

October 1st, 2008

Dear Skillin Parents and Families,

It was nice to see so many of you at our Academic Open Houses. They were informative evenings, and your attendance makes a difference. If you were unable to attend, I am sure you will be able to obtain the information from your child's teacher.

October brings a change in seasons and a time to set goals for your child. Teachers will be contacting you to set up the fall parent teacher conference. This is an opportunity for you and your child's teacher to compare notes and set goals for your child.

Please accept this gentle reminder regarding drop off and pick up. In an effort to support your children's independence, we do ask that you say goodbye to you children at the front office. It is a natural place to separate school and home. As students walk themselves to class with other students, they are transitioning to school. Thank you for your cooperation of not walking your child to the classroom. Parents **picking up** their children at the end of the day need to stay outside to meet their child. This helps to keep the hallway clear, and the office able to deal with students and adults as needed.

A big thank you goes out to our PTA for all they do to make the opening of school successful. As you know, we have two fund raising events in the fall to support field trips and enrichment all year long. Thank you for participating in any way that you are able. The Harvest Dance this year will be on Friday, October 24th 6:00p.m. – 8 p.m. Come join the community in celebrating the bounty of the growing season.

Please remember how important it is for your children to attend school and to be on time. The following chart lists how many students in each grade were either absent more than 10% of the 2007-2008 school year and/or were tardy more than ten times:

K-12 students
1st - 10 students
2nd - 5 students
3rd - 8 students
4th - 4 students
5th - 5 students

The end of the day pick up seems to be a bit more stable this year, however: the South Portland Police Dept. Chief Miles Haskell, Dave Brochu, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Pam Miller, parent, Joey Fassett, parent, and I will look at the parking issues and make recommendations. Anyone else interested in being on this short term committee, please let me know.

Mary Heal and I will be presenting a *State of the School* address on October 7th @ 6:00 prior to the 6:30 PTA meeting. We invite you to come hear where we are presently and where we plan on going in the future. Please mark your calendars.

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

Sincerely,

Lucretia Bagley