

# DOVER SHERBORN REGIONAL SCHOOLS

*Dover Sherborn School Committee- Ellen Williamson, Chair, Rainie Pearson, Co-Chair  
Beverly Madden, Nate Van Duzer, Clare Graham, Richard Robinson*

The Dover Sherborn Regional School Committee's communication goal this year is to increase interaction and dialogue with all stakeholders in our two towns.

Communication is vital to the success of our school system. Talking and listening to our constituents will build stronger bonds between the schools and the community. These bonds are one of the things that make good school systems great.

With that in mind, and through the generous support of the Dover and Sherborn Councils on Aging, we are able to present what we hope will be a regular newsletter to both towns. We look forward to your feedback! Please let us know what you think. We are at [regscomm@doversherborn.org](mailto:regscomm@doversherborn.org)

## News from the Superintendent

Valerie G. Spriggs

It is a pleasure and an honor every day to work in the schools of Dover and Sherborn. The support from the community for the schools is extraordinary, and it shows. With that support, with our talented and hard-working students, and with our truly exceptional teaching staff,

## Three = One or Moving Towards Greatness

Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Claire Jackson is coordinating a major review of instructional practices within the three school systems—Dover, Sherborn, and the Region—in our two towns.

"The goal is to provide a world-class, coherent learning experience for all students, from pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade," she says. "Questions we need to ask include, 'What is worth knowing?' and 'Do our instructional strategies promote understanding, interest, and excellence?'"



DSHS Fiddler on the Roof  
March 2009

I believe we have the opportunity to achieve greatness in our schools. That is the goal I hope to instill in everyone involved in the education of our students.

To move further toward that goal, it is helpful to keep several core principles in mind. Some of these include: Effort produces achievement; we learn with and through others; clear expectations and continuous feedback activate learning; and the best results come from having an aligned instructional system. This year, we have begun to discuss these and several other core principles at all levels. Together, the students and teachers in our schools are like a galaxy of stars: every star matters, is valued, is cared for, and ultimately contributes its unique brilliant gift to the greater good.

Dr. Jackson says that "we really understand that which we can explain and apply." Our instruction should be geared toward helping students learn in this way and our assessments should reflect that too."

In the coming months, Dr. Jackson will be working with Ms. Spriggs and the administrators to develop a plan aligned with these important principles, to be implemented at each school.

## Three Cups of Tea at DS

What started as school-wide required summer reading at the high school turned into an experience that the communities of Dover and Sherborn could not stop talking about for days. The students and community not only read the book, but both town libraries raised money in support, students made a felt wall hanging and a quilt, and planned the events for the arrival on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> of Greg Mortenson, author and Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

Mr. Mortenson treated the community to two lectures and a dinner presentation. The event was the culmination of many hours of hard work and support by high school faculty, staff, students, parents, Dover-Sherborn Education Fund, Dover and Sherborn Cultural Councils, and our local libraries.

Mr. Mortenson lectures and raises money to promote community-based education in remote areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, with a focus especially on girls. He partners with remote villages and gives them a stake in the building and managing of their own schools while at the same time encouraging them to take ownership. He



Greg Mortenson talks to Dover Sherborn community

accomplished this by offering the money necessary to build a school but only after a village has facilitated a partnership with a grassroots organization called the Central Asia Institute. Once the partnership is initiated the project is then implemented and managed by the village.

Thanks to the generous support of the communities of both Dover and Sherborn we raised over \$15,000, enough money to build a school. There is great power in knowing that when Dover and Sherborn join together we can make a remarkable difference in the future of our world. If you haven't done so we highly recommend that you read "Three Cups of Tea" or visit Mr. Mortenson's website [www.ikat.org](http://www.ikat.org).

## Did You Know at the Regional Schools?

- Over 80% of all our high school and middle school students participate in extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, theater, and clubs.
- MCAS performance for 2007 ranked the middle school in the 94<sup>th</sup> percentile and the high school in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide. On the high school science test, we were #1 in the State.
- 25% of our high school students take at least one AP class and last year, we administered 326 AP exams.
- 98% of our teachers have attained the professional status of 'highly qualified'.
- Our teachers and administrators continually improve what and how they teach through professional and curriculum development.

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.doversherborn.org](http://www.doversherborn.org)

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