



# Dowling PTO Newsletter

Dowling PTO—Working together for a better Dowling Education September 2017: Vol VII, Issue 1

## Dowling Directory & Email— Action Needed

The Directory is an on-line resource that you can access throughout the year to find your child's classmates for playdates and birthday parties. You can also update your family's information any time. You have choices about how much of your information you share in the system.

Past Directory participants, if you have not already done so, please confirm your information. A confirmation email was sent Friday, Sept 15th. Check your Junk folder if you didn't receive it. Please follow the link in that email to log in and confirm your information. **Without this step, your family's information will not be viewable in the Directory.** For those for whom we do not have emails, we will follow-up via paper copies.

Families can join at: <https://www.myschoolanywhere.com/join.a5w> and use join code 'Dowling2016'. An access email will be sent to you after we accept your information.

The PTO and Val in the Dowling office also use this system to send emails about updates on events and happenings at Dowling. Even if you do not want to be in the Directory, we encourage you to enter your name, child(s) name and email address to keep up to date with Dowling news.

If you have any questions about joining or the privacy settings in the system, please email us at [directory@dowlingpto.org](mailto:directory@dowlingpto.org).

## Upcoming Dowling Events

### Fri-Sat

#### Sept 22-23 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dowling Campout!

Set up will begin at 6 p.m. at the Dowling School Grounds. Activities include a campfire (s'mores!), lawn games, talent show, night hike, and morning bike ride! Want to be part of the fun but don't want to stay the night? Evening activities are open to non-campers until 9:30 PM. Sign up here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/QfzE5Dee0hTlaWaq2>

#### Sat Sept 23 Fall Get Outdoors and River Walk

Join us for our annual Fall Get Outdoors event from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on the Dowling front lawn. Fun run, walk, roll start at 11:00 am. Activities include nature crafts, facepainting, Woodlake Nature Center, making pollinator seed bombs with Master Gardener volunteers, and music provided by Drum Heart. Ride your bike and get a tune up! Coffee (bring your own mug!), bagels & fruit provided. This is a great outdoor event for the entire family to enjoy! We can't do it without your help! Please consider volunteering a bit of your time! <http://signup.com/go/stjBzwq>

### Oct 2-6

### Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Week

Get up and moving before school and join us for our Fall Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Week! Usually drive? Try parking away from school and walk from there. Each day you walk or bike you will be entered into a drawing for fabulous prizes! If you would like to volunteer to help check students in one morning as they arrive at school, contact Andrea Meiser at [annimeiser@gmail.com](mailto:annimeiser@gmail.com) or 612-432-5896 or sign up here - <http://signup.com/go/JtKQDiM>



**Fri Nov 17 Dowling PTO Silent**

### Auction

Save the date for everyone's favorite fundraiser! The PTO silent auction will have several hundred gift certificates, services, and items available for bid. Meet other Dowling parents while enjoying beverages and desserts at Squirrel Haus Arts 3450 Snelling Ave. If you can help with donation items, or have something, or a service (an hour of iphone assistance, an hour-introduction on using social media, an in-home cooking demonstration---your skills are valuable!) to donate, please contact [silent.auction@dowlingpto.org](mailto:silent.auction@dowlingpto.org)

Sponsored by Leah Drury & Jill Numrich  
NEIGHBORHOOD REALTORS FOR URBAN NESTERS  
<http://www.mplsnest.com/>

## Principal's Corner

Welcome back to all of our returning students, and a warm hello to all of our new families. I am providing an update regarding activities within our building because this school year we will see changes in many areas.

As many of you may know, the Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) adopted a new literacy curriculum called Benchmark. Our classroom teachers received professional development training on how to teach our students reading and writing skills. This year will be a time of increased learning for all of us.

As a district we are also transitioning to using the FAST test instead of the MAP. Grades 1 through 8 will take this test instead of the MAP. The advantage of this standards-based system is that it is shorter in duration and provides diagnostic feedback to help teachers tailor their instruction to student needs.

Last year's environmental education survey showed we need to revitalize our efforts in this area. With twenty one acres of land, small forests, an apple orchard, and close proximity to the Minneapolis parkway and the Mississippi River gorge, we have opportunities galore for outdoor learning. Don't be surprised when you hear your children talking more about what they did outside as part of their learning.

Other changes include construction and repair. Within the last two years our ramped playground, AKA "New" playground, has been undergoing renovation: new rails, metal grates, artificial turf, painting, and landscaping. The landscaping portion includes creating an outdoor learning space. There is also a crew painting the canopy near the North parking lot—an area of the school in desperate need of TLC. This job should be near completion by the end of this week.

