



**FRIENDS SCHOOL  
OF PORTLAND**  
inquiry • reflection • action

## Newsletter January/February 2012

**Our Mission:** Friends School of Portland challenges and empowers students to develop their intellectual, physical, emotional, creative and spiritual potential. We honor our students' natural gifts as they learn to enter the world with confidence, competence, joy and a sense of purpose. We are guided by the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, stewardship, and truth.

### Upcoming Events

1/16: No school, MLK Day  
1/17: Parent Class Visits (Preschool & K), 9 am  
1/18-1/20: Visiting Artists  
1/21: Family Open House, 10 am  
1/25: Parent Class Visits (Grades 1-8), 9 am  
1/26: State of the School, 6:30 pm  
2/1: Priority Admissions Deadline  
2/3: Winter Concert & Potluck, 5:30 pm  
2/20-24: February Break

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### Upcoming Admissions Events

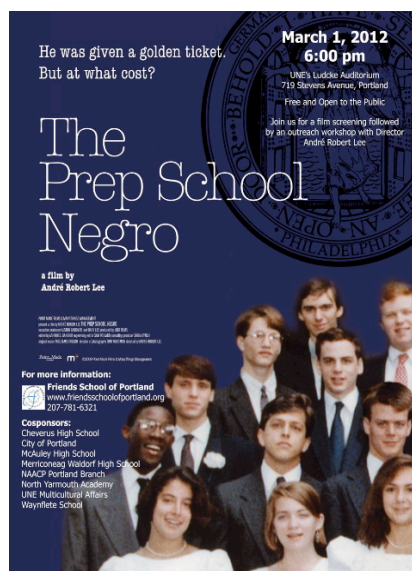
Please join us for one or more of these upcoming Admissions Events! [Visit our website](#) for more details, and [email Jessica Eller](#), Admissions Coordinator, to RSVP for an event. Please note that our priority deadline for applications is February 1.

1/17: Parent Class Visits (Preschool & Kindergarten), 9:00 am  
1/21: Family Open House, 10:00 am  
1/25: Parent Class Visits (Grades 1-8), 9:00 am

### The Prep School Negro, March 2 @ 6:00 pm

Mark your calendars! Friends School of Portland, in collaboration with UNE and area independent schools, is screening the film *The Prep School Negro* and hosting director André Robert Lee on Thursday, March 1 at 6:00 pm at UNE's Ludcke Auditorium, 719 Stevens Avenue in Portland.

Lee's film provides an important reflection on the challenges and opportunities that arise when a poor student of color leaves his community to attend an elite private school. Lee prompts us to consider the meanings that home and school, class and race, aspirations and education play in our current lives and the lives of our children. What does it mean to belong in a school community and what can schools do to become more truly inclusive? We hope you'll come to this unique event and engage in this important conversation! [Watch the trailer](#) to learn more and visit our event page on [Facebook](#) to share this with your friends.



[School Calendar](#)

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### Make a Donation

Gifts from individuals contribute directly to the financial aid that is awarded to families in need.



## Service Spotlight

FSP students take part in a variety of service projects throughout the year, and the 5-6 and 1-2 classes have both recently embarked on new service learning adventures.



An FSP 6th grader reads to two buddies at the Morrison Center.

The 5-6 class visited the Morrison Center for the first time at the beginning of January. The Morrison Center is an organization in Scarborough that provides services for adults and children with and without disabilities. The 5-6 class will be working with some younger children there for the rest of the year, partnering up to read, work on projects or play games. The partnership was set up thanks to Carey Curtis, whose daughter Margo attends school at the Center.



The 1-2 class decorates cupcakes for the Preble Street teen party.

The 1-2 class recently began visiting The Cedars, a senior living community in Portland. The kids are paired up with partners in the assisted living facility and spend time talking, playing games, and reading. Future plans include putting on performances for the seniors and doing art projects together. In December, the 1-2 students made decorations and treats for the Teen Center holiday party at Preble Street, a homeless shelter in Portland, after studying housing and shelter in social studies.

## Visiting Artists at FSP, January 18-20

FSP will again host visiting artists in the week following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Students in grades 1-8 will work intensively with one artist for several hours on Wednesday and Thursday, January 18 & 19. Performances and presentations will occur at that Friday's assembly. Students will choose from the following workshops: movement & dance with Lon Church, improv with David LaGraffe, video production with Jo Israelson, portraiture with Anne Sibley O'Brien, writing & poetry with Martin Steingesser, audio documentary with Molly Haley, and African drumming with Michael Wingfield. We are grateful to these artists for making Visiting Artists Week happen. The kids approach their workshops with enthusiasm and we are always amazed at their creativity and how much they learn!



Jo Israelson, an FSP Visiting Artist, instructs an FSP student during the video production summer program.

