



**SCHOOLS UNITING
NEIGHBORHOODS
MEANS...**

SUN C.S. Means...

I like all
of the sun
classes

by Isaac
Perez

Before sending our daughter to Kindergarten, if you had said “SUN program” to me, I wouldn’t have a clue what you were talking about. I remember seeing that word around, but no one knew what it was. Some knew it stood for Schools Uniting Neighborhoods, but didn’t know what that meant.

We enrolled our daughter in her first SUN class at the very tender age of 5. The class was a mixed ages, drama class for kids in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. My wife enrolled her in the class because she was struggling to make friends at the school. Well, not only did she make friends, but she had a bevy of older kids who supported her on the playground when anyone so much as started to make fun of her. Being a drama class with scripts, it also encouraged her to read -- in Kindergarten, no less!

Our daughter, and our entire family (including extended family), have been involved with SUN for 6 years now, taking a myriad of classes, making cultural crafts and gifts, riding our bikes and walking to school, donating to Season of Sharing and the Food Bank, stomping our feet (and sweating) at all the community dances and even teaching some classes, and I still struggle to define SUN. Yes, we all can understand the after-school enrichment programs; classes teaching instrumental music, foreign languages, self-defense, drawing, carpentry, gardening, sewing, LEGO robotics, self esteem, reading, math, and science, just to name a few. But SUN also provides tutoring, in groups and one-on-one. This alone, has made a huge impact on our smart, but lagging student, who struggled to do homework at home without turning into an emotional wreck. Her brother attends a school that does not have a SUN program and he is driven to his sister’s school so that he can take some of the above mentioned classes. Next year, we’d like to send him to Buckman’s SUN program to receive the same homework support he sister has received, that his school cannot provide.

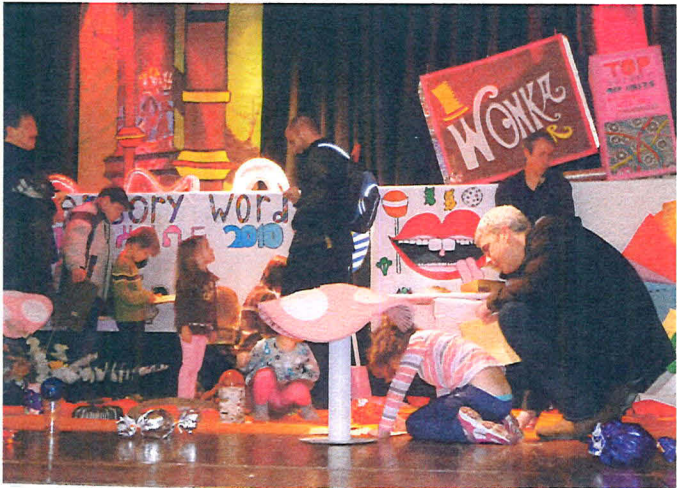
When our school needed math and writing support, SUN provided highly-entertaining and deeply memorable experiences that included stilt walkers, chocolate fountains, debating in togas and writing new laws on “ancient” scrolls -- each scroll had singed edges to look and feel like ancient greek scrolls -- who does this kind of stuff? SUN does! I still don’t think those kids ever realized they were doing math or writing. When they are older, I have no doubt that they will devise clever ways to get kids to do things they don’t want to because of these magical experiences that SUN has provided.

