



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

*Parent Bulletin  
June 2008*

***From the Principal***

The June newsletter, how is that possible? As usual, the year just seemed to fly by. Skillin is blessed with creative and talented students, teachers, families, and community members all working together to make Skillin a successful learning community. I am proud to be able to say I am the principal of Skillin School. Thank you all for allowing me that privilege.

Kudos to Susan Cox for producing such a magnificent Art Show. The school is all a glow with student art work. If you didn't have a chance to visit the show, please drop by before it is all taken down.

Speaking of being all a glow, this year's Variety Show was truly one of the best. Students confidently shared their talent on stage. It always amazes me how some of the shyest students are able to find the confidence to share their talent with the entire school. I do believe the quiet encouragement from the Variety Show teachers helps in this endeavor. So, thank you to Myra Caron, Ellen Corrigan, Christine Dobson, Beth Dolley, Jen Allaire, John Rimkunas, and Lisa Gordon.

This year, the entire school will be enjoying their field day together on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11:00 P.M. This day is designed for students to engage in healthy competition and also to demonstrate their physical accomplishments. Matt Greene is organizing a track meet for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on June 11<sup>th</sup>. He has been offering clinics during recess in the month of May. These clinics have helped students set personal goals. Thank you Matt, for all of your time and energy.

This is a busy time of year for everyone, but no busier than for fifth grade. Our fifth graders enjoyed meeting Ms. Welter, Memorial Middle School principal, and staff members who visited last month with several Skillin alumni. They presented the students with facts about middle school and answered questions. Next our students will visit Memorial Middle School on June 5<sup>th</sup> where they will be given a grand tour. Our students have worked hard and are well prepared for this transition. Some of the fifth graders participated in the Annual District-Wide Band Concert on May 28<sup>th</sup>. All of the students boarded the Down-easter and headed to Boston on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Again, thanks to the PTA for sponsoring this trip. Last but not least, we will have our

“Farwell Fifth Grade Assembly” on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child's accomplishments and time at Skillin School. The assembly will begin at 1:30P.M.

As fifth graders are preparing to move on, and we are trying to adjust to life without them, prospective kindergarten students and their parents are preparing to transition to entering school. We have held one Informational Night and will be having an Open House for students and parents in September. It is an emotional time of year saying “so long “ to fifth graders and “hello” to new kindergarteners. However, it is a natural process, and we wish everyone the best.

Our school cannot run without the support of volunteers. To show our appreciation, we will be hosting a “Sweets” Volunteer Appreciation party on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 3:30 P.M. in our library for all of those of you who were able to volunteer this year in any capacity. We look forward to seeing you and paying you homage.

The PTA sponsored Playground Party on June 4<sup>th</sup>. This was another opportunity for the Skillin community to gather and a time to meet the new students and their families joining us from Brown School. We are excited to welcome our new community members. These new children came to school on May 29<sup>th</sup> for lunch and were met by student ambassadors. All the students appeared to enjoy themselves. Please plan on attending this fun-filled event.

Again this year, we had an outstanding turnout for the Skillin School Fair. Thank you to the PTA who made this annual event a huge success.

As we wrap up the year, I would just like to say thank you again for another wonderful year at Skillin School. This community continues to support the school and be an excellent place to work and learn. I wish you all well as you go about your summer routines and look forward to working together again in the fall. As always, I enjoy seeing your children everyday. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, and positive comments.

Sincerely,  
Lucretia Bagley



**Volunteer  
Appreciation Day!  
Thursday, June 12, 2008  
7:00 – 11:00 AM  
J.P. Thornton's**

In recognition of all that our school volunteers do for our students, staff, and community, we invite you to stop by J.P. Thornton's, at the corner of Evans and Broadway, and enjoy a drink and snack on us! Just stop in between 7:00 – 11:00 AM on June 12, get what you like, and tell them it's on the school department!

**THANK YOU!**

*From Molly Aldrich, Jane Eberle, and the South Portland School Department.  
FMI call Jane Eberle at 776-3783*

## Important Reminder

The last day for students is **Tuesday, June 17**. Lunch will **NOT** be served that day. All students will be dismissed at **NOON**.

