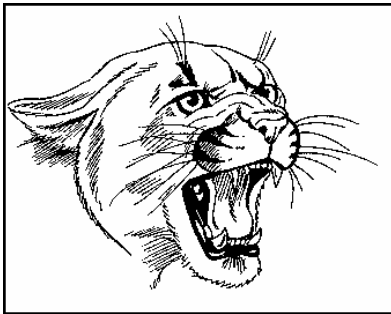




The newsletter of  
**Memorial Middle School**  
*Providing quality education for all.*

August 2009

*Home of the Wildcats*



Principal  
Ms. Megan Welter

Assistant Principal  
Mr. George Conant

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# From the Principal's Desk



Dear Memorial Students and Parents,

It is hard to believe that when you receive this edition of *The Mirror* the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year will be just around the corner. Given all of the rain, there are moments when I still think it is spring and that we are just waiting for summer to finally get here. At this rate, I imagine that I will be looking for spring bulbs to bloom in October! Despite the long, rainy summer, perhaps because of it, I know that I am not alone in my eager anticipation for the start of the coming school year. One of the best parts of summer is all of the learning opportunities that we are able to access. At the end of June, Memorial was lucky enough to be able to send 7 staff members to the Model Schools Conference in Atlanta. This conference, funded totally out of grant monies, was one of the most illuminating and instructive learning opportunities I have ever had. Since our return on July 1, our team has met to talk about what we learned and about our plans for sharing with the rest of the staff what we learned in order to make Memorial the very best that it can be for all of our students. I will share some of this learning and the school-wide action plan we crafted when we hold our first Parent Forum of the year on September 22. Additional information about our Parent Forums is included in this newsletter.

As we prepare for a new year, we look forward to welcoming a number of new staff members. Although it is always exciting to begin the year with new faces, we will miss the contributions of our departing colleagues. Some of these changes were reported at the end of the school year, but other changes in personnel have occurred over the summer.

Mr. Trainor, our Technology Integrator, retired at the end of the school year. While we will miss his tremendous knowledge and support with our laptop program, we do wish him the best in retirement. I am happy to report that Mr. Steve Morneault, who has taught our Technology Education classes, will be taking his place. To prepare for the big change, Mr. Morneault has been busy taking classes and getting ready to help teachers and students with the brand new laptops that will be deployed this fall. Ms. Katy Nicketakis, our French and Spanish teacher, left us to return to her former position at Thornton Academy. In her year with us, Ms. Nicketakis did so much to encourage students' love of language and cultures. We have worked with South Portland High School to revise schedules in order to be able to share both a Spanish and French teacher! Mr. Henry Coll, who taught at Memorial three years ago, will be returning to teach our sections of Spanish. We are in the process of hiring for our French position at the time this newsletter goes to print.

Mr. Coll is not the only familiar face returning to Memorial this fall; we are fortunate enough to welcome back to Memorial Erin Davies.

# Information from the Principal

Ms. Davies taught French here and will be returning to teach our Technology Education classes. Ms. Davies has been very busy completing her Masters in Technology Education and is very much looking forward to sharing her enthusiasm for new technologies with her students. Our library will also be home to another new face! Ms. Sherry Dolloff is our new library/media specialist. She has come to Memorial from Windham Middle School where she was not only their library/media specialist, but she also was the Technology Lead teacher, supporting teachers with the MLTI laptops. We are confident that our students are going to love working with Ms. Dolloff, as she will not only be able to help them find books, but she will also be able to help them with their laptops, too!

Mrs. Annie Ouimet, our special education teacher, accepted a position in another district.

When we met this summer, she talked about how difficult it would be to leave all of the students with whom she made so many wonderful connections. While it is never easy to fill big shoes, I know that our students are going to love working with Mr. Robert Orcutt. Mr. Orcutt will be working with many of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and I'm sure that many more students will get to know him. Mr. Orcutt has been working with students in special education in Portland and in Gray/New Gloucester for nearly a decade. He is very much looking forward to being an active member of the Memorial Middle School community.

