







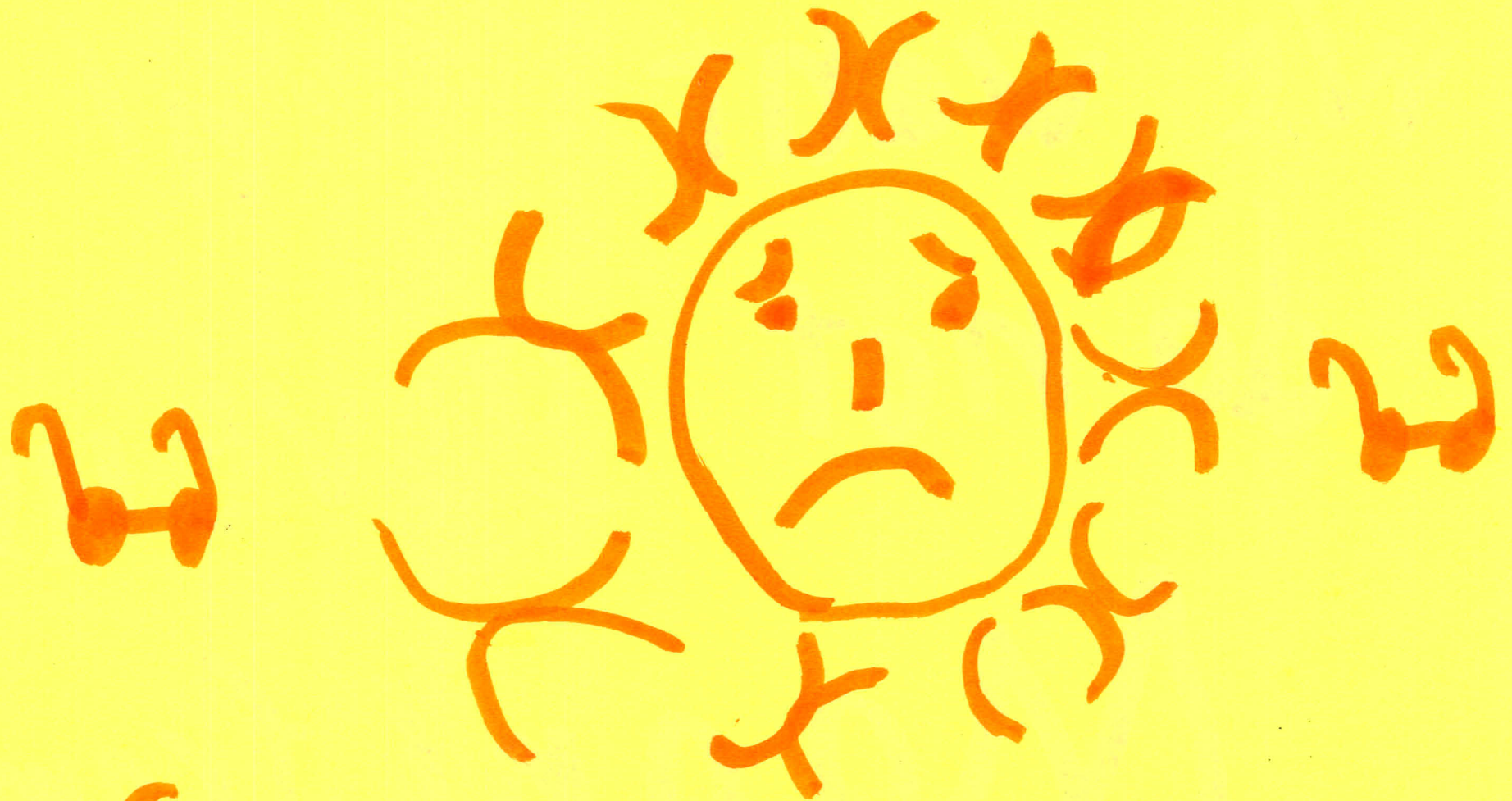






dear mr. mayre,  
we want Sun!  
do not give us  
Moon! from,  
Asher

Sun is fun!



Sun is fun!



men feed  
me from  
being home  
alone.

keep S.U.N. alive





Save sah!

