



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Jackson Middle School

May 12, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We appreciate the time and energy that people have devoted to the discussions involving the FTE allocation for our choir program. It is clear that this community cares deeply about the arts. We have heard from a variety of parents and students at both the PTA meeting and continued the conversation at the site council meeting. Out of these meetings we continue to work together with the community to resolve this issue. We are exploring the possibility of raising enough funds to fully add back the .5 FTE or a portion at .25.

We are continuing to flesh out the logistics of this process and how to effectively utilize these funds to maintain what we hold dear, a strong and vital arts program at Jackson. We are committed to communicating our next steps in a timely and efficient way to keep you updated on the process.

Through this experience an idea has been born! As a way of supporting the arts at Jackson we would like to explore setting up an arts council specifically for Jackson. This is a very new idea and we would like anyone interested in contributing to contact Karin Chesnutt at chesnutt@spiritone.com.

We are very thankful to live and work in a community that values both the arts and our children so much. We believe that by working together we can solve this temporary shortfall and maintain our strong legacy of arts education and integration at Jackson.

You will be receiving a weekly update on this issue and other news from Jackson beginning May 21st. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,

Karin Chesnutt
Parent/Arts Advocate

John Ferraro
Principal

Jill Sage
Assistant Principal
