



From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As a staff that has worked with your child all year, we feel prepared to address your child’s placement for next year. We will be considering your child’s needs, both academically and socially, as well as the demands of next year’s curriculum and expectations.

You may feel the desire to offer input into the process. If so, write a letter or drop me an email, to express your thoughts for next year and submit it to the school office by **Friday, April 30th**. I would like you to frame your thinking around your child’s needs. While it is not feasible to honor specific requests for teachers, we appreciate your input regarding your child’s learning style.

It is my belief every one of our teachers wants a successful experience for every child in his/her class. The staff members and I will go through a very lengthy process of selecting the best placement for your child. We hope that you will respect our professional judgment in this very thoughtful process.

Lenore M. Williams

Odyssey of the Mind

Lyseth should be proud of our recent competition at the State Tournament for Odyssey of the Mind in Sanford, Maine on March 20th! We had four competition teams and the following students participated: Ben Thompson, Cecilia Ritter, Nathan Desjardins, Corry Hemond, Aidan Reid, Liam Niles, Nicola Seavey (Primary School). Dela Bernard, Mandy Mastropasqua, Mason Parks, Lydia Clark, Julie LaBrecque, Caleb Niles, Nolan Cyr, Matthew Vattanasil, Nick Taliento, Michael DiPietro, Jerry Mitchell, Roman Anderson (Division I). Check out the trophy in the hallway as one team placed 3rd in a long list of teams! Congratulations to the following students: Karina Boothe, Ellianna Boothe, Reagan Leslie, Paige Mickiewicz, Charlie Thompson, and Nicole Dixon.

Julie Anderson

The Kindergarten classes will be performing, **Alphabet Soup**, on Thursday, May 27th @ 6:30 PM in the gym. Kindergarten families—mark your calendars. It promises to be a memorable evening!

Lyseth Math Team



News From the First Grade

The first grade classes all had a visitor from the Preble Street Resource Center. Brenda Norris, a volunteer at the center, talked to the students about “wants” and “needs”. Her lesson focused on the importance of all people having what they need and how important it is to share. We realized from her work at the Resource Center that many people in our own city do not have what they “need”.

The first grade classes worked together to provide the Preble Street Resource Center with over 100 items. The students brought in many items to donate to the center. Items included non-perishable food items, toiletries, winter hats, gloves, backpacks, coffee and tea. Mrs. Norris came back to Lyseth to pick up the items and thanked all the children for their generous donations. She was amazed at all of the items that the first graders collected. It was a wonderful experience for all of us to give to those in need in our community.

The last Portland Math Meet of the season!

By Kyle Cholod

Lyseth’s 4th and 5th grade math team had a great end to the season! On our last meet of the year, Lyseth placed 1st as a team with 105 points against about 25 other teams. Individually, Kate Johnson and Jessica Brown placed 5th, Nolan Cyr and Roman Anderson placed 4th and Jacob Goldberg and Kyle Cholod placed 1st. Both Kyle and Jacob were the only two students to place first in the entire city both attaining a perfect score of 21 points! That’s against around 150 other students!

The Lyseth teams include: (The Divisors) Erin Ritter, Ellianna Boothe, Roman Anderson, Nolan Cyr, Jacob Goldberg, Kyle Cholod, (The Multipliers) Nicole Whippley, Jessica Brown, Ellianna Budri, Connor Buckley, Jake Libby, Lucas Profeno, (The Alternates) Nicole Dixon, Kate Johnson, Abby Elowitch, Devon Cohen, Taylor Sargeant, and Julia Pomerleau.

Many thanks go to our coach, Lorraine Ann Taylor and Assistant Coach Laura Alice Cholod for a great year filled with math fun!



Setting Budget Priorities

By Portland Superintendent James C. Morse, Sr.

Budgets represent a community's priorities. As I crafted my 2010-2011 budget for the Portland Public Schools, I faced the challenge of meeting students' needs and moving our district forward while keeping costs affordable for taxpayers.

Fortunately, more than 100 residents representing a broad cross-section of our city already had identified priorities for the school district through our recent [Future Search](#) event.* I took to heart their major recommendations:

- Recognize that education begins at birth and it should include preschool.
- Provide all students equal access to quality education and facilities.
- Give our students access to 21st century technology.
- Prepare students for success in a global marketplace.
- Forge strong partnerships between the schools and community organizations.
- Help all students to graduate and prepare for college or careers.

