Parsons, Susan

From: Grace Groom [ggroom@hevanet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 3:37 PM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: testimony at city council feb. 20th

Hello Susan,

I am eager to testify during the communications section of the City Council's meeting on Weds., Feb. 20th. I will be testifying in support of continued funding for SUN Schools programming. My address is 2736 NE 67th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213. I may have a student from Roseway Heights with me to testify as well. Is there any chance of an extended time allotment so that I and the student are able to give testimony?

Thank you so much for your help.
Grace Groom
503-890-7792
Portland resident and mom of 2 young children

Dear Mayor Hales, Commisioner Fritz, Commissioner Fish, Commisioner Novick, and Commissioner Saltzman,

I am here today to show my support for the SUN Schools programs run by Portland Parks and Recreation. I am a mother of two young children. My first child is a 1st grader at Roseway Heights School in Northeast Portland this year. The SUN program at Roseway Heights has been a huge benefit to his education and to our family as a whole. For the past two years at Roseway Heights my son has loved taking after-school classes through SUN. He wakes up in the morning excited to go to school when he knows it's a SUN class day. He's learning teamwork through Lego Playtime, computer skills at Whiz Kids computers class. His love of reading grew through participation in the after-school Book Club, and his confidence was boosted through physical challenges and fun games at Kindergym.

I know the reality of the budget situation. $25 million is no small number. I understand that significant cuts need to be made to already tight budgets. I do not envy your job! However, I strongly recommend that SUN schools be spared any cuts because these programs are so important to families and neighborhoods. We would not be able to afford after-school enrichment classes for our two children without the SUN Schools program at Roseway Heights. I know times are tough, but I also know that once a SUN program closes the likelihood of it being reopened once the economy turns around is pretty slim. Many lives will be negatively impacted if SUN schools are closed.

Roseway Heights has had a SUN program for 13 years, probably around the time that you, Mr. Mayor, were advocating for the formation of a SUN program. Before that we had a community school run by Portland Parks and Recreation in the building for another 20 years. 33 years and counting. That's a lot of history and a lot of lives positively impacted.

Just this year we lost our Title I funding due to the district's change of Title I requirements (from 40% of a school qualifying for free or reduced lunch to 60%). Although we no longer qualify for Title I, a significant percentage of our families still has financial need (about 40%). Without Title I funding families must pay the $300+ for all day kindergarten and our school has faced significant cuts to staff. If SUN funding is also cut, these challenges would be made exponentially harder to bear.

50% of the students at Roseway Heights (about 300 of our K-8 kids) participate in SUN classes. That is double the average of other SUN programs. Our SUN School also offers summer camps at nearby Glenhaven Park (adjacent to Madison High School). These popular summer camps serve a very wide population, not just our school community. The staff of these summer camps also administer the free lunch program at Glenhaven and kids are lined up across the park for this!

We also have robust participation from neighbors in our SUN community classes. These classes bring neighbors into the school that might not otherwise have a connection to the school. This helps us to leverage resources with these neighbors and gives them a feeling of loyalty to their neighborhood school.

In conclusion, I urge you to continue to fund all SUN programs run by PP&R. PP&R is doing a fantastic job of providing an important service to city residents and schools through these SUN schools. We need to save our SUN Schools now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Groom

Grace Groom, SUN school participant and supporter

p.s. I know that some of you on the council feel that SUN Schools do not belong in the City's budget. I strongly believe that the partnership of multiple stakeholders - County, City, schools, neighborhoods, users – all of us make SUN the tremendous asset it is. I also ask you all to look at your own plans for the future to see that SUN does belong in the City's budget. The Portland Plan calls for EVERY school to be a SUN school. A major goal in PP&R's 2020 Vision Plan is to PROVIDE RECREATION SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL. SUN does just that. Another important goal in the 2020 Vision Plan is to PROMOTE COMMUNITY. SUN does this in spades by bringing in neighbors to take and teach classes, providing summer camps for all children in the neighborhood, evening events for families, and more. Our city needs and deserves SUN Schools!

Save S.u.n.!

Letters from 1st and 2nd graders of Roseway Heights school

* Cover design by Gabriel Groom,
Roseway Heights 1st grader

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales,

Please give us the money for the SUN Program. I rily like my SUN classes because I get to learn and make new friends. I take

Name _____

tag-wor-it, book
club, chest club,
and Lego Play
time. please support
are SUN classes.

Sincerely,
Jacks.

Name _____

Dear Hales,

please Dont ~~meot~~ Brake

R sun talk we

will gett R money

too you ~~and~~ Dont

leave and give us

your money.

