

**James Otis Kaler Elementary School**  
165 South Kelsey Street  
South Portland Maine 04106

Diane Lang  
Principal

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Dear Fourth Grade Parents and Guardians,

Beginning the morning of Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> through Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, your child will be participating in the Maine Educational Assessments (MEA's). The MEA's are given once a year to every fourth grade student in Maine's public schools. The content areas they will be tested on are *reading, mathematics and science*. The MEA scores become a permanent part of your child's academic records. You will receive results of your son/daughter's performance on the MEA's in the mail in the early fall of 2008.

These standardized tests are designed to measure your child's performance and growth in reading, math and science from kindergarten through fourth grade. In all grades, students practice the skills needed to show their knowledge in a variety of ways, including multiple choice, constructed response and short answers. Students practice open-ended questions that require them to justify their answers in preparation for these tests.

I have scheduled testing sessions in the morning from 9:00-11:00 in hopes of ensuring that your child has the opportunity to do his/her best work each day. You can help your child by ensuring that your son/daughter arrives promptly at 8:45 each morning and attains a solid good night's rest prior to testing. As parents, you are our best resource for making sure your child is rested and ready to place his/her best foot forward in the testing situation. I highly encourage you to discuss the importance of approaching the MEA's with a positive, calm attitude. Help your child see that this is an opportunity to show off his/her learning.

Thank you in advance for making sure that your child is not unnecessarily absent or late each day. Any missed test sessions must be made up. I appreciate your support for this important annual state assessment.

Sincerely,

Diane Lang  
Proud to be the Kaler Principal