### Spring Picture Payment

Please return the Spring pictures or payment for the pictures by June 11, 2008. Checks should be made out to Lifetouch. You may also pay online at [spring.lifetouch.com](http://spring.lifetouch.com)



## June Important Dates



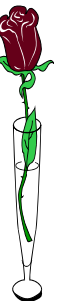
- June 11 "Sweet" Volunteer Appreciation held in the Library 2:30 - 3:30 P.M.  
PTA Meeting 6:15 P.M.
- June 12 5th Grade Farewell Assembly - 1:30 P.M.  
Kindergarten Celebration 6:00-7:00 P.M.
- June 13 Field Day - Entire School Kickball Game
- June 17 **Last Day of School with dismissal at 12:00 p.m.**  
**Lunch will NOT be served.**

**Have a Safe and Happy Summer**



### Thank You Patty Young!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Patty Young for her years of dedicated service to Skillin School. Patty has been the PTA Secretary for last two years. She has also organized the AVON fundraiser for the last three years.



Thank you for everything you have done for the students and teachers at Skillin School! You will be sincerely missed.

## Student Dress Code

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the school community, Mrs. Bagley and I are requesting that we all be mindful of the school dress code concerning clothing that is revealing. Tank tops, low-cut tops, and bare midriffs are not appropriate for school. Excessively short skirts and shorts as well as pants that hang too low are also prohibited. Sneakers or shoes that convert to roller skates are not allowed on school property due to safety concerns. Any attire which has discriminatory or harassing language or interferes with students' learning or feelings of safety should be left at home.

We are asking for your support as we work together to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning. Parents/Guardians whose children come to school not dressed according to the School Board's requirements will be contacted. Thank you for your help with this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Mary Heal  
Assistant Principal

The South Portland School Board encourages students to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress and grooming. In keeping with the district's goals to provide a safe, healthy, and non-discriminatory environment for educating students for maximum academic and social development, the Board specifically prohibits the following:

- Any clothing that causes a material and substantial disruption of the school
- Any clothing that promotes illegal activity, e.g., use of drugs
- Any clothing that contains messages that violate the Board's discrimination/harassment policies
- Clothing that is revealing, e.g., tops that reveal the midriff or that are low-cut, excessively short skirts, pants that hang too low, etc.

Cross Reference: JIC System-Wide Student Code of Conduct

JICIA Weapons,  
Violence School &  
Safety

Revised: March 8, 1976

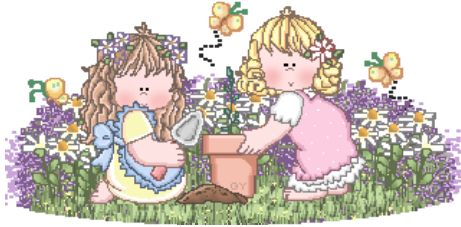
Revised: December 2002

Adopted: January 13, 2003

See page 32 of the 2007-2008 *Dr. Waldo T. Skillin School Handbook*



## Learning Gardens Update



We had a busy May! The After School Garden Club met every Tuesday. We cleaned out leaves, weeded, pruned, and planted many fun grasses, shrubs, herbs, annuals, and perennials in the Bird and Butterfly Garden. We discovered just how long the taproot of a dandelion can be, and learned that the name “dandelion” came from the French “dente de lion” (as the jagged leaves look like lions’ teeth!). Thanks to Jen Allaire for helping to lead this awesome group!

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, we had our first annual Skillin School Ecology Day. It was kicked off by an all-school assembly. The Ferry Beach Ecology School presented *Ecology Takes the Stage*. It was a highly entertaining and informative performance. Then, over the course of the rest of the day, all 21 classes cycled outside for a half hour nature awareness activity along our nature trail. The activities were entitled *The Unnature Trail*, *Micro-Home*, and *Meet-a-Tree*. Ask your child to describe his/her activity! Many parents and staff came together to make this a memorable day. Our thanks to all of you.

Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> was United Way’s *Day of Caring*. A group of hardy souls from Aetna Disability came for the afternoon and they pulled “bamboo” out of the woods by the bagful, laid down a new layer of Surperhumus on the trail, dragged out brush, collected litter, and put down a thick new layer of mulch in the garden. An incredible amount of work was accomplished in four short hours. Thank you, Aetna!