Sincerely Kevin

Name Mayor Hales,

Dear mayor Hales,

I like SUN classes because they helpe us

LeaRN. aND EXeRCise Like SPoRTS of all

SRTS. Anoanothr SUN class But it is

RelaxING is Lego play time. one of

NY FREND are in that class. I

LeaRN to Make Now FREDS. I WuD-LKle it

If you WuD GIVe ouR Roseway Strength School

Name _____

enough money ffor our school to have sevn class

this is your FRend Gianna.

Sincerely

Gianna

Name

Dear mayor Ha.

I wot mar

Sum classes

Beause thay

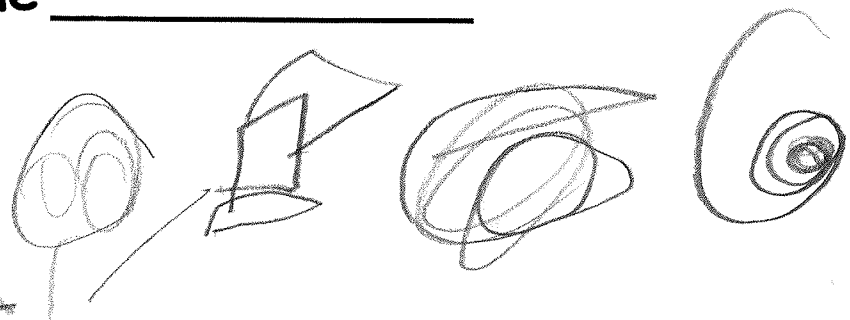
wr cool. I like

to skateboard

outside supr

Hero and

Name _____



Take wohjo and thorus.

I like mezek

ahj ie go playme

Sincerely

Suraj

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales

I Love the SUN

Because we'll learn exercise

AND I Love Being

strong AND How Do You make

other kids learning to work

without fighting AND

You are Awesome AND

Name _____

I am going to
sign up for band in band
next year

sincerely

Dennis

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales

I like sunglasses.

I like to play with

my frens. we

lrn about books.

sincerely,

love Eliana

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales,

Please pont take

away SUN classes

because I like to do

thes thags I Like

spors of all sors because

it gives you Lots of

extsis i Like to Play

Name _____

Tag yoor it At spots

of all sots I Like

Lago play time because

i get to bo Lapose

i get to bilt Lgos

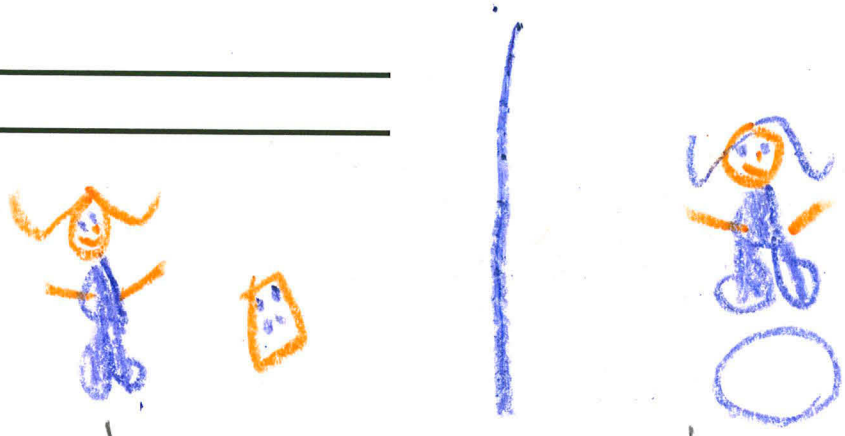
with my best friend

I made A instrument

I Like kindrgim I Like

(kindergym)

Name _____



to chop to hoop to hoop
(hula-hoop)

I like to swing on

A rope and gave
(go)

throow a tul I like
(through) (tunnel)

to go warm ups and

et shaks like fish cracks
(eat snacks) (crackers)

sincerely

Amelia

Name _____

Dear mayor Hales,

I've never taken a S.U.N. class before. But I really want to. because they sound super awsome. I want to take a skatebording S.U.N. class. So can you please give us more money for S.U.N. classes.

Name _____

Sincerely,

Violet.

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales,

I really want to try a S.U.N. class. Plaes don't take our S.U.N. clasess a way because... They Sonud really fun! we play fair in the S.U.N. clasess.

Name _____

We also make new friends.

Sincerely,

Aidank.

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales,

CAn i Please TAKE B BOOKCLUB classes next

Year. Pleas don't destroy Are sun classes.

Pleas I Love my sun classes don't TAKE

Em' AWAY! I Lrnd in Tie Kwonedo That We

trust echother! I Lrnd in Grils SKaT Baord

That We nevr give up! I Lrnd in Theetr

Clas That We got To WORK Togethr!

