

Lyseth Newsletter

February 8, 2008

Principal
Lenore M. Williams

Assistant Principal
Phoebe A. Russell

Principal's Message

Dear Families and Friends of Lyseth School,

This is an extremely busy time of year here at Lyseth! Earlier last month our fourth and fifth grade students participated in the "now famous" Geography Bee! Our school champion was Donnelly Warren. The entire Lyseth School community was extremely impressed by the knowledge and skill demonstrated by all of the participants. Congratulations again...to all of the Bee participants! The questions asked of the contestants were extremely challenging!

The upcoming month of March will bring with it the Maine Educational Assessments at grades 3-5. We hope to have an informational brochure for parents later this month to help you understand the type of assessments your child will be participating in and to give you some suggestions of how you can support them to do their best each day of the testing period. Please make appointments around the testing schedule to prevent the need for your child to make up a missed session of testing.

If you are the parent of a second or third grade student you have, I am certain, heard a great deal about the Spanish enrichment program brought to Lyseth students through our PTA. I am amazed at how quickly young children learn! Fabuloso! (As Spanish teacher Mrs. Prince might be heard saying!)

Thanks to all that attended our Visiting Author Night with author Toni Buzzeo. It was a great event and we thank our PTA Enrichment Committee for all their support in bringing this opportunity to parents in the evening presentation and to the children during grade level presentations during the school day.

In grades 1 and 2 students are involved in a pilot program called Literacy Lab. This model provides students with a "second helping" of Guided Reading instruction to develop comprehension and fluency proficiency as readers. It is my belief that the gains that we will see in students achievement will support

bringing this model to these grades (and possibly beyond!) on a larger scale next year. We'll report out on

our progress later next month.

Our school improvement goals continue to focus on math instruction. During our Early Release Wednesdays, teachers are now at work developing lessons on Number Sense. We've spent the earlier part of the year exploring best practice in math instruction and will end the year with "test driving" newly developed lessons that represent that new learning.

I want to thank you for all your support with keeping the traffic loops in the front clear during dismissal. It has made a great difference in safety and in moving this process along efficiently. I need to ask for your help at the side of the building nearest the playing fields. Parents of our CNS program students have been issued parking passes to meet their children at this side of the building. All other traffic is prohibited in that area. Please do not access this parking area if you do not have approved access. This is a courtesy we offer to these parents and students as a matter of safety.

As always, I want to express my gratitude to our wonderful parent community. Classroom teachers rely heavily on this strong partnership to ensure that each student experiences success!

Lenore Williams, Principal

LUNCH PRICE INCREASE (effective February 1, 2008)	
Grades K-5	\$2.00
Grades 6-12	\$2.25
Reduced Price 40¢	

Summer Champs

United Way *Summer Champs* is a special scholarship program generously funded by the Libra Foundation that offers fun, friendship and adventure for Portland Public School students in grades 3 through 6.

This summer, *Summer Champs* will provide \$400 for 3rd graders, \$800 for 4th graders and \$1,000 for 5th and 6th graders in any Portland Public School. Students can use these scholarships to attend up to three Maine camps.

Author Visit

The PTA and Enrichment Committee sponsored published author and former Lyseth School librarian Toni Buzzeo who visited with classes January 16-18. Her sessions with younger readers focused on her books Little Loon and Pappa, Dawdle Duckling, and Ready or Not, Dawdle Duckling. The intermediate grades enjoyed excerpts from her Mrs. Skorupski books—Our Librarian Won't Tell Us Anything! And Fire Up With Reading! Her visit concluded with a Reader's Theatre with families on the evening of January 22nd.

Lyseth Elementary School Receives Grant from Toshiba America Foundation

Lyseth School received a Science and Math Improvement Grant from the Toshiba America Foundation in New York City in the amount of \$1,000.00 for a project entitled "If You Build It...They Will Come!"

The project was created by Ms. Jill Irving and Mr. Paul MacDowell.