Last but not least, we have many new staff in the building this year. Our school interview committee and I worked hard to get those positions filled, and we anticipate being fully staffed by the end of September.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year of discovery, learning, and growth for all.

Sincerely, Principal Lloyd E. Winfield, Ed.D  
[Lloyd.Winfield@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Lloyd.Winfield@mpls.k12.mn.us) or (612) 668-4410

## Aspiring Photographers

We need help collecting photos of our amazing students for the Dowling yearbook. We are using the Flickr account established last year to again store any photos that you would like to share.

There are three ways to load pictures:

1. **Email them directly** to: [trying62reads@photos.flickr.com](mailto:trying62reads@photos.flickr.com). Put in the subject line the classroom or event.
2. **Access the site**, go to <http://www.Flickr.com> (also available as an app on smartphones) and click on the "Sign In" button in the upper right. For the email, enter "dowlingyearbook@yahoo.com" and hit "next." The password is "photos4school". From here you can upload photos to the camera roll. Then, please sort them into your child's classroom album, or into a general album.
3. **Use the Flickr app** on your smartphone (easiest option) and upload directly to the appropriate folders. The email is "dowlingyearbook@yahoo.com" and the password is "photos4school".

This is easier than it sounds! Together we will collect a great assortment of photos to create a beautiful yearbook. Please contact Joanna Mylan [Joannamylan@gmail.com](mailto:Joannamylan@gmail.com) with questions or to help. Thank you!

## BOKS Trainer Needed

BOKS is a morning before-school fitness program that gives our kids a body and brain boost (and a much needed extra bit of winter exercise) and sets them up for a day of learning. BOKS meets twice a week and each week focuses on a particular skill such as running, sit-ups or squats that are incorporated into games, relays or obstacle courses.

This is a **paid position** through MCE. A full background check is required and CPR/First Aid Training is recommended.

Please contact Betsy Schaefer Roob at [Betsy.SchaeferRoob@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Betsy.SchaeferRoob@mpls.k12.mn.us) or Kim Whaley at [kimberlee.whaley@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlee.whaley@gmail.com)

## Dowling Site Council (DSC)

The DSC is a collaboration of staff, school neighbors and parents. The charge of the DSC is to work together on issues of school policy and budget, climate and programs, communications and

engagement. Members attend a meeting the first Friday of every month at 7:30 am in the Media Center. Parents are welcome to bring their children to quietly read or use computers while we meet. If you are interested but the timeframe doesn't work or you would need childcare assistance, please let us know! We are considering things like live-streaming and childcare assistance to help parents participate. Please email parent co-chair, Shawna Hedlund at [hedl0060@gmail.com](mailto:hedl0060@gmail.com), staff co-chairs Jessica Keely and Emily Nelson, or talk to Principal Winfield, before September 28. Check us out on the Dowling website:

[http://dowling.mpls.k12.mn.us/dowling\\_leadership\\_council\\_2](http://dowling.mpls.k12.mn.us/dowling_leadership_council_2)

## Media Center Update

This year has begun well in the Media Center. Students are reviewing book checkout and computer procedures, learning about Internet Safety and Netiquette, and practicing locating 'Just Right' books. They are enjoying the new picture book browsing shelves, and loving the easier access to the shorter nonfiction shelves. They couldn't believe I moved over 5,000 books this summer as part of the shelving 'remodel!'

**Book Checkout:** If a book is overdue, students will not be able to check out another book until the overdue one is returned.

Kindergarten, first, and second graders check out 1 book at a time. Third and fourth graders check out 2 books at a time, and fifth graders check out up to 3 books at a time. If a book is lost, payment toward a replacement will be requested.

**Breakfast Books:** In addition to weekly media class, students can also checkout books each morning from 8:25—8:40.

**Online Resources:** We have many resources available through the Dowling Media Center/Internet Learning page:

[http://dowling.mpls.k12.mn.us/Internet\\_Learning.html](http://dowling.mpls.k12.mn.us/Internet_Learning.html)

The MPS Student Learning Resources page, which can be accessed from the Dowling Media page or from the MPS home page: <http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/learningresources>

Information on these databases, along with passwords, will be coming home with your student.

**Volunteers?** If you'd like to help shelve books, or help with other Media Center tasks, I'd love to have you!

**Ms. Mangal, Media Specialist**

612-668-4423 [melina.mangal@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:melina.mangal@mpls.k12.mn.us)

Look at the new bike rack welded by Dr. Winfield. Thank you!



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