Name _____

I Lind A LOT OF Thiging's in Sun

Classes. Their is one More Thing. One

DAY when i was crying AT Tie Kwonedo

Beecos I ChoDint finish A game AT

Hand + Hend. I WalKT TO Anne's ofis

With A Tie Kwon edo STudint. And

When Ainne TalKT TO me I reeLizT

That we need TO Help OUT Sun

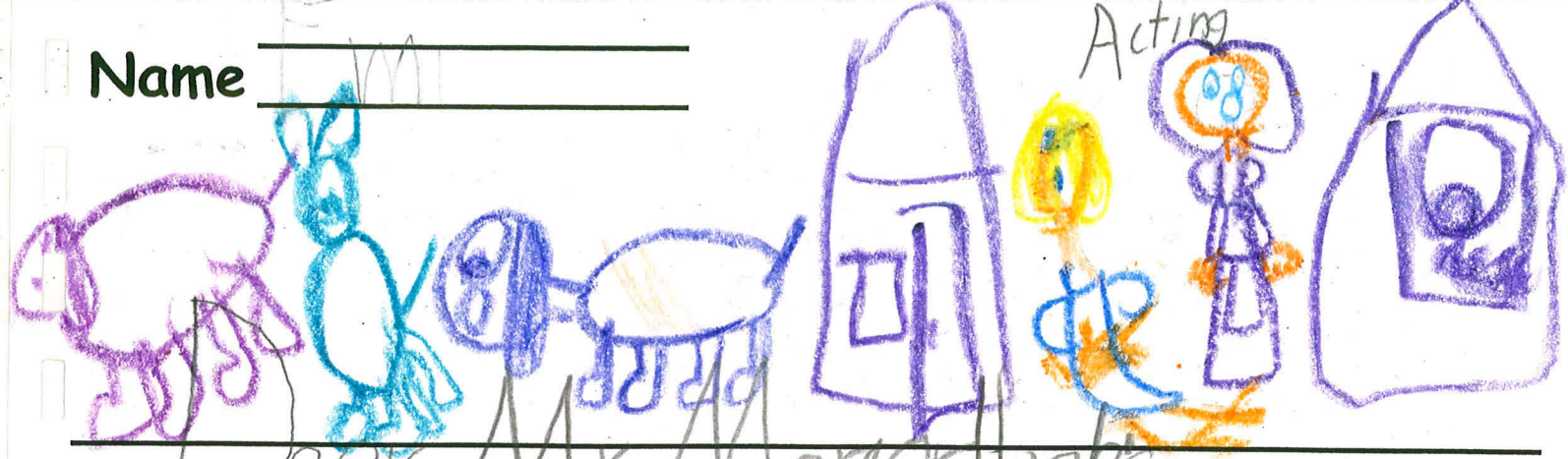
Name _____

Classes!

Sincerely,

AiDanv.,

Name _____



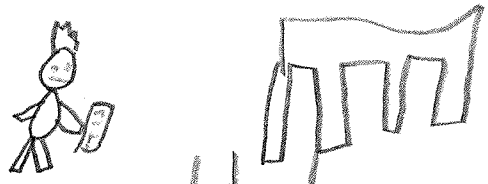
Dear Mr. Mayor Hales,
please let me have SUN
next year. It is cool
beause .... its Exercise, playfull,
Learning, working with
ether pepel, making freinds,
play fair, Learning things
I never done, doing power

Name _____

point, drama, talking and
having a freindly temper,
I learn stragies. I am lookin
forward to acting in SUN
next year. so please
give us money for SUN

Sincerly,
Emilie

Name _____



Dear Mayor Hales,

I feel sad that the

sch. classes have to be

shut down.

so please let us do

sch ob in next year.

sincerely,

Gabe.

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales,

please give us the money
So we can have our SUN classes
next year. I like our SUN classes
because... you get to learn knew
things like how to cooperate.
This year my SUN classes
are Skatebourding &

Name _____

Sport's of all sorts & sports tag

your it!!!

Sincerely,

Von

Name

Dear Maror Hales,
I like SUM why? be-
cause skatboarding makes
you go fast. I also like
computers becues we get
to play fun games! piano i-
s something I take to.
Thank you!

Name _____

Sincerly,

Zip

Name Mary

Dear Mayor Hales,
I think the S.U.N.
Classes are awesome.
I go to choir and I
Love learning new
song's there. I love
singing andot Because
it's like telling stories

Name _____

but singing them. Please help our class and the rest of the shool.