SAVE  
SUN





We  
want  
to

save yes



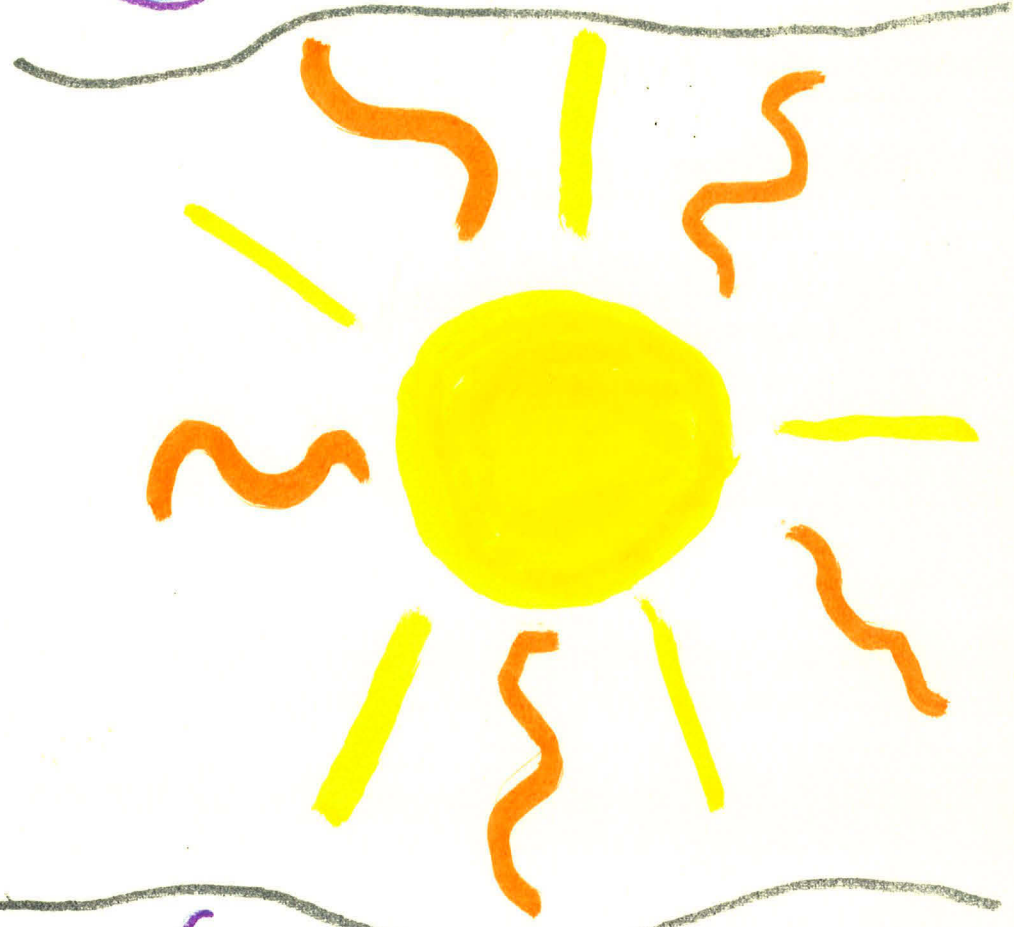
we

do!

Asher



Save



Sun





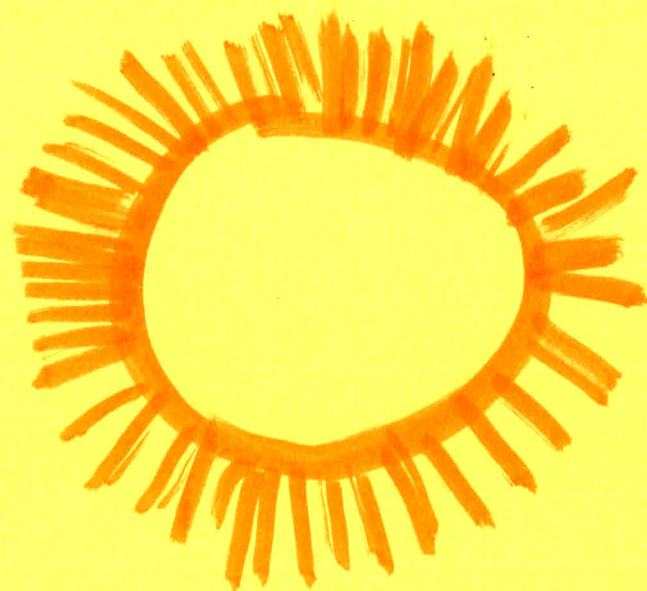


save

Swan



SAVE



are

..

