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

Newsletter Summer 2011

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Kindergarten Openings and Q & A Sessions



Openings remain in our Kindergarten program for 2011-12. If you know of anyone currently considering options for Kindergarten for next year, please send them our way. The program emphasizes a place-based curriculum with a daily outdoor adventure, fostering a love of nature and respect for others. More information on Kindergarten at FSP can be found [here](#).

We will have a **Kindergarten Q & A** session on Wednesday, July 20 and Wednesday, July 27 at noon, following [Stories by the Garden](#). Come and learn more about our program!

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2006-2011

Make a Donation

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



Annual Appeal



FSP students and board Chairman Rob Levin celebrate the school's 5th year at the celebration on June 3.

The FSP fiscal year ends on June 30, and only a couple of days remain to send a donation for this year's appeal. We are currently \$25,000 short of our goal. All monies from the annual appeal are used to provide scholarships for families based solely upon financial need. If you have not yet donated to our annual appeal, we encourage you to do so. If you have already sent a donation, we thank you, and hope you will consider giving again. Click on the PayPal button to the left to make a donation online. Thank you for your support!

Congratulations 2011 Graduates



Graduating 8th graders plant a tree as a gift to the school.

While we will miss their presence at the school, we are excited for our 2011 graduates as they embark on the next leg of their journey. Hannah Avant will go to Freeport High School; Maya Eng will attend Casco Bay High School; Harry Linfield heads to Portland High; Ben Riggelman and Ellie Wiener have chosen Waynflete;

Sparks Sylvester will go to Kents Hill; and Annarosa Whitman is currently undecided. We wish them all the best of luck!

Continuing a tradition started with the first graduating class in 2009, each 8th grade class has planted a tree near the Cultivating Friends Garden on the last day of classes as a parting gift to the school. [Click here](#) to see a short video of this year's 8th graders sharing their wishes for the tree.

Stories by the Garden



Amy MacDonald reads *Little Beaver and the Echo* to a large crowd on June 22.

For six Wednesdays this summer, FSP will host Maine children's book authors and illustrators. The events begin at 11:00am next to the garden, and are free and open to the public, rain or shine. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and stay to enjoy the island. The first event took place on June 22, with Amy MacDonald (author of *Little Beaver and the Echo* and *Rachel Fister's Blister*).

Additional presenters this summer include Beth Cadena (author of *Supersister*), Jeannie Brett (illustrator of *My Cat, Coon Cat*), Cathryn Falwell (author of *Pond Babies* and *Turtle Splash*), musician Ellie Chase, and storyteller and author Lindy Shapiro. Please [visit the FSP website](#) for more details and a printable schedule.

We will have a **Kindergarten Q & A** session on Wednesday, July 20 and Wednesday, July 27 at noon, following Stories by the Garden. Come and learn more about our Kindergarten program!

Summer Adventure Program and Movie Makers



Summer adventurers proudly pose with their fairy house.

Creativity abounds at the Friends Summer Adventure Program! Second grade summer adventurer Onare Balzer has written a poem celebrating the island:

*When one comes to Mackworth Island
They don't just sit and bore
They think about what they will do
And all the fun in store.*

[Read on...](#)

The Friends Summer Adventure Program, for kids ages 4-14, began on June 20 and will continue through July 29. Daily activities focus on experiential learning and community building, and will include island exploration, tending the school garden, and creating art from found natural objects. Space is still available in the Summer Adventure Program for all weeks with the exception of the week of July 18. Please [visit the FSP website](#) for more information. There will also be a two-week Movie Makers program beginning July 11, and that program is full.

Back-to-School Events

September 1: Meet the Teacher Day, 11am-1pm

September 6: First Day of Classes

September 22: Parent Night, 6pm

Parenting for Peace, Fall 2011

This fall's *Parenting for Peace* event, "Children's Literature & Social Justice Education," will take place on Tuesday, October 18. Author and anti-racism educator Annie Sibley O'Brien will present an afternoon educator's workshop exploring the dynamic of teaching about race and practicing anti-racism in primarily white classrooms. The evening program, open to the public, will be a panel discussion and Q & A providing adults with the motivation, tools and resources to talk to children about race, including how to

use picture books to start the conversation. Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for further information on this challenging and exciting topic.

Reflection by James Grumbach, Head of School



Teachers and students compete in the annual "Tug of Peace" on Field Day, June 3.

The summer solstice has arrived. The longest day(light) of the year and a slightly slower summer pace, even in the week that the FSP Summer Adventure Program started, should provide some time for reflection. I can't say that it has. [Read on...](#)

Maine Walks for Haiti



FSP students and their families participate in *Maine Walks for Haiti* on June 4, raising money to improve health care in northern Haiti.

Inspired by the chance to help at an international level, many of FSP's 3-4 students, as well students from other grades, participated in the *Maine Walks for Haiti* fundraiser in Portland on June 4. Despite our small size, FSP raised the most money of any participating school, with over \$1500 in donations! The funds raised will be used by Portland-based organization Konbit Sante to

improve health care in northern Haiti. In preparation for the event, the Konbit Sante program manager from Haiti visited FSP to teach the kids about living conditions in Haiti. [Read the Portland Press Herald's article](#) about FSP's involvement in the walk, and be sure to check out the additional photos.

The 5-6 Class Trip to Boston



On May 5th 2011, the 5-6 class of Friends School of Portland went to Boston to walk the Freedom Trail and learn about the history of the Revolutionary War. [Read on](#) for the complete story, written by the students themselves...

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