Sincerely,

Mary

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales

Please let Us ceap our

SUN classes. We lirn lots

of Staf like Rock climen

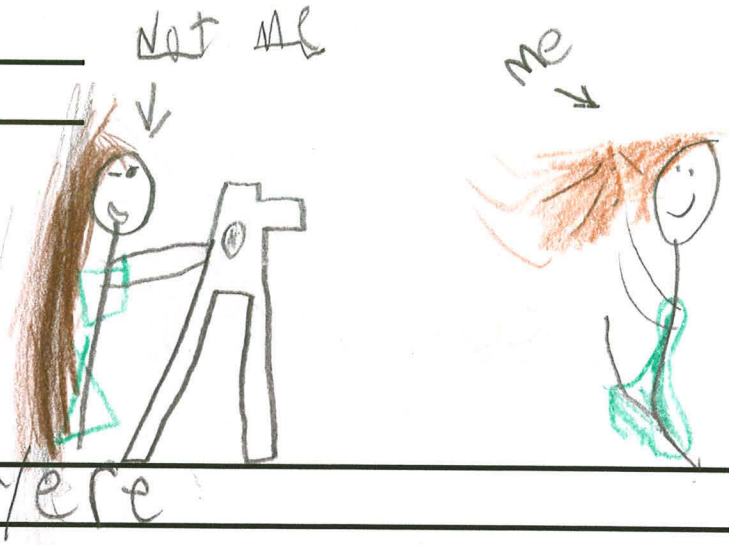
We lirn How to clim

and firtogrfe classes. MoSt

Kis Loveit like Me.

I'm lucking ford to that

Name _____

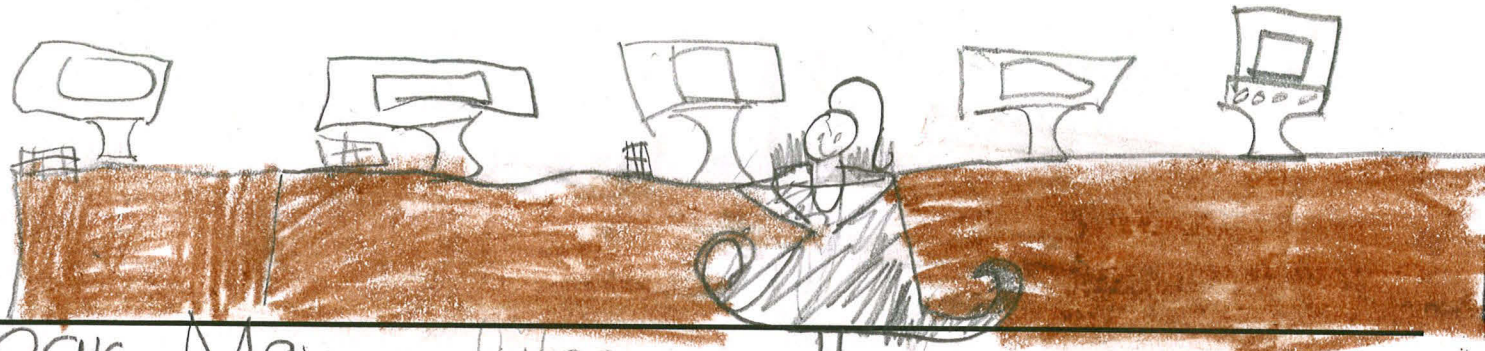


Nest Yere

Sincerely Bailey

Bailey!

Name Katie



Dear Mayor Hales

I like the SUN classes because

we get to do lot's of stuff

that is really fun. You are very

nice of you that you spend all

of the money to buy all of the things

for the SUN classes.

please gave the support.

Name _____

Sincerly

Katie

Name Lilyn

Dear Mayor Hales,

I Wod like to go to

a 54n program because you

fy get to Lrne in

54n programs. its fun

because we get to play

fun trams. please can

we have 54n.

Name Lilah

Clas Next Yer

sincerely

Lilah

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hales,

I realy want you to keep the sun program going because they help us work with other people. They also help us bring peace to the world. I learned how to sing and protect my body.