Grant funds will enable fourth grade students to practice their measuring skills while constructing birdhouses. Special needs high school students will mentor the young builders, helping them with some of the more difficult assembly steps. The birdhouses will be designed to represent historic land-

Parent Volunteer Room 12 Couplets Shares Her Talent In the Classroom

Mrs. Smith's kindergarten classroom is hosting a parent volunteer, Alice Wheeler, who is an art teacher in Windham Schools. She will be helping the kindergarteners do a clay egg project during the month of February. Mrs. Wheeler will return again in March to do glazing. The children will make three-dimensional eggs with patterns on them by molding clay around a form. They will use a technique called "coiling" to do this. Mrs. Smith and her students are very excited to have her.



Room 12 Couplets FAVORITE SNOW DAY

I like the snow nice and white
I think it's really bright.
It's nice, soft, and puffy
It's really really fluffy.
It really makes my nose so cold
But I don't care I'm brave and bold.
I think my cocoa's really yummy
But it makes a tumbling sound in
my tummy.
The snow is really fun
I hate the real hot sun.
The wind is very strong
When I'm done I play ping-pong
My pizza's very good
Then in the snow I just stood.
The snow is very squishy
I want to catch a fishy.

By: Ian McCallum

SNOW

I can see in the snow
I see a big kid named Joe.
The snow is so high
I think it could touch the sky.

By: Blaize Vail

marks in downtown Portland, and once completed, they will be displayed at the Maine Audubon Society.

The mission of the Toshiba America Foundation is to contribute to the quality of science and mathematics education in U.S. communities by investing in projects designed by classroom teachers to improve instruction for students in grades K-12.

Toshiba America Foundation is a non-profit grant making organization that has been supporting improvements in science and math

program since 1990. The Foundation was created by Toshiba Corporation, Toshiba America, Inc. and the Toshiba America Group companies. Toshiba Corporation is a world leader in high technology products. For more information visit: www.taf.toshiba.com.



Kindergarten Registration

Any child who will reach the age of five years by October 15, 2008, is eligible to begin our full day Kindergarten program beginning in Sept.

Kindergarten registration will be held during the month of March, daily between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

The official documents necessary for registration are:

- Child's birth certificate (with raised city seal)
- Child's immunization record
- Proof of residency in the Lyseth district (such as utility bill showing current date and address or property tax bill driver's license is **NOT** accepted)

Student Council Activity

The student council is donating foods from all of the classes to the Preble Street Food Center. Our challenge is to collect 100 items of food from each grade level on the 100th day of school (February 15, 2008.) Some of the Student Council members and teachers are trying to make up some math problems for this great occasion. Shoshanna Hoose is taping the students about what they think about this great event.

Lizzy Fowler
Press Secretary

***Please be sure to check
Lost & Found when
visiting school.***

Hodge Podge

Hodge Podge is a creative magazine published every season by a group of third through fifth graders who enjoy writing and drawing. We welcome submissions from any K-5 students. We use the four seasons as themes for our magazine.

The Hodge Podge staff meets once a week on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:15 to discuss the magazine. The typical Hodge Podge has a pet page, an interview, lots of poetry, a puzzle (trivia, word scramble, word search) a short story, and another article or picture. Thank you Hodge Podge staff and anyone else who submitted to the magazine.

Josie Pierce
Editor of Hodge Podge

News From Our Library

The library has been a busy place this past month. On January 16 – 18, Toni Buzzeo was our visiting author. She shared her experiences as a writer and especially how she gets her ideas for her books with all of the students. On January 22, Toni presented an evening family program that included a Readers' Theater performance by students. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring our author visit.

Mrs. Fricke, our librarian, is here on Tuesdays and Thursdays this

year and has been working on research on "The Active Earth" with the third grade classes. All the classes have been busy reading for information, taking notes, learning to organize their notes by color coding and then writing their information in paragraphs. We are looking forward to their completed projects. Students in 4th and 5th grade are still busily reading the Maine Student Book Award books. Any student who reads 3 of the books will be eligible to vote. Students in

grades K – 4 are also listening to the Chickadee Books, Maine's Children's Choice Picture Book Project. There are 10 titles on this list. Voting for both awards will be in March. Stay tuned for the winning titles.