We have had a busy summer hiring many new staff members at Memorial and we are not finished yet! Mrs. Abby Hutchins accepted a position in another district. She also reported feeling a little ambivalent about leaving South Portland, but reported looking forward to work-

ing in one school as opposed to traveling back and forth between Memorial and Mahoney. We wish her the best of luck in all of her new endeavors. We will be hiring for her position in the coming weeks. Mr. Mathews, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies and language arts teacher, is finishing his military assignment in Massachusetts and we expect him to return to Memorial in January. As we prepare to send this mailing, we are in the course of hiring a long-term substitute teacher to fill in for him. I am very confident that we will hire an outstanding teacher to fill Mr. Mathews' very big shoes.

In addition to welcoming the new adults to Memorial, I also want to extend my warmest greetings to all of our new students, particularly our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. I so enjoyed meeting all of our new 6<sup>th</sup> graders when I visited them as 5<sup>th</sup> graders in their respec-



**MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
120 Wescott Road  
South Portland, Maine 04106



Telephone number : **773-5629**  
Attendance messages: (x400)

Fax : **772-4597**

TDD: **775 -4284**  
Office Hours: **7:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

## **Administrative Office**

Megan Welter, Principal (x 405)  
George Conant, Assistant Principal (x 406)  
Lisa Ranger, Office Manager (x 401)  
Janet Flynn, Office Clerk (x 400)

## **Guidance**

Brittany Sampson, Guidance Counselor (x 412)  
Anthony Mastreani, Guidance Counselor ( x413)  
Raye-Lin Merry , Guidance clerk (x411)

## **Special Services**

Sue Comyns, School Nurse (x408)  
Teresa Donovan, Social Worker (x 409)  
Jeanne Schacker, Social Worker (x421)

Sherrie Dolloff, Librarian (x430)  
Kay Mallory, Library Clerk (x430)

# Information from the Assistant Principal

respective elementary schools. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the new students as they join our Memorial Middle School community.

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 2. Homeroom begins promptly at 7:55 a.m., and we recommend that students arrive at school no later than 7:45, giving them adequate time to go to their lockers and arrive at homeroom and class prepared.

I hope to see many new faces at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation/Open House on August 31 at 4 p.m. (Please refer to information about the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation in this edition of *The Mirror*.) Our 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation/Open House will be held on September 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. I am looking forward to both of these events and hope to be able to meet and talk with many students and parents about the work we will do this year to educate all of our students.

Finally, I invite you to be active in your child's education. While the middle school years can be a time when children assert their independence, we recognize that we are best able to teach all students when we work in partnership with parents and guardians. Together, we can identify ways to educate and support all students.

I look forward to working with you this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, observations, or concerns.

Sincerely, *Megan Welter*

## ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

Students are encouraged to get involved in some aspect of middle school life. For many students, athletics are an important aspect of school. The athletic offerings for the fall are as follows:

**Football** – 7th & 8th grade students only.

**Soccer** – We plan to field 7th & 8th grade teams for girls and boys. 6th graders MAY be included if numbers are needed to for the 7th grade teams.

**Field Hockey** - We expect to field one, all-City team, comprised of 7th and 8th grade students from both middle schools. 6th graders MAY be included if numbers are needed to support the program.

**Cross Country** – The Memorial Cross Country team is open to 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students.

**Cheerleading** – Our growing Cheerleading squad is open 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students.

**Athletes will need to attend a pre-season meeting on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30.** If you have any questions regarding athletics please don't hesitate to call George Conant (773-5629 X 406).

The fall sports season will officially start on

**Tuesday, September 8**

## SPORTS PHYSICALS

Please remember that all students participating in a school sport must have a current physical report on file, show proof of insurance, and have parental permission before they will be able to practice. Physicals are valid for two years and these reports remain on file here in the main office.