And on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Craig LaPine from the group Cultivating Community along with some Americorp volunteers worked with our fifth graders for the day to build a 3-Bin Compost System. It is made out of cedar and is tucked against the fence near the start of the trail.

Craig will return in the fall to explain more about the composting process to the students and staff, and we will start actively using the bins in the fall. I would like to thank Heather Ebenhoeh, who is part of the literacy team here at Skillin, for spearheading this effort.

Finally, the first wedding was held in the Learning Garden. I knew it would happen sooner or later! On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the marriage of Q and U took place with the active and enthusiastic participation of all four kindergarten classes. The girls wore flowery headbands, and the boys sported top hats. Q and U vowed to stay together forever, and to go forth to spell words like *queen* and *question*. What a fun and creative kindergarten team we have!!!

On a more serious note, we still do not have a parent on the Learning Garden Committee. As you can see, we do some incredible stuff. Wouldn’t you like to be a part of all of this? Or just be on a sub-committee (such as the composting committee)? We would really like this to be more of a community effort. I urge you to contact me if you think you might like to join us for the ’08-’09 school year. We always have fun (and always have snacks!).

Last of all, several families will be needed over the course of the summer to help weed the garden and remove invasive plants from the woods. If you could help – even once would be fine – please email me here at school before June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for all the ways you *do* support the Learning Gardens Project, and have a fabulous summer.

Sincerely,  
Anne Cyr  
[cyra@spsd.org](mailto:cyra@spsd.org)

PTA Year End Wrap Up and Fall Planning Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

6:15 p.m.

Skillin Conference Room

Free Childcare  
All are Welcome

## To Our Thornton Heights and Brickhill Families

Thank you all for everything you have contributed to Skillin School over the years. Thank you for all the volunteer hours, the playground project, the school dances, the spring fairs, the ice cream socials, the after school adventures, and the kids holiday shopping days. Thank you for all the pies and wrapping paper you have purchased and all the field trips you have chaperoned. Thank you for all the cookies, brownies, and cupcakes you have baked. Thank you for the friendships. Thank you for caring about Skillin School and investing your time and energy to make it a great school for all of our children.

Good luck at your new schools next year. You will be greatly missed.

The 2007 – 2008 PTA Board



## SOUTH PORTLAND YOUTH FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

June 16, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.  
South Portland Community Center  
Grades 2-6 for Fall 2008  
Season starts mid-August  
Cost: \$85 per player - includes equipment

South Portland Youth Football is devoted to teaching our youth the fundamentals of football. The South Portland teams *Fire* and *Big Red* return for our fourth year with a 10-week program.

Those unable to attend can pick up a registration form at the Community Center.



## Skillin School needs you!

The Skillin PTA board has many openings for the 2008 – 2009 school year. All the openings are listed below with an estimate of how many volunteer hours are needed for each position over the course of the entire school year. If you are interested in any of the positions, please contact Patty Young at 773-6556 or [payoung99@juno.com](mailto:payoung99@juno.com) or come to the June 11th PTA meeting at 6:15 pm to learn more.

### Open PTA positions:

**President:** time commitment varies

**Secretary:** 15- hour total commitment

**Fund Raising Chair:** 15-hour total commitment

**Holiday Shopping Co-Chair:** 12-hour commitment

**Fall Dance Co-Chair:** 8-hour commitment

**Winter Dance Co-Chair:** 8-hour commitment

**Enrichment Co-Chair:** 8-hour commitment

**Recognition Co-Chair:** 10-hour commitment

**Learning Gardens Parent Volunteer:** 15-hour commitment

**Spring Fair Chair:** 20-hour commitment

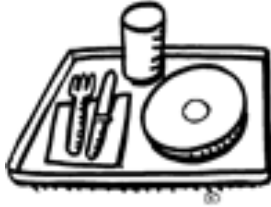
**Campbell's Soup Label Coordinator:** 8-hour commitment (mostly at home)

## ***"SWEETS" VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY***

***JUNE 11  
2:30-3:30 P.M.  
Skillin School Library***

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Breakfast and lunch prices will increase for next year. The new cost for breakfast will be \$1.50 and the new price for lunch will be \$2.25 beginning in September. The cost for white and chocolate milk will remain at 50 cents. Reduced price meals will not be changed.



## STUDENT NEWS SPIRIT WEEK !!!

The Student Council is pleased to announce a FULL WEEK OF SPIRIT!