Wee Deliver In School Mail Program

Once again, Lyseth is proud to announce the return of our Wee Deliver Program. This is our fifth year offering this program which was introduced in 1990 by the U.S. Postal Service to improve reading and writing skills of elementary school children. It has grown to include more than 20,000 schools across the country.

So how does it work? It's simple; Lyseth has been modeled as a miniature town with street

addresses for each classroom and a general office address for all other staff members. Brand new mailboxes (thanks to PATHS woodworking students) have been placed throughout the school where students can deposit their weekly in-school mail. Every Monday during recess, 5th grade students with the help of parent volunteers pick-up the mail, sort it and deliver outgoing mail to classrooms.

The Wee Deliver Program is a won-

derful learning opportunity for our students. It provides the students with real life experiences in which to apply basic skills such as; writing a letter, addressing envelopes, using the mail system and using a Zip Code. It provides knowledge of how mail is processed, but best of all it unifies the student body through a student centered school wide communication system. Throughout the year we provide "seasonal" stationery, envelopes and stickers and students can write to friends, teachers, study buddies and of course the Lyseth Leopard.

Parent Volunteer Shares Her Talents With Kindergarteners

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Shoshanna Hoose is taping the students about what they think about this great event.

Lizzy Fowler
Press Secretary

Library Corner

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Time to organize our notes

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Lunch Price Increase

Grades K-5 \$2.00
Grades 6-12 \$2.25
Reduced Price 40¢

As of February 1, 2008

News From Superintendent's Office

A new elementary school is proposed for the site of the former Baxter Elementary School off Ocean Avenue. The State Board of Education has approved this site and will consider for full state funding the approval of the concept design for the new school in early March. An Ocean Avenue Elementary School Site Proposed Neighborhood Boundaries Ad Hoc Committee is working to formulate a recommendation to our School Committee regarding the boundaries of the neighborhood that will be served by this new school. The first meeting was held on Thursday, January 31st from 5-7:30PM at the Portland School's Transportation Office. Membership on this committee includes the following:

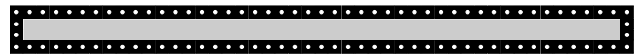
Assistant Superintendent – Jill Blackwood
Multilingual Director – Grace Valenzuela
Transportation Director – Kevin Mallory
Principal – Marysue Morrison
School Committee Member – Sarah Thompson
Clifford Neighborhood Parent – Ken Giaquinto
Baxter Neighborhood Parent – Janice William

The working assumptions with which this committee has been charged are:

- To establish a school community that achieves a socio-economic balance in which approximately 40-50% of the students qualify for the Federal Free Lunch Program
- To keep as much of the Nathan Clifford School student population together as possible
- To disrupt as few other neighborhoods as possible
- To keep all of our elementary schools viable and sustainable
- To make all decisions with regard to best educational practices and programs

At the initial meeting time was spent getting reviewing the individual working assumptions and asking clarifying questions. A great deal of time was also spent looking at enrollment and demographic data prepared by Transportation Director Kevin Mallory. The committee reviewed a proposal to create the enrollment for this new school by moving the entire current Clifford School neighborhoods, reuniting the former Baxter School neighborhood and the adding two district programs: Functional Life Skills (special education programming for students with multiple handicapping conditions) and English Language

Learner Classes. Some of the students in these district programs may come from other neighborhoods in the city. The next meeting of this committee is planned for Monday, February 11 at 5:30PM in the Transportation Office. Committee members would welcome your feedback on their initial work towards developing this boundaries recommendation. Please feel free to call or write Asst. Supt. Jill Blackwood @ 874-8237 or blackj@portlandschools.org. You may contact any other members of the committee with feedback or questions as well.



Ocean Avenue (the former Baxter Elementary School site) will be the site of Portland's next new State funded elementary school.

Portland residents are invited to a media presentation of the site drawings and concept design of this new Ocean Avenue School.

Monday, March 3, 2008
6:30—7:30 p.m.

At East End Community School

The Maine Forest Service and Service Learning ideas for this site will also be showcased.

support of this new school's concept approval is needed if Portland is to qualify for full State funding to build this new school.

come to see and hear about the exciting plans for this new school. A straw poll will be held at the end of the presentations. (Please bring proof of residency in Portland with you.)