If you have questions please check with Janet Flynn in the Main Office.

If your child had a physical or is scheduled to have a physical this summer, you can drop the form off in the Main Office or the physician can fax us a release form that includes the date of the physical. The Memorial FAX # is 772-4597

## POLICY FOR ACADEMIC REVIEW FOR ATHLETICS

Students are expected to pass all courses (both full-year and semester courses) with a 70 or better. If, at the end of a ranking period, a student has earned a grade below 70 in 2 or more classes, s/he is ineligible to participate in any co-curricular (co-curricular is defined as any school-sponsored activity held before or after school) activities until the next ranking period closes.

If a student earns below a 70 in one class, s/he may ask to be placed on Academic Review. Academic Review will allow a student to tryout and practice with a team or activity, but not participate in games or events. After two weeks, an administrator will review this student's current grades and if grades are above 70, s/he is able to fully participate. If they are not meeting this standard s/he is removed from the team.

There will be one more review midway through the quarter, if all grades are above 70 s/he is off Academic Review and will return to full status for the remainder of the quarter. Those students who do not meet the standard of earning a 70 in all courses by either the two week or the four week check-in will be removed from the co-curricular activity.



# For Your Information

**GRADE 7 & 8  
OPEN HOUSE  
September 9, 2009  
6:30-7:30 p.m.**

## Dates to Remember

Sept. 2 –1st day of school  
Sept 4 & 7— no school  
Sept 8— Pictures Day  
Sept 11—1st dance 6:30-8:30 pm  
Sept 14-18 Grade 6 to Camp Kieve  
Sept 24 - Magazine drive Kick off  
Sept 30— Early Release 11:45 am  
Oct 7 - Progress Reports go home  
Oct. 19-23 - Spirit Week  
Oct 23 - Dance 6:30 –8:30 pm  
Oct 28 Early Release 11:45a.m.  
Oct. 30 1st Quarter Ends



**ALL Fall  
Sports Teams  
meet with  
Coaches on  
Wed., Sept. 2,  
@ 2:30 p.m.**

## Transportation

Students will receive a post card from transportation the 3rd week of August with their bus stops location and pick up time.



Or call 767-7714 for more info.

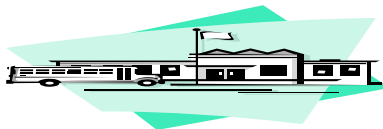
*For more South Portland  
Schools information, visit the  
district website at  
[www.spsd.org](http://www.spsd.org).*

## Keeping in Touch

Each week Ms. Welter sends out an email to parents every Monday, notifying them of upcoming events as well as causes for celebration from the previous week.

These emails are then posted on the front page of the Memorial Middle School's website (<http://memorial.spsd.org>).

If you would like to have your name added to the email list, please email Ms. Welter ([welterme@spsd.org](mailto:welterme@spsd.org)).



## Parent Forum

Our monthly Parent Forum is held in order to share information that is pertinent and germane to students and parents. The forums are held in the Memorial Library begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue until 8 p.m.

Our first Parent forum will be held on September 22, 2009

**GRADE 6  
Open House/Orientation  
Monday, August 31, 2009  
3:45 –5:30 p.m.**



## PICTURE DAY

**Tuesday, September 8**

Ordering information will be sent home the first week of school. Students should bring a completed order form and money for their pictures.

**1st DANCE  
September 11  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
in the Café \$5.00  
& a food item**

## Latex/Nut and Perfume Allergies



Due to latex, nut and other allergies and pulmonary problems, balloons and other rubber containing items, perfume, after-shave, and scented lotions are not permitted in the Memorial Middle School building at any time. Students wearing perfume, cologne, and scented lotions will be asked to go home and change clothes. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding with this necessary safety concern.



All items containing nut products need to be consumed in special safe locations only.