I knew that addressing all of those goals would be difficult when our district faces cuts of \$4.7 million in state and federal aid next year. But I found ways to embed the priorities into my proposed budget. Let me give you some examples.

We have begun exploring how the district can work more closely with Portland's preschool programs. One possibility is to house some programs in our schools. Strong partnerships will result in a community commitment to preschool programming.

I've recommended increasing staffing for elementary classrooms next year and putting in place a three-year plan to lower class sizes in kindergarten, first, and second grades in 2011-12. Our goal is to have one teacher for every 13 to 17 students in kindergarten, first and second grade classes by fiscal year 2014. That reflects a growing body of research showing that the early elementary grades are critical in determining students' academic success through high school.

My budget would launch an elementary world languages program. The budget includes money to hire two Spanish teachers for the elementary grades. Our plan is to phase in a world languages program that eventually will serve students in grades three through five. We also are increasing our international offerings by starting the first global studies certificate program in a Maine high school.

My budget expands access to technology by providing wireless service at Longfellow, Lyseth and Hall elementary schools. That will complete the job of making our schools wireless and ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to access technology.

I have addressed equity in several ways through the budget. For example, the budget corrects unequal staffing in some subject areas at our three middle schools. The number of staff members who serve English Language Learners (ELL) declined by 28 percent during the past five years, while the ELL population rose by 50 percent. My budget would boost academic support for those students by adding more ELL teachers. Special education staff will be distributed equitably throughout the system.

Staff cuts are inevitable given our decreasing aid. I have tried to lessen the impact of those cuts as much as possible by using our resources more effectively. My proposal for reorganizing administrative staff will help Central Office support the work of the schools and save nearly \$100,000. The proposed common high school schedule framework will allow us to continue offering a wide variety of academic courses and extracurricular activities to students at each of our four high schools more effectively and efficiently.

Our district already works with many community organizations, and we will deepen those ties in the next year. We propose to offset cuts in middle school sports by collaborating with the Portland Recreation Department to make more programming available to that age group.

The proposed budget shouldn't be viewed as a one-year event, but rather as a multi-year com

mitment. Each year, we must continue to build a better school system where student performance rises and graduation rates increase.

Occupational Therapy

Thank you for all your generous donations over the past year. The children and I are very appreciative. So much of what we have in our therapy room is through the donations from the various Lyseth families and community members. I am once again putting a call out to the Lyseth and community members for donations. Supplies our therapy department could use are: gently-used puzzles, games, toys, stuffed animals, and flat sheets to make new crash pillows. We could also use scotch tape, markers, wipes, Kleenex and various colors of copy paper. Thank you again for your continued support over the years. Stephanie Vares, Lyseth OT

Upcoming Events

- April 7 Early Release Day—2:00 PM
 - April 9 Talent Show @ PHS—7:00 PM
 - April 14 K/1/2 Theater Works—9:15 AM
 - April 14 Early Release Day—2:00 PM
 - April 14 PTA Meeting—7:00 PM
 - April 19-April 23—NO SCHOOL
 - April 28 Early Release Day—2:00 PM
 - May 5 Early Release Day—2:00 PM
 - May 5 Gr 5 Wax Museum—6:30 PM
 - May 6 Lyseth Spring Pictures
 - May 10 Grade 5 Field Trip
 - May 12 Early Release Day—2:00 PM
 - May 13 New Kdg Parent Orientation 6:30 PM
 - May 19 Gr 5 Panoramic Picture 9:00 AM
 - May 19 Early Release Day—2:00 PM
 - May 26 Early Release Day—2:00 PM
 - May 27 Gr 5 Step Up Day at Moore
 - May 27 Kindergarten Play 6:30 PM
 - May 31 Holiday—NO SCHOOL
 - June 3 Lyseth Chorus Concert 7:00 PM
 - June 5 School Fair
 - June 8 Gr 5 Field Trip
 - June 10 Gr 5 Final Assembly—9:15 AM
 - June 11 Unofficial last student day
- NO early release Wednesdays in June.

Community Support

By Sylvie Montello, Partnership Developer

A very important part of our student's education is connecting them with opportunities in and out of the classroom that enhance curriculum and support learning. Here are some of this school year's highlights:

Mainly Nutrition provides funding to promote nutrition and physical education in the classroom. This year 18 teachers participated in the program and received \$100 each to support their health curriculums.