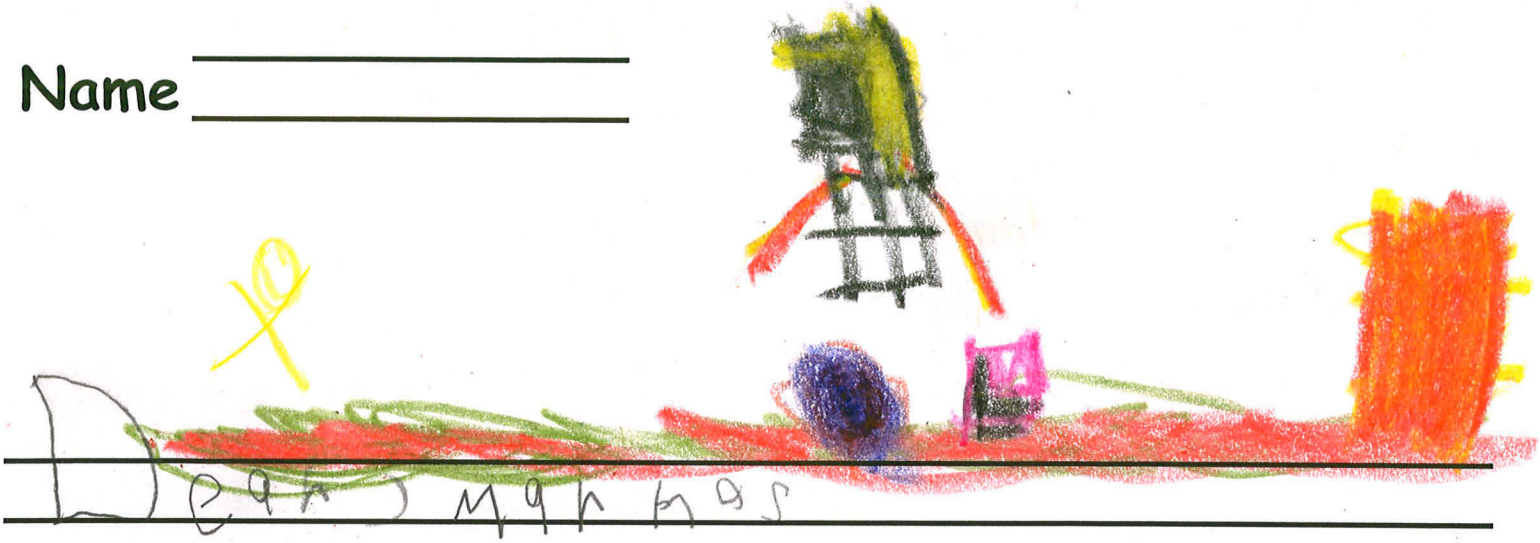
Name _____

I love that you spent the money on letting us have fun programs! thank you

Sincerly,

Brooke Anderson

Name _____



Dear Mr Mas

I like sun program please

keep sun program going

nux year. I like logo patom.

What I like abt it is that is there

things. you ken bild lego and mak

things that bad and no gitt logo

sincerele Oscar

Name _____

SUN

Dear Mayor Hales,

I like SUN because they hilp me lerne. And I lern Exereise. plese mac mur money for SUN. The SUN Program hilp's me lern.

Name _____

please gif SUN

going ugin.

Sincerely

Jack Harding

Name

Dear Mayor Hales

I love the SUN CLA-

SSES! Because wenever

we read about pengns

we usually get to

watch a moovee about

pengns. So please giv

us munee and let us

Name _____

do sum next yer.

Sincerely,

Nina.

Name _____

Dear Mayor Hale's,

Please don't take our S.U.N.

classes away because...

