



*Skillin School
180 Wescott Rd
South Portland, ME 04106
Phone 773-7375
Fax 775-2904*

*Parent Bulletin
March 2008*

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Community Members,

It is March, mud season, and *Maine Educational Assessments*. Need I say more? February demonstrated just how committed Skillin School parents are in support of their children's education. We had 91 % participation in the parent conferences. Our goal is 100%.

Recently, the School Board adopted the Superintendent's budget and a revised Redistricting plan. Redistricting is an emotionally charged issue and I appreciate all of the dedication of time and effort parents put into the process. We are sad to be losing students from the Skillin Community, but do promise to make the transition for students as smooth as possible. The City Council Public Hearing on the FY2009 School budget will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 – City Council Chambers.

Again I would like to thank Tap Fitzgerald and Matt Green for being our parent representatives on the Redistricting Parent Advisory committee. They have represented us well and have put in many long hours in doing so.

On another note, our student council has been active creating spirit days and skits for our all school assemblies. These students meet during their lunch and recess to discuss school issues and to be the voice of their peers. Thank you to Beth Dolley and Judi DeMucci for their dedication and leadership in supervising these young school leaders.

Kindergarten students recently shared their learning at the Love To Learn Night. Parents and children alike enjoyed playing interactive literacy and math games. Third grade students will be sharing their knowledge of the Solar System Wednesday, March 19th from 6:00 -7:00p.m. Second grade will also demonstrate their learning about arctic animals at the Polar Night March 27th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m..

The *Maine Educational Assessments* (MEAs) were administered the first three weeks in March to third, fourth, and fifth graders. It is imperative that your child be in school on time and rested. Although we try to keep a nice even keel for the students, the assessments are important. Teachers work hard to prepare the students for the assessments and stress their importance without stressing the students. The PTA supplies an ice cream party to celebrate the students' successful completion of the assessments.

We have noticed that more and more parents are walking their students to their classes in the morning. At this point in the school year, we truly expect students to be independent and know they are capable of saying good-bye to loving parents by the office door. We will be enforcing this more heavily and ask for your assistance.

As always, I enjoy seeing your children everyday. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, and positive comments.

Sincerely,
Lucretia Bagley



Kindergarten Registration Time

It's time to think about registering your child for Kindergarten for the fall 2008-2009 school year. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before October 15, 2008 and live in the Skillin School district, it is now time to make an appointment to register your child.

Registration will be held from March 3 through March 28, 2008. You will need your child's original birth certificate, an updated immunization record, and proof of residency to register. Please call Skillin School at 773-7375 to **make an appointment** to come in and register your child.



Lunch Aides and Substitutes Needed

11:15 A.M. to 1:15 P.M.
Monday through Friday
Duties are to supervise children during
lunch and recess.
Please call 773-7375



Let's Go! Takes 5-2-1-0 To School

Let's Go! is a community-based initiative to promote healthy lifestyle choices for children, youth and families in 12 Greater Portland communities. The goal of the [Let's Go! Takes 5210 To School](#) program is to help schools promote lifelong habits of healthy living, paying special attention to healthy eating and physical activity. The school intervention uses the 5-2-1-0 mnemonic to reinforce the importance of four positive health behaviors that are recommended to increase physical activity and healthy eating. Those include:

- eating 5 fruits and vegetables per day
- limiting screen time to 2 hours per day,
- engaging in one hour of physical activity per day and
- increasing water consumption as well as low fat milk while limiting sugar sweetened beverages.

The Mast Landing School, in Freeport, has been actively participating in *Let's Go! Takes 5-2-1-0 to School* since September. Some examples of 5-2-1-0 activities include school-wide use of 5-a-day bracelets to help kids ensure they're getting at least 5 fruits and vegetables every day, use of pedometers to help increase number of steps per day, a real food display of the food pyramid, and school-wide efforts to offer physical activity as a reward instead of pizza parties or other food based celebrations.

The South Portland School Department is going to institute the programs in our schools, too! On Friday, March 7, the Chalkboard hosted Let's Go! coordinators [Victoria Rogers, MD](#), Physician Advisor, and [Heidi Kessler](#), School Intervention Coordinator. They joined us to explain the program and its goal to help our kids be more aware of good nutrition and how to live a healthy lifestyle.

From the Student Council



Don't forget to wear your hat on Fridays. The cost to wear a hat is fifty cents for a Skillin School Hat and one dollar for any other type of hat. Skillin School Hats may be purchased at the school store.

Reminder!

PTA Planning Meeting
Monday, March 24, 2008 6:00 p.m.
Skillin Conference Room

* Free Childcare - All are Welcome*



Spring Fair Planning Meeting!

Wednesday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the
Skillin conference room.
Please help plan this fun Skillin tradition!



Mrs. George's Class Enjoys Snowshoes!!

Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you to the following parents and staff who helped out at Skillin's Black Light Dance.