June 9-13th will be spirit week.

Monday:	Sports Day
Tuesday:	School Colors Day (green & yellow)
Wednesday:	70's Day
Thursday:	Dress Up Day (wear <u>FANCY</u> clothes)
Friday	Twin Day

Also, Tuesday will be a special Hat Day. There will be an all school assembly where we are hoping to see everyone wearing a hat. You may wear any hat free of charge that day. Skillin School hats are on Sale for the reduced price of \$3.00!!



## An International Site-Specific Art Competition

The Maine Center for Creativity's *Art All Around™* project announces an open call for a juried design competition for a major public art work using Portland, Maine's Sprague Energy Corporation 16 of more than 35 above ground storage tanks as a canvas. The competition's cash prizes total \$70,000.00. From land, sea and air, the Sprague "tank farm" is a prominent feature on the Portland Harbor. It is seen by nearly everyone who passes through Portland on travels, and is a familiar sight for those who live here. Viewers see the tank farm from many vantage points and from various speeds. There is no entry fee for the competition.

Everyone, including children, are eligible to apply.

For more information:

[www.artallaround.com](http://www.artallaround.com)

Jean Maginnis | *Executive Director*

### Maine Center for Creativity

7 Custom House Street

Portland, Maine, USA 04101

Tel 207.775.4100 ext 240

Fax 207.775.5668



Congratulations to Anthony Riga, Emma Ivy, Doc Roberts, Ana Neff-Jendrasko, Victoria Beaulieu, and Kameron Harper, the winners of the Skillin School Fun Run 1K and Hula Hoop Contest. Thank you to Matt Green for designing the Fun Run course.

## Spring Fair Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you to all the families and Skillin staff who made this year's Spring Fair so successful. The fair would not have happened without all of your help:

**Angel Leighton, Andrea Wolf, Amanda Berry, Ana Neff-Jendrasko, Ben Savage, Beth Stevens, Billy Gilbert, Brad Sass, Brian Green, Brianna Roberts, Brooke Leighton, Caitlyn Piper, Carrie Skeffington, Cathy McGaffin, Chad MacWhinnie, Cheryl Tibbetts, Courtney Trufant, Dave Esposito, Dawn Harrington, Deb Ivy, Diane Harmon, Donna Clark, Dylan Esposito, Elizabeth Carnell, Ellen Corrigan, Ellie Crawford, Hannah Skeffington, Hannah Tibbetts, Helen Tweedie, Jake Borelli, Jamie Crain, Jim Wickman, Joanna Lewis, Joe Donovan, Judy Mawhinney, Kacie Poage, Kam Harper, Karen Harper, Katiulca Rodriguez, Kayleigh Wolf, Kelly Amadei, Kelly Gilbert, Kristine Gueraldo, Laura Soloman, Laurie Brassard, Leanne Medici, Libby Donovan, Lisa Gordon, Lue Bagley, Madigan Fitzgerald, Markie Amadei, Mary Heal, Mathew Amadei, Mathew Wolf, Matt Harmon, Merridee Carnell, Nicole Fitzgerald, Nina Hysong, Norman Pease, Olivia Neff-Jendrasko, Patty Young, Paula Quirk, Peg Mitschele, Pete Hodgdon, Robyn Kish, Scott MacWhinnie, Sharon O'Riordon, Sharon Wickman, Sheryl Dyer, Sophia Payson-Rand, Stephanie Netto, Stephenie Cliff, Sue Sass, Susan McLean, Susan Townsend, Sylvia Green, Tammy Tierney, Tanya Watson, Theresa Uminga, Tressa King-Libby, Trisha Landon, Vicki Goodwill, Wayne Amadei, and Wayne Trueworthy**

Thank you to all the **Skillin teachers and families** who helped create the great class baskets that were raffled off at the fair.

Thank you to **everyone** who donated cakes for the **cakewalk**. For the first time in years, there were enough cakes and cupcakes for the cake walk to last through the entire fair!

Thank you to the 2008 fair committee: **Kari Filieo, Cindy King, Matt Green, Lisa Fitzgerald, Sylvia Green, Tap Fitzgerald, Angel Leighton, Pam Miller, Cyndee MacWhinnie, Jean Esposito, Kristine Neff-Jendrasko, Lynne Joys, and Marcie Welsh.**

\*We are very sorry if we left your name off the list. We try to Recognize everyone who helps out, but sometimes we miss a few.

