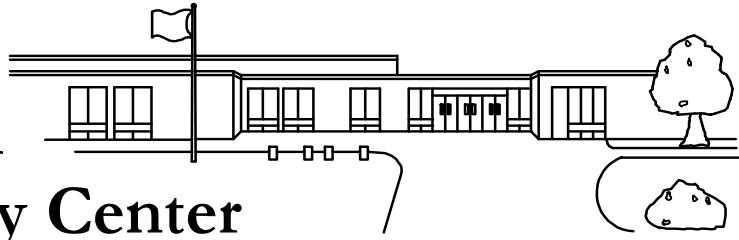


Portland Public Schools
**Riverton School
And Community Center**



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Our Newsletter – January 12, 2007

From the Principal

“Summer Champs”

The Libra Foundation’s

Camp Scholarships for Gr. 3-6

When philanthropist Elizabeth Noyce made out her will she left a significant amount of money for the purpose of enhancing the Maine economy and improving the lives of Maine children. After her death, The Libra Foundation was formed to manage her gift to Maine people. The Libra Foundation’s director, Owen Wells, learned from a conversation with a group of men, including author Steven King, that the felt their summer camp experiences in Maine were in large part responsible for their success as adults. As a result, the Summer Champs Scholarship Fund was initiated. Only three communities in Maine receive funds from these scholarships. We are very fortunate that Portland is among them.

Summer Champs fulfills both of Mrs. Noyce’s wishes. It supports the Maine economy by insuring that there will be a robust summer camp industry that employs many seasonal workers and preserves an important part of Maine’s culture. And, it certainly improves the lives of many Maine children by giving them the opportunity to attend camp. The scholarships also contribute to the well being of children through the good habits children practice while earning their scholarships.

Children earn the scholarships by **good school attendance, solid academic effort, good school behavior, and involvement in activities beyond the curriculum** (community service or extra curricular activities). We will certify their eligibility for a scholarship once they have met the criteria.

In order for your 3rd, 4th or 5th grade child to be eligible for a scholarship, you and your child must complete and sign the application form (coming home soon). Return that application to the school as soon as possible. We will also give your child a check- list of the four criteria they must meet. It is their responsibility to demonstrate those criteria and have teachers, coaches, or activity advisers sign their form. When the four criteria are met, I will put my signature on a child’s applications and mail it to United Way. United Way will then send you a mailing telling you that your child is eligible for \$800 grades 3 and 4) or \$1000 (grades 5 and 6) of camp tuition that can be used on as many as three different camp experiences. United Way will send you additional paper work to fill out and return to them.

Some children will qualify quickly, but every child has until April to qualify. If your child is having difficulty meeting any of the criteria, we will inform you and we will meet with your child to develop an action plan to help him/her be successful. It is our goal to have everyone qualify. In the years since the scholarship program began, almost every child who applied eventually earned a scholarship.

In the meantime, you should sign your child up for the 1-3 camps you would like him/her to attend. If the total cost is in excess of the awarded \$800 or \$1000, the parent must pay the rest. To help you gather information about available camps, United Way is holding a Camp Fair Sunday, February 4, from Noon – 3:00 PM at The Portland EXPO. Many camps have representatives, pictures, brochures, and even demonstrations at the camp fair. Interpreters are available.

-Jill Blackwood

Pancake Breakfast Needs Volunteers

The PTO will be holding it's first Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, January 27 from 8:00am-10:00am

Proceeds from the breakfast will help fund the Arts Enrichment Program at Riverton School. Volunteers are needed. We need people to set up, serve beverages, bus tables, help seat families, and cleanup. If you can donate an hour or more, please fill out and have your student return the bottom portion of the flyer that came home this week.

Construction Update

The roofs are on! Both our new wings have roof decks, insulating panels and rubber skins. Haven't we been fortunate in the weather?

Diamond Ring Found

A diamond engagement-style ring has been in our office "lost and found" since it was swept up off the cafeteria floor following the March 2005 Talent Show. Periodically we post this announcement in Our Newsletter hoping the owner may read it!

Fifth Grade Fund Raising

Dear Riverton Families

Thank you very much for donation to the 5th grade bottle drive. We raised \$1040 towards our May field trip.

An extra thank you goes out to all of the parents, friends and families that donated their time collecting, sorting, and delivering the bottles to the redemption center. It was hard work but we accomplished so much in so little time through rain and shine. We could not have done it without all the people who volunteered. We made such a great working team!

There will continue to be a box at the school to drop off bottles. Also, Riverton has an open account at 302 Redemption Center and anything you take there can be donated to Riverton.

Thank You so much, Andrea Squiers

Do You Need Help Finding A Dentist for Your Child?

If your child doesn't have a dentist, dental cleanings, fluoride and treatment referrals are available at Riverton School by a City of Portland Children's Oral Health Program (COHP) dental hygienist. Appointments are available two days per month. In order to be seen, children must have a signed permission form. If you are interested and have not filled

one out this year, have your child ask for a permission form from the office, or call the COHP at 541-6632 for more information. Prevention and early care are very important. There is no cost for this service.

Newsy Nurse Notes - from Judy Smith

Get an A while you eat - Many fruits and vegetables are high in Vitamin A, which helps us to see in the dark.

"Apple Picking" is an enjoyable exercise, especially with young children who love to mime.

Walk (in place) to the imaginary apple orchard, wave to the farmers as you go by. Climb the imaginary ladder on the tree. Knees up high. Reach arms to the tallest branches where the best apples are. Reach high and pick the apples. Reach low and put them in the basket. Repeat several times to get a lot of apples. Carrying the imaginary heavy basket full of apples, walk briskly back to the house. Sit down and eat an apple to help you reach your Five- A- Day, the number of daily fruits and vegetable portions in a healthy diet.

Calendar of Events

- **January 14** Riverton Night at Pirates
- **January 17** International Cooking Class 6:00 PM
- **January 23** Riverton – Ready for the Next 30 Years! Community Dialog, PTO Meeting 6:00 PM. Dinner provided.
- **January 27** (Saturday) PTO Pancake Breakfast 8-10am
- **January 31** Books and Bears Night for Mrs. Squire, Mrs. Lapp and Mrs. Stimpson's classes, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- **February 4** Summer Champs Camp Fair at the EXPO Noon-3:00 PM.
- **February 7** Books and Bears Night for Mrs. Rawlings and Mrs. Stinson's classes, 5:30-7:30 PM
- **February 8** "Speaking of Parenting" 7:00 P.M.

Riverton – Ready for the Next 30 Years!
Tuesday, January 23, 6:00-8:00 PM
Supper and childcare provided
Join us for a community dialog to discuss how Riverton School, which has served this neighborhood for 30 years, can best meet the community's needs in the 30 years to come. Please RSVP so we can have enough food and childcare supervision on hand.

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