

Small School

Where each child's lifelong learning adventure takes flight.

Principal Diane Lang

January 10, 2018

Hello Small School Parents and Guardians,

Brrrrrrrrrr. That was a bit of a cold, bumpy start to the new year. Yesterday we had a great time outside in the snow. Here is to more mild weather that offers snow (but on weekends only).

#BeaBerry

I have been visiting each classroom reading the story, *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall. This is a wonderful companion book to *Say Something* by Peggy Moss which I read to each classroom in September. In the fall I asked all our students to not be a bystander that keeps silent. I asked our students to be a bystander that *says something* when they see that another person needs support or help when someone is being unkind or mean to them. Some students use the term *upstander*. Or as the *Girls on the Run* program calls it, *stand-byers*. In our discussions, students brainstormed with me strategies they could employ that included: they could tell others to stop; ask the victim to come play with them; if needed, to go get an adult.

With *Red: A Crayon's Story* I asked students to #BeaBerry. In this story Red is being judged by his label and not who he is on the inside, which is blue. His new friend, Berry, sees red for who he really is and helps Red be his true self, Blue. I've had some fantastic discussions with students on the central message of this book and the text-to-text connection of *Red* and *Say Something*. From this #BeaBerry was created in one class. Other classrooms made connections with their recent work with Martin Luther King, Jr. How lucky I am to be a part of a learning community where our students, parents, and teachers all strive to support one another in being the best they can be.

Student Activism at Small: Great Person Award

Check out this article on the Great Person Award. One of our 5th grade students nominated one of our bus drivers and his nominee won the Sentry's Great Person Award! Congratulatings to both of our community members.

http://ms.mainelymediallc.com/news/2018-01-05/Front_Page/Mint_Man_Great_Person_2017_Phil_Terrano.html#.WlYhmCPMygR

Math Night, Wednesday, January 31, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Save the Date (Snow date, Tues. Feb. 6)

Please join us for a night of math exploration focused on answering the following questions:

How do students learn math?

What does current brain research say about math understanding?

Why do we structure math learning activities a certain way?

This is an engaging opportunity to experience math for both adults and children. We hope to see you there!

Parking on One Side of Thompson Street

Now that we have our snow and a smaller, compromised street, please be mindful that there is **no parking on the street opposite of the school or directly in front of our school. South Portland Police have stopped by to let us know that they will start ticketing if need be.** Our busses need to be able to take the turn and get through our very narrow passageways.

A Note From Skillin School Principal Bethany Connolly

Skillin Elementary School in South Portland is representing Cumberland County in the WinterKids WinterGames this month. Our whole school community is so excited and honored to have this opportunity! One of the ways we can earn points as we go for the gold is to garner community support. As our county colleagues, we are hoping that schools throughout Cumberland County would be willing to show their support of Skillin by doing one of the following:

- Posting a message of support (in written, video, or photo form) on Skillin's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/skillinelementaryschool/>
- Putting a message of support on the school's reader board (if available) and either emailing or posting a picture to our facebook page. (emails can be sent to the principal, Bethany Connolly at connolbe@spsdme.org)
- Having students write messages of support to our students.

Snow Days (No School Days)

So far this year we have used three. Yes, we used one in October! (I know, bummer.) The district school calendar was created so that our last day of school would have been June 12 if we used *no* snow days. Now that we have used three, our last day of school is Friday, June 15. As one of the daughters of a staff member said, "Friday is the perfect day to end the school year, Mom. We can't have any more snow days." I agree, but it is only January 10. I know some of you are already trying to make summer plans. Please know that each time we have a snow day, we add another day after Friday, June 15. (Sorry, Brooklyn/Alicia!)

Peace,

Diane Lang
Small School Principal

Important dates:

- Wed, Jan. 10, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. PTA Meeting
- Mon, Jan. 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No school
- Mon, Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m., State of the Schools Address by Superintendent, SPHS Lecutre Hall,
- Wed., Jan. 31, Math Night, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Small School, (Snow date, Tues., Feb. 6)
- Wed. Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m., Early Release Day
- Tues., Feb. 13, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Family Night, Guest Author/Illustrator Kevin Hawkes, Small School
- Thurs., Feb. 15, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., All City 5th Grade Choral Concers, SPHS Auditorium

Nếu bạn muốn có này dịch, xin vui lòng liên hệ với văn phòng hỗ trợ giảng dạy tại 871-0555. Haddii aad dooneysid in la'guu tarjumo fadlan la soo xiriir Xafiiska caawinta wax barasho ee telefoonkeedu yahay 871-0555