Special Thanks to **Sluggo** the Sea Dog, **Ticker** from the American Heart Association, **Otto** The Moose from Bill Dodge, **Mercy Bear**, and the **South Portland Fire Department** for their appearances at our 2008 Skillin School Fair!



## Volunteer Spotlight

Thank you to **Kristine Neff-Jendrasko, Kim Woodhouse, Pam Miller, Patty Young, Lynne Joys, and Paula Quirk** for coordinating the PTA's spring picture day. The PTA made \$890.00 on this event that went directly towards transportation costs for the year-end field trips.

Thank you to **Lisa Fitzgerald, Tap Fitzgerald, and Cindy King** for organizing Skillin night at the Sea Dogs on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Three hundred and thirty-five members of the Skillin community attended the game.

Special thanks to **Mr. Rimkunas** for directing the Skillin students during the National Anthem.



Thank you to **Sylvia Green** and the Enrichment committee for bringing author, Michael Shoulders, Chewonki's nature classrooms, and Poetry Alive! to Skillin this spring.

Thank you to **Kathy Green** and **Sheryl Dyer** for all their hard work cutting and counting Box Tops for Education and Campbell's soup labels this year.

Thank you to first grade teacher, **Anne Cyr** for organizing Skillin's first Ecology Day. Thank you to **Kim Woodhouse, Shannon Fields, Christine Stevens, Lisa Fitzgerald, and Jess Boothby** for volunteering during Ecology Day.

Thank you to all the parents who contributed to **Teacher Appreciation week**. Our teachers were the recipients of incredible meals, snacks, and breakfasts. Through parent generosity and PTA fundraising, the teacher's room also received a new toaster and microwave. Special thanks to **Lynne Joys** and **Pam Miller** for organizing the entire week.

Thank you to **Jeannette Leeman** for babysitting at this year's PTA meetings.

Thank you to **Paula Quirk, Helen Tweedie, Mary Heal, and Lue Bagley** for all their help with PTA events this year.

## Volunteer Thank You

Thank you to all who volunteered this year at Skillin. We could not have done it without you. You volunteer from 200 to 350 hours each month. This included baking, working the dances, working the fair, selling and buying fundraising items, helping in the classroom, making phone calls. You name it; we did it all for our children and our school. Figure 10 months at 350 hours per month then figure what your time is worth an hour..... That's the amount if you were to put a dollar figure to what volunteers do here at Skillin. So pat yourself on the back and relax this summer because next year is just around the corner. And check the lobby of the school for the stars. Because SKILLIN VOLUNTEERS DO SHINE....



*Pam Miller*  
*Skillin School Volunteer Coordinator*

## Poems By Mrs. Violette's Second Grade Class



### Sunny

The sun is shining on me!  
When it rains there is no sun to see.  
In the morning I see the sun upon me!  
It makes me feel warm when the sun is upon me!  
**By Amaya Marzano and Nicholas Conley**

### Lightening

Lightening, lightening in the sky  
Shinning brightly before our eyes  
In a black cloud, there you hide  
Waiting for your big surprise  
**By Noah McHugh and Zachary Dyer**



### A Rainy Day

Rain may make you freeze  
Rain may make you wet



Everybody loves rain  
Just like you

Rain may make you freeze  
Rain may make you wet

It makes grass grow stronger  
And  
Leaves last longer

Rain may make you freeze  
Rain may make you wet

**By Kane Little and Niall Bourke**

### SNOW!

Slush, ice and water  
It forms into something very cold  
It's called  
SNOW

What do you get with snow?  
Sledding!

Slush, ice and water

**By Evan Kaminiski and Jordan Gunn**

### Sunny Honey!

When it's sunny I love honey

**Except**

Not in the rain.

I like the bees when they go over me in the sunny breeze.

I like the butterflies flying around the trees  
And

Flying around me!

Sunny honey!

**By Haley Stevens and Jenna Miller**



### Thunder and Lightening

Thunder so loud  
With a big gray cloud  
It warms me of light that might strike  
So I better not go out and I won't get struck  
**By Riley Hasson and Nolan Brown**