# For Your Information

## Student School Supplies List

Pens & Pencils  
Colored pencil & Markers  
Highlighters  
Ruler & glue stick  
Calculator  
Protractor and compass  
Binder with paper ( 8th only)  
and dividers for each subject  
Spiral notebooks  
Book covers  
Locks for hall and gym  
1– 1” binder with paper for PE

**BAND** Students SUPPLIES  
1– 1” binder with  
plastic sleeves for music  
Reeds for your instrument  
( sax and Clarinets)

## Cafeteria

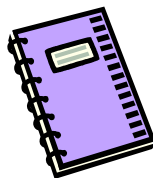
Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 7:35 a.m. until 7:50 a.m. A number of items are available for purchase at \$1.75

There are usually three options for lunch: hot lunch, with two or three choices; deli sandwiches; or a salad bar. Each of these offerings is \$2.25. Students are expected to pay at the time they get their food. Students who come to the cafeteria without money will receive a basic lunch comprised of a tuna salad sandwich. Regretfully, we cannot allow students to accrue a debt. Free and reduced lunch application forms are sent home with students on the first day of school. These applications are also available in the Main Office all year. **Reminder Soda** is not allowed in the cafeteria in accordance with Federal guidelines.

## Helpful Information as the School Year Begins

Our Student/Parent Handbook can be found in the front of your student’s Assignment Book.

This assignment notebook, which will be distributed in the first two days of school, is a vital part of your student’s middle school experience. Students are expected to use their assignment notebook each day to record assignments and other due dates. Because assignment notebooks also have a section for hall passes, students will need School, is a vital part of your student’s middle school experience.



Students are expected to use their assignment notebook each day to record assignments, and other due dates. Because the assignment notebooks also have a section for hall passes, students will need their assignment notebooks in order to travel in the halls during a class period. Finally, the assignment notebook is an invaluable resource to which parents can refer to gain a sense of their child’s upcoming assignments as well as student’s organizational skills. As in previous years, there will be a document in the notebook that parents will be asked to sign, indicating that they have reviewed the handbook with their child. Students will have to submit this document in order to be eligible to attend the first school dance on September 11, 2009.

## Dress Code

Before making the annual sojourn to the mall, please take a few minutes to read the following information about our dress code: In accordance with the District’s dress code policy, we will continue to expect students to dress appropriately for classes. Hats, bandanas, or any head coverings are not to be worn in the building. Shorts and skirts should pass the “fingertip test.” This means that the shorts or skirt should be longer than the longest finger when the student is standing upright with her arms down at her side. In addition, students are not permitted to wear pajama bottoms to school. Students will not be permitted to wear tank tops, shirts with spaghetti straps or “belly shirts.” In addition, students may not wear any article of clothing that displays a logo or advertisement about tobacco, alcohol or drugs or clothing that has suggestive language or slogans. If a student’s clothing is determined to violate the dress code, he or she will be asked to change clothes. If the child does not have clothing to change into, parents will be contacted and asked to bring a change of clothes to school.



It’s 8:00 in the morning...”Do you know what your child is wearing to school?”

## **DANCES**

Our first dance of the year will be held on Sept. 11, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The cost of this dances will increase to \$5 and a food item per student, to support the South Portland Food Cupboard. All other dances will be \$6.00 per student.

Students are asked to be at the dance by 6:45, as we will not admit students after 6:45 unless parents or guardians have made prior arrangements. Please contact a school administrator to ensure that your child will be able to get into the dance once the doors are closed. Once students arrive at the dance, they are not permitted to leave early. Again, if you need to make special arrangements so that your child can leave the dance early, please contact a school administrator.

Students must be in school, participating in classes in order to be eligible to attend dances. In addition, students will have to have their medical information paper and handbook papers signed by parents and submitted to the office to be eligible for the dance.

The dances end at 8:30. Students are reminded to make sure that rides are arranged before they are dropped off at the dance. On-time pick-ups are appreciated!

