



May Newsletter 2009

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<http://www.friendsschoolofportland.org/giving>

Calendar

Friday	May 29	5:30 p.m.	Community Potluck Picnic in Carter Hall
Tuesday	June 2	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Island Day with GBSD & REAL Schools
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting
Thursday	June 4		Field Day
Friday	June 5	1 p.m.	Farewell Assembly
		7 p.m.	Commencement
Sunday	July 12	1:30 p.m.	FSP Seadogs Game (contact Lise Wagner)

News

The **new mast head** for the newsletter, created by Four Hewes, parent of Violet, grade 4, is part of the efforts of the new Marketing Committee, clerked by Sean Ireland, parent of Liam, grade 1.

A few **openings remain** in classes for 2009-10. Contact Jessica Eller for details. 781-6321

All homeroom **teachers will return** for 2009-10, as will the special subject teachers. We have hired Lindsay Libby to provide the care for infants and toddlers, and there will be a new assistant in the preschool. A new Director of Business and Development will be announced shortly, too.

As an **independent project** 8th grader Quinn Lavigne has created a blog to document her garden. Take a look <http://8thgradegarden.blogspot.com/>



Henry & Otto under the direction of master landscaper, Greta Bank



Katie Clark brought goats to visit the school



The 3-4 class studied simple & not so simple machines

Reflections from the Head of School

The theme for this month is preparation. Nothing seems to reflect that more than the daffodils that were planted in the fall by all of the children, under the direction of Greta Bank and her fellow parent volunteers who have done such a wonderful job landscaping the entrance to the school. Maya Howard was instrumental in the design, Henry Wolyniec has been a master with the stone work, and Sebastian Segre directed his parents as they planted the woodland walk just north of the walkway. Of course, many others donated plants and labored on weekends when few were here to see or thank them. So, I am adding appreciation to the theme for this month's newsletter.



The Garden Show, 3-4 grade cast & directors, Nicole Borrasso & Pete Nowak



The Birds of Zazurd, featuring the 5-6 class with support from 3-4 & 7-8, directed by Ellie Chase



Teachers in grades 3-8 and their students have displayed their preparation with a play a week for the first 3 weeks of May. First, came the 3-4 class with *The Garden Show*, followed by *The Birds of Zazurd*, featuring the 5-6 class with support from 3-4 and 7-8. Finally, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, performed by the 7-8 class, delighted the school with many good laughs. Again, I feel appreciation for all of the hard work that went in to these performances, but also for the thoughtful messages that each play brought to life for the children. In the midst of these productions, the 1-2 class prepared the community for "Commute to School Another Way Day" and charted the resulting numbers of walkers, bikers, bus riders, and car-poolers, earning the appreciation of all who reduced their carbon footprints.



The Emperor's New Clothes, 7-8 cast & director, Lee Chisholm



This has been a fabulous year in so many ways and so many have participated to make it so. Parents, especially, have contributed time, talents, and support to create a wonderful school community. Words fail to describe my appreciation for parents' commitment to the school. Most recently, Kim Simmons' preparation for the Parenting for Peace lecture, "The Case for Make Believe" with Susan Linn, resulted in a workshop with 20 local educators and an audience of close to 100, most visiting FSP for the first time.

Also, as we say good-bye to Suzanne Warfel, who is starting her own ceramics business, and Lauren Brassard, who is pursuing a full-time teaching position, I am reminded of all the preparation that they have done to continue the infant/toddler program. Again, the employees from FSP and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf who are able to use this program, have expressed their appreciation time and again to have this program so close at hand.

I am constantly reminded of the preparation that went into starting FSP and guiding it along the way. No one epitomizes preparation more than founding teacher, Mary Tracy. The Board of Directors, augmented by the Advisory Committee, has generously given time, talent, and treasure to create this school. My appreciation extends to them and to all in the larger community, including readers of this newsletter, who continue to hold the school in the Light, watching our progress and contributing in countless ways to our success. Thank you. ~ *James Grumbach, Head of School*



**First Poet Laureate of Portland,
Martin Steingesser, visits with 7-8 class**



**Grades 5-8 challenge themselves
on the ropes course**

Learning Update

I usually use this space to highlight what and how children learn, but today I am filled with gratitude for what the children teach us. For starters, they show up every day, open to, or perhaps braced for, the demands of performing every day for teachers who keep asking for a little more and a little more. Think back to when forming each letter took concentration or 7 x 6 needed endless practice. Our students model for us how to be fully present in the moment. When a swirling mass of ants emerge in the spring grass and we are called over to exclaim, when a stage performance begins and actors must leap on board, trusting their memories and discovering their connection with the audience, when two friends disagree and face the prospect of the rest of the day without the other one – these poignant moments help us taste the immediacy of life.

Our children require us to stay flexible. We get to kneel, bend, and squat numerous times. We get to adjust our plans minute to minute because we can never predict that our ideas will match everyone's energy, experience, or focus at that time. We get to practice when to show and when to hide our surprise, for everyday delivers the unexpected. We learn humility. We are taught how to create Word Art on a laptop, we say words like "ambition" when we mean "admission," and – this unforgivable act – we leave our homework at home sometimes! Despite that, we get to be with kids who like to joke and pretend and be silly, who forgive and forget, who try each day to be their best. What great teachers they are! ~ *Mary Tracy, Curriculum Coordinator*



**Susan Linn & Audrey, The Case for Make Believe
at the first Parenting for Peace presentation**



**3-4 class field trip to midcoast Maine
including a ferry boat ride to Vinalhaven**