Sun



SO

Save our SUN



SUN



no one







Save

are

Win

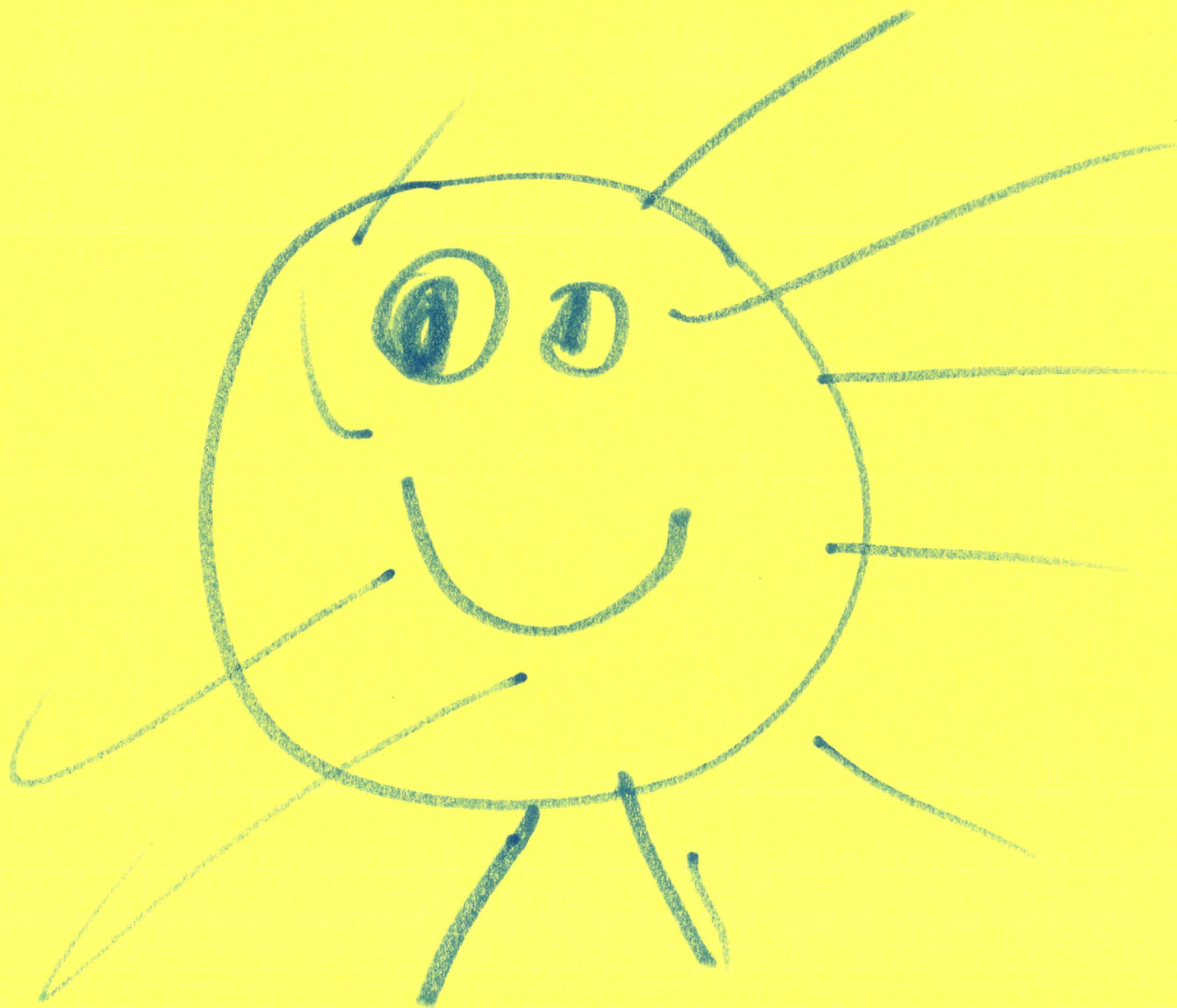


Save

Sun!



I love sun!



Sun is the  
best!  
Sun







SAVIE



SUN





Save Sun



Page 2



## No Cuts To SUN:

April 17, 2013

Mr. Mayor and City Commissioners,

I'm grateful for the opportunity to testify today. I also want to thank you for hosting this field trip. It has been a year since these children have had a chance to visit City Hall and ask the Portland City Council to save our beloved SUN program.