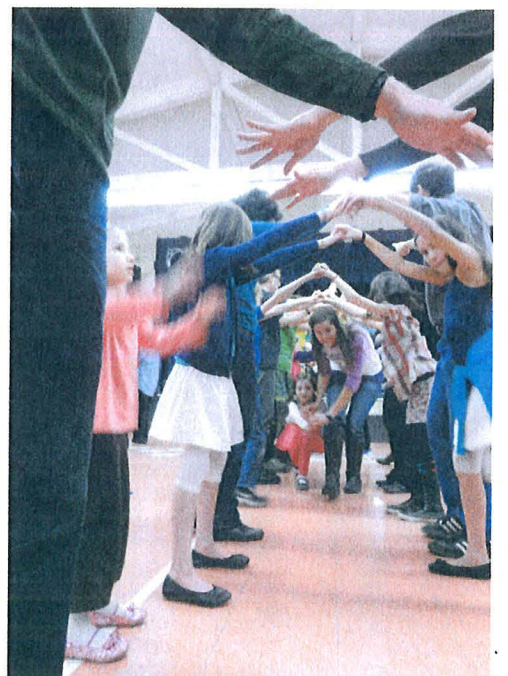
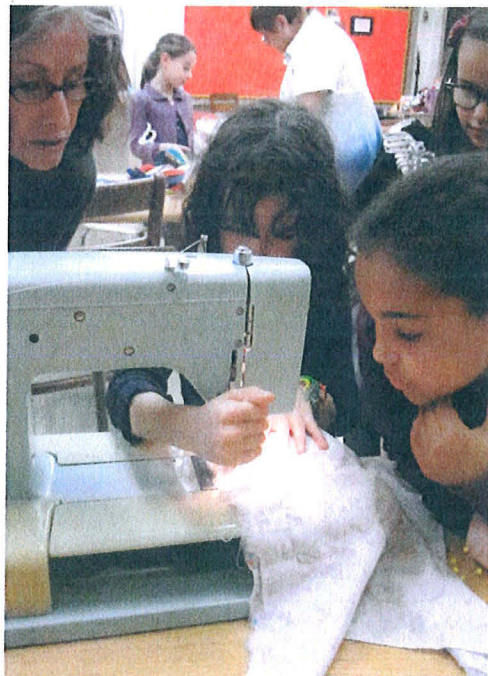
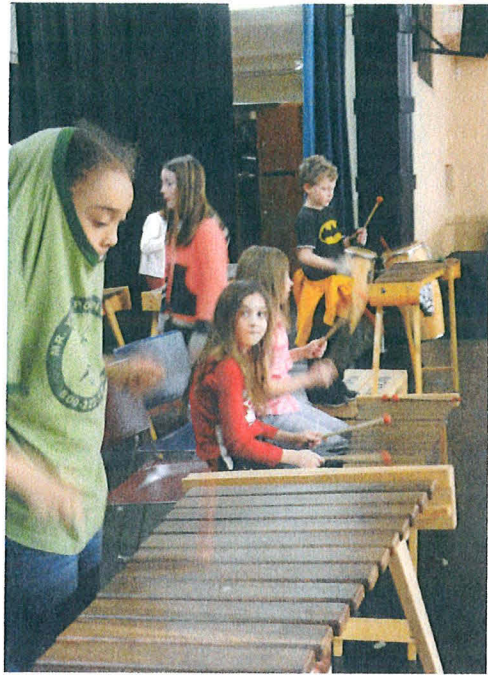
This year, I am taking a parenting class that SUN has facilitated. I was apprehensive -- who would recognize me? Does this mean I’m a failure as a parent? Without question, it has helped me to understand and relate to my kids better and for us to have more meaningful relationships. It didn’t take years for this to happen, just a couple, hour-long classes. And I will forever thank SUN for that.

Over the years, I have seen firsthand, the benefits of kids who were matched up with mentors through SUN-- one student and his mentor were invited to Washington, DC to attend the national Mentoring Week, where they met President Obama. Not one single person in this child’s family would have ever imagined that that would have been possible. SUN made it happen. I’ve seen families in tears after receiving the bounties of a generous community who donated bags and boxes over-flowing with holiday gifts. Who arranged all this? SUN did. The results were the same with the winter coat program.

I know one family, who had not been struggling before, but found themselves days from being evicted because of a summer of drastic and necessary medical procedures that had drained their savings. Who helped them stay in their home through a vital partner? SUN did. And this isn’t the only story like this.

In a way, I am glad that the SUN program is at risk, because it has made me reflect and realize just how valuable SUN is and the great impact it has had in our lives, our school and our community. It is shameful that SUN is hacked at year after year, when it has proven to be an invaluable asset for the entire community. Yes, schools uniting neighborhoods. That’s what SUN does. Let’s continue to support this.





Moore-Love, Karla

From: C Nagle [cmcnagle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 12:51 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla

Subject: Re: Scheduling an appointment to address the City Council

The April 25th date should work out fine. My address is: 447 NW Skyline Blvd, Portland, OR 97279. Ph: 503 203-7986. Thank you, Christine Nagle

From: "Moore-Love, Karla" <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>
To: 'C Nagle' <cmcnagle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2012 12:23 PM
Subject: RE: Scheduling an appointment to address the City Council

Hello Christine,

Thank you for your request to address the Portland City Council. The next available date is April 25th. Let me know if this date will work for you. Also, Code requires I have your address and phone number so please send that as well.

Our meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. and communications are the first item on the official agenda. You will have three minutes to address the Council but may also submit written material, please provide seven copies.

Please note communications allow the Council to hear of issues that interest our citizens but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.

Council takes place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers.

Please let me know if you are not able to keep this appointment.

Regards,

Karla

Karla Moore-Love | Council Clerk
City of Portland | Office of the City Auditor
1221 SW 4th Ave Rm 140
Portland OR 97204-1900

email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov

503.823.4086 | fax 503.823.4571

Clerk's Webpage: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk

From: C Nagle [mailto:cmcnagle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 6:17 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Scheduling an appointment to address the City Council

I wanted to address the City Council regarding our incredible SUN program and why it needs to be retained. Thank you,

Christine Nagle

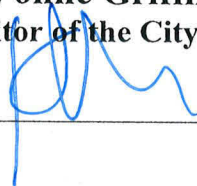
Request of Christine Nagle to address Council regarding SUN program and why it needs to be retained (Communication)

APR 25 2012

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 20 2012

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		