As students make plans for after the dance, please be aware that the management from Willows has asked that parents or adults accompany students in the establishment. Groups of students will no longer be permitted to enter the restaurant unaccompanied.

## **The Website and The Mirror**

While it may take a few weeks to get all of the links on our website up to date, please bookmark our website. <http://memorial.spsd.org>

Our website is an excellent source for information about upcoming events as well as the events that have taken place and are worthy of celebration. In addition, the site has links to teachers' emails. Don't hesitate to share ideas for items to include on the site.

The Mirror will be published monthly. This newsletter will be available online through our school website <http://www.spsd.org/schools/memorial/index.html>

## **FOOD DRIVE**

Please help us stock the **South Portland Food Cupboard**  
611 Main Street, South Portland  
( in the basement of the St John Church)

Memorial will be holding a food drive September 8-11, 2009. Boxes for the food donated will be located on each grade level floor.

Also Students are also asked to bring a food item and \$5 for the admission price to the September dance. ( all other dances will be \$6)

**ITEMS** the South Portland Food Cupboard are looking for to restock their shelves:

Spaghetti or macaroni, Rice, beans  
Boxed mac & cheese, canned soup,  
fruit, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly,  
tuna, tomato sauce, and cereal.  
Student will receive a full list in the 1st day packet.

## **Attendance Procedures**

From time to time, parents have asked for clarification of attendance and dismissal procedures. We believe that excellent attendance is vital for learning. The School Department's policy is intended to minimize student absence from school, while recognizing that sometimes they are legitimately unable to attend. Absences are considered excused when they occur because of illness, death in the family, medical appointment, or urgent family matters. When a child needs to be absent from school, parents should notify the school by calling the Main Office, 773-5629 by 8:00 a.m. to inform us of the reason your child will be absent from school.

If you know that your child will need to miss school for more than three days, please make sure that you submit a **Planned Absence Request form** at least one week prior to the planned absence. This is required for the absence to be recorded as excused.

Upon their return to school, students will have five school days to complete and return the work that they missed during the absence. Teachers are not required or expected to prepare assignments prior to the absence for personal or educational purposes.



**Attendance continued on page 7**

# Student Info

## Lockers

For many students, getting their first locker is an exciting event. Many of our new students are surprised by how narrow the locker is. In order to accommodate the often overflowing backpacks, students must first empty the backpack of its contents before being able to squeeze the backpack into the locker. It is important to remind everyone that students are responsible for what is in their locker and backpack. Often they are not quite sure what **is** in that brown bag they brought in for lunch a few weeks ago, so, we recommend the following:

**Students** need to clean out and organize their locker at least once a week. They also will need to go through their backpack nightly (or at least weekly) and remove unnecessary items. They should be sure to have books, notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, and other important classroom materials as listed.

**Teachers** provide time to access lockers during the school day. First thing in the morning before homeroom and at the end of the day during Enrichment time are a perfect times when students access their lockers. Time is also needed to clean out the locker; this often occurs right before breaks and holidays

**Parents** should remind student to clean out lockers at least weekly (this includes the P.E. locker). Check with student as to whether Supplies need updating. And then check student's backpack occasionally for excess materials. They can become **very** heavy.

## Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

I love my iPod and my PSP. I am perfectly “at one” with my iPhone.



I know my students share many of these sentiments. Nonetheless, just as I am not to be found strolling the halls listening to my iPod, students should not be either.

We would ask parents to work with us in reminding students that these devices are not permitted in school. Not only could the devices be lost, damaged, or stolen but they are often a source of power struggles between teachers and students that result when students do not follow an adult's direction to put the device away. Ultimately these devices interfere with learning and communication in the building.

We recognize that many students have cell phones. If a cell phone is brought to school, it needs to be turned off and left in the student's locker until the end of the day. In the event of an emergency, please contact the Main office.