I get to spend time with

friend's, exercise, learn, and listen to

books. The S.U.N. classes

that I go to are: Lego play-

time, Taekwondo, Super Hero art's,

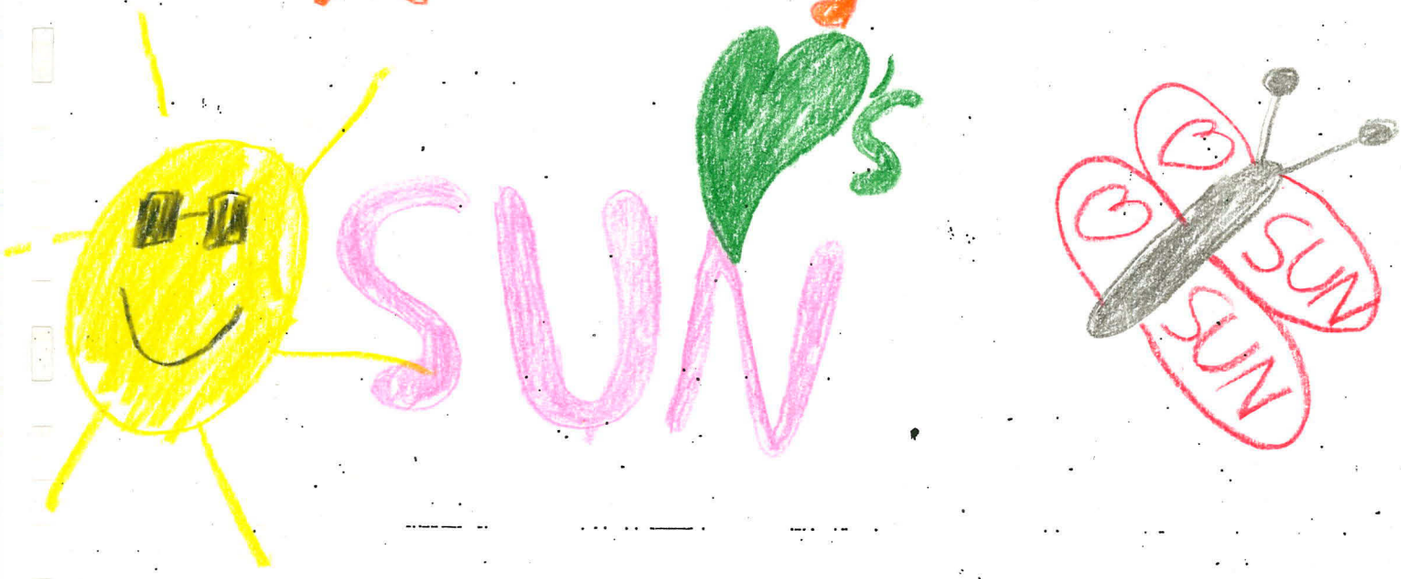
Name _____

and that is it! So please let me do it next year.

Sincerely,

Max

Roseway Heights



Dear Mayor Hales,

SUN classes teach me stuff I did not know before. Like Wiz kids taught me computer writing apps. Book club shows me books I love now. Also a lot more that are amazing that I love. Roseway Heights loves SUN. SUN is like summer after school. It is so fun.

Sincerely, Rory

Dear Mayor Hales,
Please don't take the SUN classes away. SUN classes taught me things I didn't know before. The SUN classes I take let me get out all my energy. SUN classes let you be active. SUN class are really fun to me.

Sincerely,
Gracie

Sun

Dear Mayor Hales,

Please do not cut Sun it is very fun! SUN classes let you be very active. In the Sun class, "tag your it" you get to play all sorts of tag games. The SUN classes are really fun to me! SUN classes are the best. The SUN classes that I take make me healthier and learn more.

Sincerely,

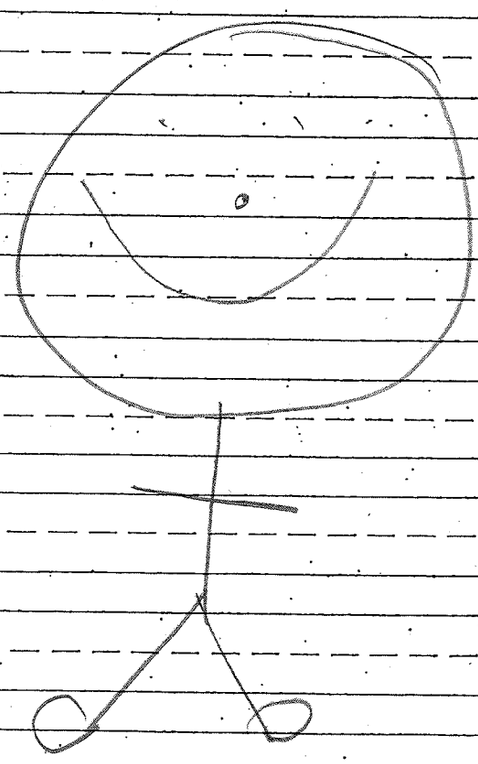
Jakob

Change Your Mind!

Sine your name and your Neve design!

SuNMyst Be Save it! Well Loved

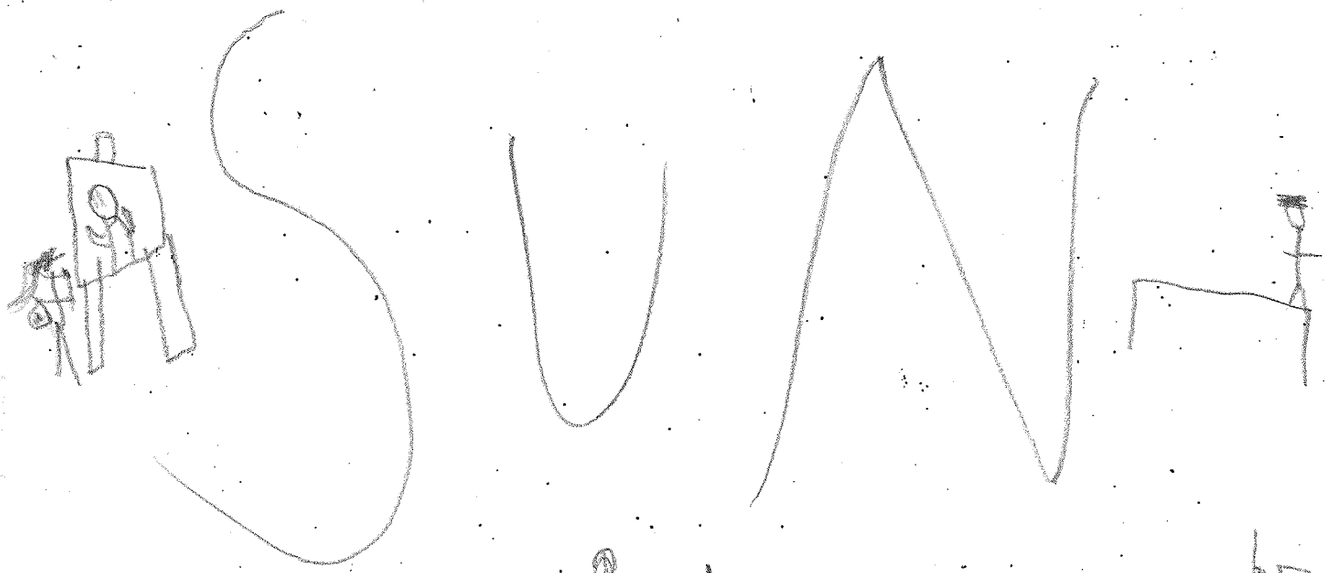
Dear Mayor Hales, SuNMyst not Be gone! When I took SuNClasses It was the Best time of my life! When I took Sports extravaganza I had a best frid! Sincerely, Giovanno Ferroggiaro