Our son Nicholas is a nine-year old student at Buckman Elementary, one of the schools at risk of having its SUN program eliminated entirely if your proposed budget is approved. I have been a teacher for sixteen years, and I cannot put it more bluntly: SUN is the best. Necessary and essential, SUN is a model of excellence to be preserved and built upon, not eliminated. Our principal, Brian Anderson, states:

*Because of major cuts to our budget over the years, (Buckman) has virtually no additional support in place for struggling students... positions, such as reading specialist, math support specialist, educational assistants, special education para-educators, have been cut. We no longer have PE.*

Indeed, there are days when the only structured school-time exercise Nick gets is that which SUN provides. Mr. Anderson concludes, "The possibility of losing SUN renders us unable to offer support to students who desperately need help."

Buckman has a population of 500 kids; more than four out of five of those children are served by the SUN program. The scope and variety of its services are stellar: Write Night, Math Night, tutoring, behavioral mentoring, homework club, and fifty afterschool classes a week. SUN provides help for families struggling with financial, domestic, medical, and substance abuse issues. Buckman SUN serves more than 450 kids, and is managed and coordinated by two part time staff members. It also keeps struggling families in the workforce, including me: eliminate Buckman SUN, and I am one of many parents who will have to drastically reduce work hours, and be forced to bring my child to work with me on many of the school closure days.

I wonder if SUN has become a victim of its own success; sometimes when a program works incredibly well, the need for it isn't apparent. Isn't the point of a social services program to create an environment where children are thriving? To keep them engaged, challenged, and happy? Portland's Public Schools are reeling from years of deep and painful cuts: there isn't a single school that doesn't need SUN. You say as much yourself in the 2012 Portland Plan, stating:

*the SUN...Service System... has a strong record of promoting educational success and family self-sufficiency...manag(ing) an array of community-based services including academic support and skill development for youth, early childhood programs, parent-family involvement and education, after-school and summer activities, physical and mental health programs.*

It would be hard enough to shoulder a cut to any SUN site. But, at least for Buckman, the current proposal calls for its elimination at a time when our kids are being asked to shoulder more. Last year, you made the right choice and preserved this unique and essential service. For the sake of the kids in this room, and the many they represent, I urge you to repeat that act of good judgment and make no cuts to SUN.

Thank you,  
David Berkson  
5824 SE Francis Street  
Portland, OR 97206  
davidberkson66@gmail.com

### **Buckman SUN Services**

- **SUN is more than an afterschool program!** It is Buckman's primary agent of social services, and provides educational programs on late start and in service days, as well as some vacation times.
- SUN has been proven to have a positive impact on academic success. Retain a program that has been proven to work! SUN provides additional academic support (tutoring and mentoring) for students who need it. **Academic success is key for reducing poverty and dependency on public services.**
- Buckman's SUN coordinates community building events linked to academic benchmarks like Family Write Night and Math Nights.
- SUN connects at-risk families with social services and supports, as well as community resources they couldn't afford. SUN staff knows families personally so they can develop a holistic approach. SUN is often the first contact in the school to know about and help refer families that are facing financial challenges, domestic violence, alcohol and drug issues, or medical issues.
- Buckman SUN has 40 community partnerships, each of which brings additional resources to the school. Buckman SUN generally leverages the equivalent of more funding than it costs in terms of donated goods and services, including thousands of volunteer hours.
- Buckman SUN provides 50-60 weekly enrichment classes tied to academic benchmarks before and after school each week (as well as summer and break camps) that provide childcare for working parents and educational support for students. Many working parents report they could not work if they did not have free or low-cost childcare support.
- SUN is key in helping ELL families feel more included in school activities and assisting with translations.
- SUN staff develop programs specific to family-identified needs at schools. At Buckman, SUN staff have facilitated free dental sealants for families lacking dental coverage, budgeting/credit/financial management workshops, provided parenting training and support groups, and helped with holiday gift-giving.
- Poverty rates have been increasing at Buckman. Buckman still receives an "Outstanding" rating in part because SUN focuses on kids that really need support, providing them with tutoring, mentoring, and other supports.

**Please make no cuts to SUN pass-through monies that will endanger cost-effective programs that have been proven to work.**

**Don't diminish already established programs and capacity when the Portland Plan calls for expansion so that every school is a SUN school!**



**Moore-Love, Karla**

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**From:** David Berkson [davidberkson66@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 10, 2013 5:54 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** I Would Like To Testify on April 17

Karla,

I would like to testify regarding the proposed SUN cuts on Wednesday, April 17. Please let me know if a spot is open. My phone number is 503-708-9031.

Thanks so much!

David Berkson

3/11/2013

Request of David Berkson to address Council regarding proposed SUN cuts  
(Communication)

APR 17 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 12 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		