## Reflection by James Grumbach, Head of School

What is the benefit of patience, of waiting, of taking one's time especially in a culture of immediate gratification? Simply put, in my experience, it is a practice that allows for reflection and consultation. When I was a dean of students, I learned quickly that making a decision in a state of anger or anxiety was not usually necessary and not often beneficial to anyone. Even when a student broke a major rule, there was rarely a need to mete out an immediate consequence. Taking time for a decision allowed everyone, parents included, to put things in perspective. An immediate crisis was rarely as serious after a good night's sleep and restitution rather than retribution was more likely to be the outcome of a decision. I tried to practice the same with my children.



The 3-4 class performs The Emperor's New Clothes.

I wonder in our current culture of immediate gratification, iTechnology at the ready, how many of us feel that patience or waiting is still a worthy practice? When I found a Quaker community, I learned that meeting for worship was a practice of "expectant waiting" for the Spirit to move amongst those who gathered together to, corporately, seek the truth. Teaching this practice of patience, a stepping stone to self-

regulation and developing judgment is fundamental to Quaker schools.

We are giving our practice of waiting a workout this month as the visiting team for accreditation is in the process of submitting its final report for the February meeting of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Independent Schools, as the Town of Falmouth meets today (January 9th) with the goal of deciding about the disposition of the Plummer-Motz and Lunt Schools on which FSP has made an offer, and as the Head of School Search Committee concludes its first round of candidate interviews, followed closely by finalist interviews. Stay tuned!

### Learning Update by Mary Tracy, Director of Education

Does the world yet know how cool middle school is and how amazing these kids are? Here are 10 reasons to shout about FSP's middle school:

1. Middle schoolers grow into leaders who can run class meetings, initiate new projects and practices, plan peace walks and all-school assemblies, and gently guide their younger schoolmates.
2. Middle schoolers go places like Vinal Haven, Hermit Island, Boston, Washington DC where they camp, do scientific research, explore Medieval and Renaissance art and American history, and bond.
3. Middle schoolers combine research, art, writing and service to get outside of themselves and involved in the wider world. They take a stand. They read to others. They chop down invasive plants and grow potatoes for soup kitchens.
4. They use Singapore Math which gives them almost a full year more than other programs. They create pinhole cameras big enough to live in. They make Spanish soap operas. They write a lot and then they write some more.
5. Middle schoolers have great depth of insight and spirit which they reveal in BodyMindSpirit, in mentor relationships with FSP adults, in amazing poetry, and in improv and drama.
6. These kids love to move. They win cross-country meets, they play soccer and they ski and dance and invent games.
7. They learn to illustrate their science and social studies work with finesse, they paint, they sing in chorus, they play instruments, and create precise geometric drawings.



Students in the 5-6 class learn about mushrooms.

8. Middle schoolers can get pretty tech-y with video and photography and audio, not to mention plain old typing and word processing.

9. Middle schoolers are excellent thinkers who learn to be critical consumers of media and literature and food - they really love food!

10. Our middle schoolers learn more about themselves, become more of themselves and give more of themselves each day. We love them!

### Winter Concert on February 3

All classes will be performing in the upcoming Winter Concert and Potluck on Friday, February 3 at 5:30 pm. Friends and family are invited to experience first-hand all that the kids (Kindergarten and up) have been learning in music class. We will also enjoy performances by the FSP Band, String Ensemble, and Middle School Chorus! Mark your calendars - you certainly won't want to miss the 3-4 class leading a sing-a-long on the guitars they built!



Band members practice for the Winter Concert.

### Expanded After-School Offerings

Our popular Aftercare Program is designed to meet the needs of children whose families want a safe and engaging environment for their children after school.

Children enjoy plenty of time to play outdoors, and a variety of arts, crafts, and games. Supervised quiet study time is provided for older children. In addition, thanks to the efforts of teacher Billy Maley, many new after-school activities are available to all students.



An FSP 3rd grader draws a picture during after-school Art Club.

Activities currently being offered are Art Club, Basketball, Dance, Improv, Photography Club, and Ski Club. Coming up soon are Printmaking and Volleyball, and the spring we will once again enjoy Cricket and the very popular Diamond Sports. Have questions? Email [Billy](#) for more information.



Children in the Early Childhood program play together in Aftercare.

### Kids in the Community: Save the Nautilus

FSP 5th grader Josiah Utsch recently started a nonprofit to raise awareness of the critically endangered nautilus. Josiah was moved to act after reading a *New York Times* article about this beautiful sea creature, which has been around for 500 million years and is now in danger of becoming extinct. Josiah was recently interviewed by MPBN. [Read their story](#) to learn more about his efforts, look for an article about Josiah in this month's issue of *TIME Magazine for Kids*, and [visit Josiah's website](#) to learn how you can help.

[Forward email](#)



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