SUN

Dear Mayor Hales,
Pleasedonte cut SUN School! SUN can make you helther and Smarter. I like SUN School becauseit is really fun and helthey and maks you Smarter! If you cut SUN it will make me upset! The SUN people or really niee.

Sincerely,
Indu



Dear Mayor Hales,

SUN classes helpts peple.
skate bard and play chess.
I love SUN classes please
let it stay. SUN is FUN.
sincerely stone

Dear Mayor Hales,
SUN class is rely rely fun.
And I get lots exercise from
them. My favorite SUN
class is Taekwondo.
I like it because it give
me exercise and energy.
Sincerely,
Victor

Dear Mayor Hates,
Please let SUN stay.
SUN is good. It gives
Strenth you can teach the
family a new game. One
SUN classes gives knowledge.
I know new things because
SUN classes. SUN is fun
for the schools.

Sincerely,
Huck

Dear Mayor Hales,
SUN clases are inportied
to me and thay are rilly
fun. The SUN classes I took
taught me things I did
not know beafore. The SUN
classes I took where really fun
to me. SUN classes let
you be active. The SUN
classes I took let me
get all my energy out.
SUN classes are the best.
The SUN classes I took
make me healthier and

lean more.

Sincerely, Rachel

Dear Mayor Hayes
Kids like fun school.
Plese do not cut
funcuse if. I do dag
is fun from Matthew.

Sun is Best to us.

Josie

Dear Mayor Hales,

Please don't cansele the Sun classes. our skool like Sun classes so much. We like Sun classes bacuse We get to see are fearite people there. We get the Best fun time at Sun skool Dest at home we have to do cores wale we could be doing Sun it is much Beter and we get more extrsise. a Sun skool this is the time to sulbrate not to stay at home and do nothing at all clerly at all. Sun skool is Better than at home wanting to go to sun skool. Sun is what I want to do after school then grades thats what to do.

