



# FRIENDS SCHOOL OF PORTLAND

inquiry • reflection • action

## Newsletter May/June 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

5/17-18: 3-4 and 5-6 overnight trips  
5/17-21: [8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC](#)  
5/25: Grandfriends Day, 11:30am  
5/28: No School, Memorial Day  
6/2-3: Outing Club Camping Trip  
6/8: Last Day of School & Commencement  
6/18: Summer Programs Begin  
7/2: Jenny Rowe Begins  
7/30-8/10: School Closed  
8/30: Pre-Start Visiting Day, 3:30pm

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### Openings for 2012-13

We have limited openings in most grades -- waiting list in 3rd-4th grade -- for the upcoming school year. Interested families are encouraged to call the school to set up a tour. [Click here](#) for admissions information, and please spread the word!



The Kindergarten class on the beach.

### Register Now for Summer Programs!

**May 25th is the registration deadline for our summer programs, so don't delay!** Sessions begin on June 18th and end on July 27th.

Be sure to check out our new, expanded summer offerings [for 9 to 14-year olds!](#) Kids can choose from Survival Skills, Canoe Building, Woodworking, Robotics, Movie Makers, Animation, Documentary Video, Rock & Roll, and Guitar!

## Quick Links

[Admissions Information](#)

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## Donate

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



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**We are now offering discounted rates on most sessions!** Please [visit our website](#) for detailed program descriptions, session dates and prices, and registration forms.

As always, we are offering our popular [Adventure Program](#) for ages 6-9, along with [Island Play](#) -- a new, half-day program for ages 4-5.

[Stories by the Garden](#) returns this summer as well, on Wednesdays at 11am. Meet local authors, illustrators and storytellers! Bring a friend and stay for a picnic lunch!

## New Diversity Scholarship

Friends School of Portland is seeking students and families for school year 2012-13 who will bring more racial and cultural diversity to our community. We are pleased to announce the creation of a new diversity scholarship funded by an anonymous donor to increase racial diversity at FSP.

We welcome your inquiries and applications. Students entering 1st through 8th grades are eligible to apply for this scholarship; please [click here](#) for additional information and application criteria.

## In Their Own Words...

The 1st-2nd grade recently compiled their thoughts on what they love about FSP; below is a sampling of their responses.

*"My favorite thing about FSP is:*

- there are really nice teachers here who respect the kids more than anything!
- they help you learn easily.
- it is on an island and we are outside a lot. I also think Katie is an awesome teacher.
- recess, because when I play with my three best friends it makes me happy.
- learning to read and write.
- we get to have P.E. outside."



## Become a Steward of FSP

We are so grateful for the supportive community that has helped us along as we've learned and grown over the past six years. As we approach the end of our fiscal year, on June 30th, we ask you to consider a donation to help us end this year with a balanced budget. You may donate online via PayPal by clicking the link below. Thank you for being a steward of our progress.



## Get to Know Jenny Rowe!

During the summer we've planned different ways for incoming Head of School, Jenny Rowe, to get to know the FSP community:

- Starting July 2, she will be at school almost every day from 8:30 to 5:30 and welcomes drop-in or scheduled visits.
- Our newly formed FSP Garden Club will host work sessions on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:30. All are welcome as many times as you want and you'll see Jenny there, too.
- On Wednesday mornings, our signature Stories by the Garden will take place at 11:00 and Jenny will be there.

[Read on...](#)

## Reflection by James Grumbach, Head of School

When I arrived at FSP in 2007, I remember an early conversation with Mary about the vision for the school. At that time, I shared my belief that independent schools become the children and families that they welcome into their community. I further believe that schools, first and foremost, are about what happens in the classroom between teachers and their students, or more generally, they are about the relationships between the adults and children who are the school community. Additionally, I believe that administrators are servants more than leaders, who support the art of teaching. And, yes, it is an art, an organic practice that can be messy at times with little immediate assurance of the results. These beliefs are, of course, informed by Quaker founder, George Fox's admonition that we should "walk cheerfully over the world" and try to not just see, but "answer that of God in everyone." [Read on...](#)



An 8th grader quietly sketches.

### Grandfriends Day - May 25th

Grandparents and Grandfriends of FSP are invited to attend our sixth annual Grandfriends Day on Friday, May 25th. Guests will spend time in their FSP student's classroom, and will attend a Music Sharing assembly. Please [email John Marble](#) for more information and to RSVP.



