

Bring a donation for
the Ipswich Food Pantry!



Enrichment

Enrichment programs have been, and continue to be, the cornerstone of FRIES-Doyon. These programs are brought into the classrooms and as schoolwide assemblies, including:

- Michelle's Menagerie for the Pre-K/Kindergarten classes
- Massachusetts Audubon Society's naturalists for Grades 1, 3, and 4
- Bay Colony Educators for Grade 5

Other past grade-specific programs have been a Nature Journalist providing instruction to Grades 2 and 5, the 5th grade field trip to Boston's Symphony Hall, the New England Aquarium for our younger grades, and Wingmasters (North American birds of prey program).

Schoolwide programs have included Abraham Lincoln and Ben Franklin

appearing courtesy of Historical Perspectives for Kids, "Wizards and Knights" (an anti-bullying performance offered in 2008), Amazing Hero Art, Writers' Week, and Understanding Our Differences (each grade's unit dealt with a different disability, providing our students with a greater understanding of the day-to-day challenges some face).

Fundraising

Fundraisers are FRIES-Doyon's main source of income. This year, the four major fundraisers are:

- **Genevieve's Gift Wrap sale**
This year's sale ended September 28th, and deliveries will be arriving on Wednesday, November 4th.

Parents, please note: we've been notified that, due to the recent restructuring of the bus routes, gift wrap cannot be taken home with students on the bus. More information about alternative delivery methods will be available in the Doyon News.

- **Doyon Devours Books**
For those new to Doyon, "Doyon Devours Books" is a read-a-thon fundraiser held during the winter. Our students receive pledge books in which they note the number of minutes and the titles of the books they choose to read over the next few weeks, and they seek pledges based on the number of minutes they read. A great fundraiser for the wintertime, many students are able to add the time they read in class to their home reading. Books-on-tape and being read to also count for this fundraiser.
- **The Doyon-a-thon**
The Doyon-a-thon is a walk-a-thon usually held in May, and has been a Doyon standard for well over twenty-five years. Pledge books are distributed to students, who then seek pledges

based on the number of laps they walk. Parents are notified of the Doyon-a-thon date well in advance, and volunteers are welcome to assist with the day's activities.

- **FRIES-Doyon/Winthrop Joint Fundraiser**

The Joint Fundraiser is traditionally held every other year in the spring, and is a collaborative effort between our town's two elementary schools. In the past, such evenings have included Silent and Live Auctions, while the most recent was the April 2008 "Gilligan's Island" Comedy Night. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18th, at 7:00 p.m. (location TBA; please check upcoming issues of the Doyon News for more information). Any Doyon parent willing to assist or donate items is welcome to email us at:
fries.doyon@gmail.com

Other fundraising events include:



- **BoxTops for Education**
Found on many of your grocery product packages, this is a easy way to earn money for our school! Shopping through the BoxTops Marketplace website will also award Doyon additional BoxTop points! Just visit their website at:
www.boxtops4education.com

for more information, and see how your online shopping can benefit all our kids! Last year, our students and their families turned in over \$1300 worth of BoxTops!

Classroom contests are run a number of times during the school year. Watch the Doyon News and your FRIES-Doyon newsletters for more information and deadlines. The first contest of the year ends on **Friday, October 23rd**. Be sure to send in your BoxTops!

- **Coins for a C.A.U.S.E. (Coins Add Up to Support Education)**, a program offered by the Institution for Savings, will benefit FRIES-Doyon for the month of October. **Through October 31st**, each time customers convert their coins to paper currency using the bank's coin counting machines, the bank donates 100 percent of the 5 percent user fee to FRIES-Doyon. Last year, we received a check for over \$900.00! So get those coffee cans and jars of change, and head to your nearest branch!

These fundraisers need your help! If you can volunteer in some way, please contact Jessica Murphy at fries.doyon@gmail.com.



Doyon Parent List Serve

The Doyon News and other Doyon information is now being sent to parents via email. In order to receive these emails, you must sign up for the school's list serve.

To sign up, please visit the school's website at

http://www.ipswichschools.org/Doyon/doy_main.html.

Scroll down the page, and on the right side of the page you will see "Subscribe to the 2009 Parent Email". Click on the link and follow the instructions.

A confirmation email message will be sent to the email address you list. You must reply to the message to activate your subscription, or can do the same by clicking on the link posted in the email. Please remember to check your email for this message; a number of people have reported that it has been sent to their spam folders.

You will have to sign up every year in order to receive this service, and if you change your email account during the year, please remember to go back and update your account information. You will not be able to reply to the Doyon List Serve.



Other Committees



EVENTS

Events fall under our Hospitality Committee. While volunteers are sought for Picture Day and providing baked goods and other refreshments for the monthly faculty meetings, the two main volunteer events are providing refreshments for the Spring school-wide Art Show, and helping with the Staff Appreciation Breakfast and Luncheon activities, held in May.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee has been reactivated this year, with three major goals in its sights:

1. *Our own website!*
Currently under construction, please watch the Doyon News for more information. You will be able to visit us at:
www.fries-doyon.org
2. *A newsletter!*
To keep YOU informed, we plan on a regular newsletter being distributed.

3. *A revised FRIES-Doyon email list!*
We're also in the process of revising our FRIES-Doyon email list. Please send an email to **fries.doyon@gmail.com** to be put on the email list. Notices will come right to you email! Be sure to list us as a contact, so our emails do not end up in your Spam folder! Email addresses will be used for FRIES-Doyon notices, and will not be shared or sold with any outside group.