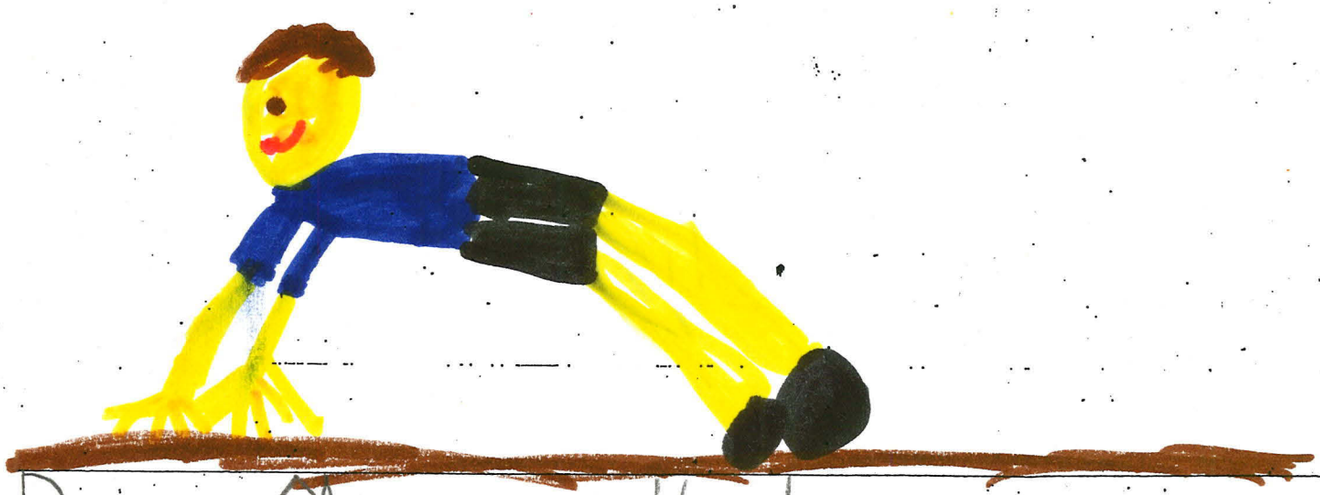
Sincerely Josie

Dear Mayor Hales,

Sun class is very important To me and it gets you more active. Sun Lets you be free Like a bird. SUN makes you have more ideas Than we used Too. I Love Sun class.

Sincerely,
Lydia

Bear pose



Dear Mayor Hales,
Please don't take SUN
classes away from us
because Sun classes help me
get out all my energy. I
also Learn atleast one
thing that I did not
know. SUN classes help
me be more active
like a SUN class called
Theater games. It helped
me get really active
SUN classes help Me
get more healthy. Theates

games also got me more healthy because we get to run around like animals.

Sincerely,

Hannah

Dear Mayor Hates,

I think it would be unfair to take away SUN from three schools because all the other schools would get it. SUN gives you good exercise and it makes you healthier too. SUN is fun to all learning kids.

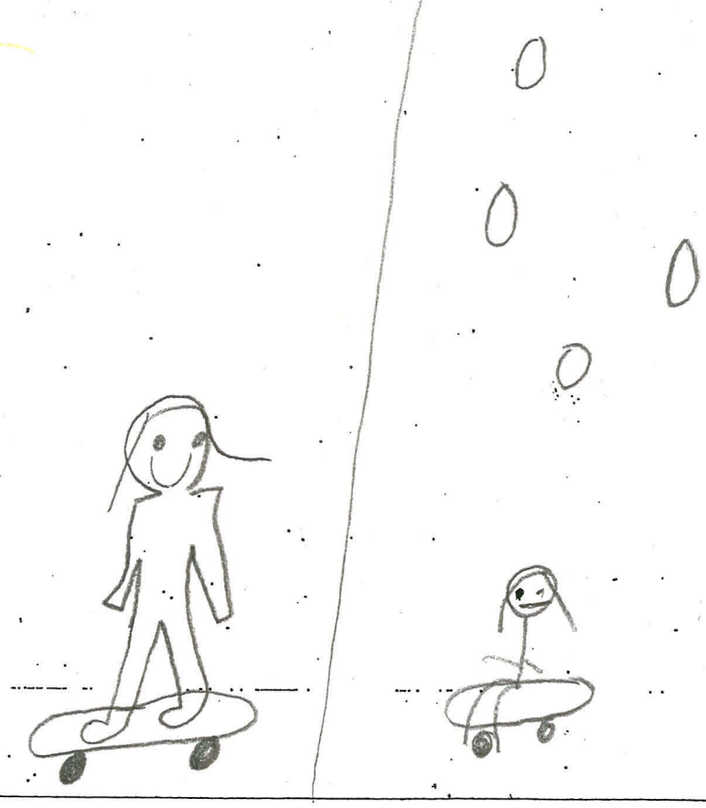
Sincerely,

Mirabel

Southern

Sun

Dear Maor Hares, Please let Ruh Keep sun! It is very fun it gives us education in new games. It's moste likly to be fun for a lote of Pelple. I have experienced all of these things. sincerely, Grady.



Dear mayer.

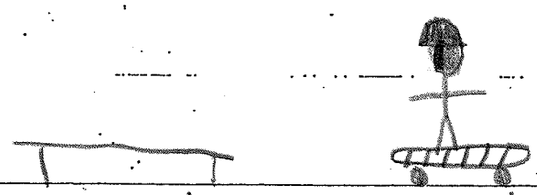
Can you donat to Rosway Parts
Som money to us? the Sant Clas
helpt us Iron. ples let use Sow we
cane Lrun thing from deffrint plac
or acts.

Senscyly

Elise

pos you nice

Darius



Dear Mayor Hates,
SUN classes are speshle to our school. I want are SUN classes to stay for ever. It is good for our school. I hope you don't cut SUN.
Sincerely, Darius

Sun School

Dear mayor hales, Kids love sun school. kids lern stuff frome sun school like Book club you learn how To read a lot in Book club. sun School is fun. people love sun school a lot. people go to sun school Becuse so They can have fun!

love alexia

Request of Grace Groom to address Council regarding continued funding for SUN Schools programming (Communication)

FEB 20 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed FEB 15 2013

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		