Angel Leighton – Ann Trueworthy – Wayne Trueworthy – Deb Carter – Cheryl Tibbets – Brenda King – Kathy Savage – Deb Ivy – Shannon O'Riordon – Marcie Welsch – Frank Lorello – Stephanie Netto – Jennifer Lessard – Shannon Fields – Pam Miller – Christine Kaiser – Jen Caselden – Cheri Bryant – Lisa Fitzgerald – Katuilca Rodriguez – Tina Marie Guerrero – Olga Babb – Cindy King – Tap Fitzgerald – Lisa Gordon – Kathy Green – Bruce Babcock – Patty Young – Kristine Neff-Jendrasko – Matt Green – Kevin Derig – Mary Heal – Barbara Shaw – James Wickman

A big thank you to Memorial Jr. High's Builders Club for all their help at the dance.

Mrs. Rich would like to thank the following parents for helping out in her classroom:

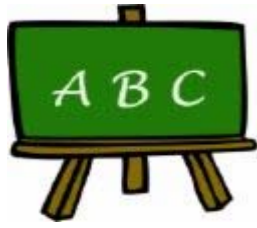
Ashley Merithew – Keyf Adams – Tammy Pralicz – Kat Rodriguez – Debbie Guild – Beth Lotard

A special thank you to Deb Ivy and Kristine Neff-Jendrasko for all their hard work on the Skillin Student Directory.

**Please forgive us if your name was left off the list. We are trying to remember everyone, but occasionally we have a memory lapse. We are truly grateful to everyone who volunteers his or her time.

ATTENTION

The PTA needs large coffee cans to replace the old, beaten up ones currently being used at PTA events for raffle ticket holders. Please send in any you have with their covers. There will be a box outside of the school office to put them in. Thanks!



Would you like more information about the Skillin School PTA? Are you interested in what events are coming up? Please visit us on the Skillin web site.

www.skillin.spsd.org/PTA.html

Skillin School FREE Movie Night



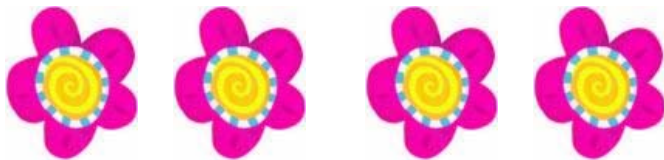
Bring your parents* and join your friends for
Free Movie Night at Skillin School on
Friday, March 21 from 6pm-8pm
Popcorn & Soda will be available for purchase.

**Free Movie Night Sponsored by
Moonlight Movies & Skillin School PTA**

*Students MAY NOT attend without adult supervision

Skillin PTA Scholarship

Do you know any South Portland High School Seniors that attended Skillin School? They are eligible to apply for the Skillin PTA Scholarship. Applications are available at the High School Guidance office and are due by May 15, 2008. For more information please call Lisa at 772-5432.



SAVE THE DATE!
Skillin School Spring Fair
Saturday, May 31, 2008
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**New Date! New Time!
New Games!**

Volunteer Spotlight

The spring After School Adventures program is in full swing with 15 different workshops. Please give a big thank you to the following parents, teachers, staff, and older siblings who are volunteering their time and talents to make this program possible.

Dave Esposito, Dawn Thomas,
Deborah Vallely, Erika Roberts,
Helen Tweedie, Jean Esposito,
Kim Woodhouse, Kristen Bolduc,
Lisa Fitzgerald, Lue Bagley, Mary
Heal, Nicole Fitzgerald, Olivia Jen-
drasko, Pam Miller, Paula Quirk,
Rebecca Ramos, Scott Labombard,
Susan Diamond, Tammy Pralicz,
Tap Fitzgerald, Taylor Mathews,
Cheyenne Esposito



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Skillin School Night at the Portland Sea Dogs
Friday, May 9th - 6:00 p.m.

Skillin students attending the game will be able to:

Participate in a parade with Slugger around the field starting at 5:15 p.m.

Sing the National Anthem on the field with their Skillin friends.

See Skillin School on the announcement board.

See a great **FIREWORKS** show after the game!

*Each person purchasing a ticket will be automatically entered into a drawing to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Tickets are \$5.00/person. Please check your

March Important Dates

March 3-28 Kindergarten Registration
Please call the office for an appointment.

March 14 Second Trimester Ends

March 19 3rd Grade Solar System Museum-6:00—7:00 P.M.

March 24 PTA-6:00 P.M.
Skillin Conference Room

**March 26 Early Release Day
Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
Lunch will be served.**

March 26 Progress Reports go home in Totes.

March 27 Grade 2 -Polar Night
6:00—7:00 P.M.



Important Reminder

Please remember that the school zone speed limit is 15 miles per hour. The school zone includes Westbrook Street, Broadway, and Wescott Road. It is important for the safety of our students that the speed limit is obeyed.

REMINDER

**EARLY RELEASE DAY
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 26TH**

**DISMISSAL AT 12:30 P.M.
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