When a student is observed wearing ear buds or using an electronic device, he or she is told to turn it off and put it away. If the student is seen using these items again, the item is taken and turned into the office. In that circumstance, a parent is called and is asked to pick up the item.

We are working hard to stay “current” with all of the technological developments, and we ask our assistance in helping us enforce these expectations.

ATTENDANCE Continued from page 7

## **TARDY:**

When your child is going to be late, please give him/her a note to bring to the office upon arrival. If this is not possible, please contact the office (773-5629) before your child arrives. If a child comes to school with neither a note nor a call prior to arrival, the tardy will be considered unexcused. If a child has **3** unexcused tardies in a quarter, he/she will receive an office detention. Each additional tardy during that quarter will result in another office detention.

## **DISMISSALS:**

If your child needs to be dismissed from school for one of the reasons listed above, please send a note or call the office (773-5629). We will issue a dismissal pass. It is your child's responsibility to give the pass to the teacher and come to the office. If he/she does not arrive in the office by the time you come to collect him/her, we will call into the classroom. Parents are asked to sign students out before leaving the building.

## A word from our Physical Education Teachers

Please remember that students need to wear sneakers that have laces. While the Velcro sneakers are convenient, we need students to wear shoes that are laced up in order to reduce the likelihood of accidents.





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U.S.POSTAGE  
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PORTLAND, MAINE  
PERMIT NO. 200

August 2009

Memorial Middle School  
South Portland School Department  
120 Wescott Road  
South Portland, Maine 04106



This is a **SPECIAL** Summer newsletter.

All other newsletters will be found on our website; <http://memorial.spsd.org>

If you do not have internet access please complete the form below and return to school.

\*\*\*\*\*

I do not have computer access and would like a paper copy of The Mirror sent home with my child at progress report and report card time.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive the Principal's Monday memo?    **YES**                    **NO**

If you would like to receive the principal's Monday memo, please supply us with your email address. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Memorial main office

# A Message from the Nurses

## Dear Parents / Guardians,

The primary role of the School Nurse is to support student learning. We believe that healthy children are better learners and our work is directed toward that end. The goal of school health services is to meet the acute and chronic health needs of all school age children. We see ourselves as advocates for children and health care partners with you, the parent. Together we can minimize the impact of both short term and long term illness on your child's attendance and learning. We collaborate with the Bureau of Health to identify and prevent the spread of disease and perform the required Department of Education screening programs: Immunization, Vision, Hearing and Spinal.

## Did you know that...

Most school nurses work in more than one school building.

Most school nurses have over 500 children assigned to each of them.

School nurses must delegate some tasks to unlicensed school personnel during the time we are not in a particular school (minor, urgent first aid, medication administration etc).

There are the specific schedules for health services at each school. These times are not flexible due to the scheduled health care needs of identified students.

## How parents can help:

- Keep your child's school health information current.
- Please respond to health services requests immediately.
- Make sure emergency contacts are current throughout the year.
- Make sure someone is available by phone at all times.
- Teach your child good self care (hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, caring for minor cuts and scrapes, avoiding illness/infestations by not sharing food, drinks or articles of clothing). We will reinforce the same at school.
- Make sure children start their day with breakfast.
- Consult your child's health care provider regarding injuries that happen outside of school.
- If you have concerns about your child's illness, contact your health care provider.

To limit the spread of disease to classmates and staff, **keep your child home if** he/she

---has vomited during the night

---has a fever

---has a persistent cough not controlled by medication (consult with health care provider)

---develops a rash (consult with child's health care provider)

- Give over-the-counter medications (if necessary) at home, before and after school.

If at school, your child is expected to participate in the entire school day. Often a day of rest and care at home will help him/her return to school the next day with enough energy to be active and ready to learn.

We acknowledge the challenge of keeping children well and managing the demands of a busy work and home life at the same time. We thank you advance for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

School Nurses







