



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

Newsletter September/October 2011

Upcoming Events

9/22: Parent Night, 6 pm
9/30: Potluck, 5:30 pm
10/4: Parents' Forum, 6:30
10/18: Books as Bridges,
7 pm (3:30 pm Workshop)
10/21: Harvest Dinner to
benefit Outing Club, 6:30
11/1: Parents' Forum on
the Arts, 6:30 pm

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Close Buy Fundraiser

Friends School of Portland is proud to once again be offering the Close Buy Catalog as our fall fundraiser. Founded by an FSP parent, Close Buy offers only Maine-made products, so in addition to supporting the school by participating, you're also supporting local artists and businesses who receive wholesale pricing for their items. FSP earns 35% of each sale. Funds raised will primarily be used to support the school's financial assistance program, but will also provide an additional resource for enrichment activities and programs. The deadline for orders is October 3rd. To view the Close Buy Catalog online, please [click here](#). To download an order form, [click here](#).

Books as Bridges, October 18th, 7pm

Parenting for Peace
presents

Books as Bridges

Children's Literature and Anti-Racism Education

October 18, 2011

7:00 pm

Mackworth Island



Made possible in part with grants from
the Maine Humanities Council and
Fox Intercultural Consulting Services.



As part of the Parenting for Peace speaker series, Friends School of Portland presents *Books as Bridges: Children's Books and Anti-Racism Education* on Tuesday, October 18th at 7 pm. Author-illustrator [Anne Sibley O'Brien](#) and psychology professor [Krista Aronson](#) will share research demonstrating that exposure to books featuring positive interracial interactions can actually reduce prejudice, and will provide insights about how books can be used to stimulate conversations about race.

Make a Donation

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



This event is free and open to the public, and will take place at Friends School of Portland. It is made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council and generous support from Fox Intercultural Consulting Services. For more information, to reserve a ticket, and/or to make a donation, please [click here](#).

At 3:30 pm that day, educators and other interested adults are invited to a highly interactive workshop, *Mirrors & Lenses: Racial Identity Formation in the Classroom*, facilitated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Participants will be given the opportunity to explore personal racial histories and construct a framework for how to talk about race in the classroom. Register [online](#), or download a description and registration form [here](#).

Welcome to Hayly Ross and Tom Werley

We are pleased to welcome Hayly Ross and Tom Werley to the Friends School staff. Hayly, FSP's new Spanish teacher, previously taught Spanish at Freeport Middle School and Pownal Elementary School as a long-term substitute, in addition to teaching Spanish I through AP Spanish courses at Greely High School in Cumberland. Prior to beginning her teaching career, Hayly completed her MA in Hispanic Language & Literatures at Boston University, and also served as assistant coach for the Bates College field hockey team. She has spent time in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and most recently, Bolivia. Hayly is currently finishing her K-12 Maine State certification at Saint Joseph's College. She loves to sing and performed the national anthem before her field hockey games at Boston University!



Kindergartners create mazes for worms.

Tom Werley, the new face in Aftercare, was the Children's Librarian at the South Portland Public Library for 16 years. He has taught English as a foreign language in Niger, West Africa (as a Peace Corps Volunteer) and in Pamplona, Spain. He lives in Portland with his wife, Pat Prieto, who is a Reference Librarian at USM, and their two dogs. Tom has a BA from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Masters in Library Science from North Carolina Central University. Be sure to stop by the Aftercare room and ask Tom to tell you a story!

Reflection by James Grumbach, Head of School

Jonathan Ewell has often compared FSP to a child of similar age. At the end of our first year, we were transitioning from crawling to walking. We were finding our voice by the end of that year. We started running after that, about the time we started Parenting for Peace, soon entered preschool, then kindergarten, and now we are feeling a little grown up as full-fledged 1st graders. Or so it seems as we put our first five years behind us. [Read on...](#)



FSP students carry the boat they helped build in an after-school workshop.

Music Program Expands

The music program has grown this year with the addition of Middle School Chorus for grades 5-8. All middle school students will sing together once a week, providing the opportunity to experience expressing themselves joyfully through music. Songs from a variety of genres will be introduced, including pop, classical, folk and jazz. Other popular music programs have returned this year, including Beginning Strings, Strings Ensemble, and Middle School Band.

Outing Club



FSP students take a break while hiking up Mt. Blue during the Outing Club's spring camping trip. Photo by Scott Peterman.

Founded by 3rd-4th grade teacher Nicole Borasso, FSP's Outing Club welcomes third graders and up, along with their families, to participate in outdoor adventures. Activities take place twice a month and include hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, skating, skiing, service projects, and a spring camping trip. You can support the

Outing Club by attending the annual Harvest Dinner at FSP on October 21st at 6:30 pm. Enjoy soup, salad, and apple crisp made from locally grown ingredients, along with the music of a local bluegrass band! More information on Outing Club events, including the upcoming Harvest Dinner, can be found on the [FSP Parents' Blog](#).

Learning Update by Mary Tracy, Director of Education

It was a pleasure in different ways to look toward the windows of the 7th-8th grade classroom at the end of a Friday morning and see small hands with blue cloths circling around the bottom sections of each window, moving right to left. Stewardship is our value of the year, a word that has rallied us to spruce up in general and reorganize how we do jobs in and around the school. [Read on...](#)

Parent Involvement at FSP

FSP parents are working to create a rich and supportive community for all FSP members through the newly reorganized parents' group. A Parents' Steering Committee will enhance communication within FSP, plan whole school activities and monthly topical discussions, and support parent involvement in fundraising. Each classroom has a Point Parent to assist teachers, help organize parent volunteers, and build a sense of family involvement in the classroom. Point Parents will also facilitate social activities outside of school time, helping to build community among parents. There are a variety of ways to be active as an FSP parent, from chaperoning field trips or serving on a committee, to bringing a special snack to celebrate the end of an after-school activity, or implementing a new fundraising idea. The first-ever monthly Parents' Forum is scheduled for 6:30 pm on October 4th, with the topic to be announced. A Parents' Forum on the Arts will take place on November 1st. Together, we hope to maintain a vibrant community that supports FSP values, our children's learning, and each other.



FSP parent Pays Payson and friend pour concrete for the new tetherball pole at FSP.

Portland Walks for Peace



Participants gather for the first-ever Portland Walks for Peace, organized by four FSP 8th graders.

On Sunday, September 18th, in an effort to support and bring awareness to International Peace Day, Friends School of Portland and Clark Insurance sponsored "Portland Walks for Peace." Organized by four FSP 8th graders, the walk around Back Cove in Portland was a benefit for Peace One Day, an organization that uses International Peace Day as a platform to provide relief to poor and war-torn countries. The event was a success, with approximately 60 people in attendance and over \$300 raised. Congratulations to the students who came up with this wonderful idea and worked hard to make it a reality!

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