The 1st-2nd graders play a game with their elderly buddies.

## Learning Update by Mary Tracy, Director of Studies

Among the recommendations we gave ourselves during our accreditation self-study were to strengthen our arts and after-school offerings. Thanks to inspirational and hard work from Christina Chute (our music teacher), Celeste Henriquez (our art teacher), and Billy Maley (our PE teacher and after school program coordinator), we have had a rich year of music, art, drama, and sports, with some fun science thrown in for good measure. [Read on...](#)



A scene from "Odyssey for Peace," a play production that was part of our expanded after-school offerings.

## News Wrap-Up

### **The Outing Club Supports Climate Impacts Day**

On Saturday, May 5th, FSP's Outing Club gathered at East End Beach for kite making, lollipops, and participation in a Global Day of Action in support of 350.org and Climate Impacts Day. The goal was to "connect the dots" between climate change and extreme weather, and to bring attention to the importance of working together to preserve the planet. Nice work, kids!



FSP's Outing Club "connects the dots" to help preserve the planet.

## 8th Grade Presents Social Justice Projects



On Friday, May 11th, FSP 8th graders presented their final Social Justice Art Study projects. Students worked all year with dedicated art mentors and representatives from the following social justice organizations: Power in Community Alliances, Maine Migrant Health Center, Peace Action Maine, Alternatives to Violence, Maine People's Alliance, Maine Civil Liberties Union, Equality Maine, the Disabilities Rights Center, and also did printmaking work with MECA students.

## 5th-6th Graders Collaborate with Vinalhaven Students

On April 30th, the 5th-6th grade went on a field trip to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to take part in a lab program about lobsters. They were joined by 6th graders from Vinalhaven, with whom they had collaborated on a science project via the internet this past fall. The Vinalhaven students then came to FSP to visit the study plot where the FSP 5th-6th grade has identified native plants and removed invasive plants. Later this month, the FSP students will visit Vinalhaven to see the study plots they have been working on.

## FSP in the News!

A reporter from The Forecaster visited FSP in March and wrote a lovely article entitled, *Newly accredited Quaker school creates 'culture of joyful learning.'* [Click here](#) to read the article online.

## Sixth Annual Auction, March 31

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Silent Auction and Brunch on Saturday, March 31st! This was a wonderful community event, and a fundraising success! Funds raised at our Auction go directly towards our operating budget, and help us to provide financial aid to FSP families. Thanks to all of our donors, organizers, volunteers, and attendees!



## Parenting for Peace Events

It was a busy spring for our Parenting for Peace speaker series! On Monday, April 2nd, FSP sponsored a screening of *The Prep School Negro* and hosted director Andre Robert Lee for an outreach workshop. Read more about the film [here](#).

On Wednesday, May 2nd, we hosted renowned psychologist and author Michael Thompson for a free evening lecture entitled, *Best Friends/Worst Enemies: Friendship Development, Popularity and Social Cruelty in Childhood*. This lecture was preceded by a workshop for parents and educators on Parent-Teacher Communication. Handouts from both the lecture and workshop are available on our [website](#).

### **Drama at FSP**

The 7th-8th graders performed "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" by Stuart Adern on Friday, March 16th. This was a lively rendition of a story from the *Tales of a Thousand and One Nights*, featuring song, dance, a princess, a band of pirates, and a camel! Fun was had by all involved, especially those in the audience!



Pirates in "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," performed by 7th-8th grade.

At the school-wide assembly on April 6th, students enjoyed an encore performance of "Odyssey for Peace," a beautiful (and humorous) take on Homer's *Odyssey*, written and directed by the amazing Lon Church. A group of 10 kids, grades 2-6, worked hard on this play after school for 6 weeks.

Congratulations to all of our blooming thespians!

### **7th-8th Grade Museum Trip**

From Archaic and Classical Greece to Ancient Rome, from the late Middle Ages in Italy to Renaissance Florence, the 7th-8th grade class traveled to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday, April 26, to experience some of the great art of the ages. The trip complemented much of the content of this year's social studies. Students were thus able



to bring to what they saw a comparatively informed appreciation of context and not a little happy anticipation. The trip was judged by all a success. (The only complaint was that there wasn't quite enough time to take in each gallery as fully as everyone would have liked.)