Anne Lapierre, a Nutritionist from Hanaford's, provides workshops for classrooms focused on healthy living and healthy lifestyle. All workshops involve hands-on activities and delicious healthy snacks.

Junior Achievement presented to 12 classrooms. The lessons strive to offer students a clearer understanding of business and economics. JA volunteers visit the classrooms 4-5 times providing grade level activities that show students skills and application in the real world. Some of our students have had JA from Kindergarten to 5th Grade.

Volunteers from the Cromwell Center for Disabilities Awareness visited several classrooms. The workshop addresses attitudes and acceptance of all kinds of disabilities for students. The program promotes cooperative learning, respect for diversity and an understanding of differences.

Healthy Portland provides numerous grant opportunities that support health. This year their focus was on promoting gardening projects and Lyseth was awarded \$650 to support Ms. McKenzie and Ms. Lewis's gardening project.

DonorsChoose.org is a website where teachers can post projects and supplies needed for their classroom. Individuals can donate towards the project and once the project is 100% funded, DonorsChoose.org purchases and ships the supplies directly to the teacher. Many Lyseth teachers have had projects funded through this site. We have received listening centers, books, calculators, math manipulatives, white boards and much

more. Starting April 1st, the People's Community Foundation has offered to fund 50% of all PPS projects. Numerous Portland teachers have posted projects and would love your support. Lyseth has 3 projects posted. If you are interested in supporting a project(s), please visit the website donorchoose.org, click on view projects, then to the right you will be able to select state, city and school to view projects. This is a wonderful opportunity for Portland Schools and any support is truly appreciated.

Portland School District Unveils New Web Site

The Portland Public Schools will roll out a new Web site in early May. The Web address will remain www.portlandschools.org, but the site will have an updated design and many new features.

The new Web site will be unveiled at the Portland School Committee meeting on May 5 at 7 p.m. in Room 250, Casco Bay High School.

"The new Web design will showcase our district and improve communication with students, staff, parents and community members," said Portland Superintendent James Morse, Sr.

The new Portland Public Schools homepage features the Portland skyline and several photos of students. The Web site's navigation menu provides easy access to district news releases, notices about upcoming events, the school lunch menu, staff e-mail addresses and phone numbers and other information. Visitors can take polls on topics related to the district.

The district began work on revising the Web site several years ago, but lack of funds delayed the project. In 2008, a committee of staff members and community residents helped draw up the new site's specifications. The district secured a federal technology grant and sought bids last summer. *ImageX Media*, a web design company based in Vancouver, was hired to work with the school system's technology department on the project.

The initial redesign includes the district portion of the Web site. This summer, the district plans to complete other improvements, such as adding language translation and making the site more interactive.

Kindergarten Registration

Children must be at least five years old by October 15, 2010 in order to register. Parents should bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residency in the city of Portland. Students whose families speak a language other than English at home should contact the Multilingual Intake Center (874-8135) to make an appointment for registration, English language proficiency testing and health screening. The center is at Lyman Moore Middle School, 171 Auburn Street (next to Lyseth Elementary School).

Pennies for Peace

The 5th grade students in Chapter 104 just recently finished the young readers edition of "*Three Cups of Tea*" by Greg Mortenson. It tells the story of Greg Mortenson's attempt to climb K2, the second highest peak in the world. He got lost and wandered into a small village of Korphe, Pakistan. While he was there, Greg learns that the children do not have a school. So he promised the village he would help build one and started the organization "Pennies for Peace" to help raise money to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the idea being if girls and boys are educated there would be peace in our world. After April vacation we will be collecting pennies throughout the month of May. Our Goal is 50,000 pennies from Lyseth School!

There is an adult, young readers and picture book versions of "*Three Cups of Tea*" available in the library. There will be an assembly for all students after vacation to explain "Pennies for Peace."

For further information go to www.penniesforpeace.org

Ellianna Booth and Kate Johnson

Gardeners Needed

Kindergarten is pleased to announce that we will be planting "teepees" of sunflowers, beans, nasturtiums and morning glories. It is our hope that they will green up, flower and be ready for children to play in by September. We are wondering if there might be some interest in helping us water and tend the plants over the summer. Please let any of us know if you'd be willing to help. Thank you. Liz Stover, Heidi Almy, Rachael Smith, Susan Russell and Jayne Hodgkins

