



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

Last Thursday, a team of teachers and parents joined me as hosts of Richmond's booth at the annual Portland Public Schools Celebration of Schools at the Oregon Convention Center. Thanks go to parents Aimee Virnig, Theresa Lovett and Monica Mueller along with teachers Ando Sensei, Aya Sensei, Karen Meier and our two Japanese resource teachers Deanne Balzer and Yoshiko Kamata. Together, we talked to several hundred parents and children about the benefits of Japanese immersion education and shared our new parent packet. We handed out over 150 parent packets and these have generated a great deal of praise from recipients. Sign-ups for our Wednesday tours are at capacity for the next few weeks.

I'm taking our new display on the road next week for Mochitsuki on January 29 at PPC. Many Richmond families have purchased tickets for this wonderful event. To help promote our school, please wear your JMP sweatshirts, t-shirts and hats at Mochitsuki and look for our booth.

Finally, YOU are the most important ambassadors and representatives of our school. Please help us promote Richmond by picking up one of our new parent packets in the basket in the main hallway and sharing it with family, friends, neighbors or co-workers with young children. The packets are wrapped in a kimono red envelope and secured with chopsticks, so you can't miss them!

Sincerely,
Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Portland Public Schools

Volume 2, Issue 3

Friday, January 20, 2006

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Scrip order days move to Monday
- ☺ Sun. Jan. 22 recital features Koto player
- ☺ Extra auction invitations
- ☺ Playground update
- ☺ Box Tops for Education
- ☺ 1st Annual JMP Spring Festival coordinated by Oya No Kai
- ☺ FAQ's about immersion programs in PPS

Cafeteria & Playground Safety After School

Parents, please remember our cafeteria and playground are not supervised by Richmond educators after school. As a result, it's very important for you or your caregiver to be on time for pick-up at 3:00 PM. We also understand the cafeteria and playground are popular places for kids and parents to gather after school to chat, but it is essential for parents and/or caregivers to supervise their children and reinforce basic school safety.

Please help keep children safe by remembering that children should:

- ✓ Show respect for each other.
- ✓ Refrain from chasing, grabbing, wrestling, tackling whether indoors or outside.
- ✓ Stay out of the parking lot unless walking with an adult.
- ✓ Stay off the stage.

Thank you very much for your help!

SCRIP ORDER DAYS ARE MOVING TO MONDAYS!

As you may know, we recently switched to a new national Scrip company. Great Lakes Scrip has been...well...great so far. We have had zero backorders - and those of you who have had to wait for your scrip last fall know what good news that is. Because they are located in Michigan, our turn-around time is longer. Sooooo....

FOR THE REST OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR, Scrip order days will be on MONDAYS. Everything else is the same: orders are due by 8:45 Monday morning, and are ready Friday afternoons. E-mail orders (and Standing Order changes) should reach me by **SUNDAY** evening before order **Monday**.

We will do our best to fill late orders, but please try to have orders in on time - we can't guarantee that a late order can be filled. Thanks for your flexibility with this -

I'm sure we'll get into the swing of the *new MONDAY Scrip Order Days* soon! Please contact me if you have any questions - Leslie Kowash, onkscrip@comcast.net or 503-235-5513.

Here are the new Order Dates (standing orders in **bold**):

- Monday January 23
- **Monday February 6**
- Monday February 27
- **Monday March 13 (pick up Mon. 3/20)**
- **Monday April 10**
- Monday April 24
- **Monday May 8**
- Monday May 22
- **Monday June 5**

RECITAL FEATURES KOTO PLAYER

On Sunday, January 22, Tessa Brinckman and East/West Continuo, an ensemble of flute, viola, harp and koto, will present a recital at First Presbyterian Church. Included on the program is a piece for flute, viola, and koto entitled "Saga no Aki" by Iris Shiraishi and based on a composition by 19th-century composer Kikosue Kengyo.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors and can be purchased at the door. For more information, visit <http://www.fpcpdx.org>.



NEED AN EXTRA AUCTION INVITATION?

You can pick up extra auction invitations from Patsy in the office! She has a stack of auction invitations for folks who need another invitation for a special friend, neighbor or family member.

Please don't overlook people who have the potential to be our next class of kindergarten parents. The auction is a great opportunity to introduce prospective parents to our



Patsy has extra invitations in the office.

wonderful school community and the benefits our Japanese immersion program. It's going to be fabulous! Your help selling tickets is greatly appreciated.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

The Richmond playground committee met this week with Wildwood Playgrounds to work towards finalizing our design. The vision is to have a playground will not only represent the Japanese Magnet Program, but will also be physically and creatively challenging for our students and the greater community at large. Our goal is to have the first phase installed for the 2006-2007 school year. The North area where the "volcano" had previously been will have a large physically challenging playstructure as well as a Japanese style castle. The Southern area will have 2 new play structures as well as balance and climbing elements. One of the play structures will be heavy on imaginative play. The playground designer will make a computer generated 3-D illustration that will be displayed in the office.

We should have a specific cost amount within the week

and can then start the work of grant writing. The plan for the playground is to do the fundraising through grants and corporate gifts. All funds from www.schoolpop.com will also be directed towards the playground as well. Because the cost of installing a new playground is likely to cost approximately \$90,000, it will most likely be installed in 2-3 phases.

Anyone who wishes to become involved is welcome to contact any member of the committee.

-Katy Wolk-Stanley
Co-PTA President/ Playground committee member

ONLY THREE AUCTION JOBS LEFT TO FILL!

WOW!!! So many Richmond parents have offered to help with our March 10th auction that we're really getting things in place. As of January 17th, we still need volunteers for the following positions:

Live Auction Runners - (approx 7:30-10:30) "run" the highest bid/sale sheet to data entry as the items are being auctioned off

Cashiering - (7:30-11:00 ish) Take payment (cash/check/credit card) from bidder and print receipt for will call.

Data Entry - (5:30-11:00 ish) Enter all final bid info into the computer database and print out bidder's purchases as they are ready to check out.

Please contact Gina Azzaro-Budak if you're willing to help with any of these needs. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!

Gina Azzaro-Budak
503-281-9099 or mjbudak@msn.com

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

We are needing someone to take over on the "Box Tops for Education" program. Sheryl Horwitz has done this job for years but will no longer have any kids at Richmond starting next year. It is not a huge commitment, and involves sending in the box tops 3-4 times per year. Ideally, Sheryl would like to know who will be taking over by the next submission date of February 28th so she can show them the ropes.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who has been

looking for a way to be involved, but isn't able to be at Richmond during school hours. If you would like to do this, please contact Sheryl Horwitz at (503)246-6060.



Coordinator Needed for
Box Tops for Education

Oya No Kai, Inc., in a continuing effort to support Japanese cultural activities, announces:

The 1st Annual JMP Spring Festival

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. when Richmond Elementary School will be transformed into a bustling festival site. While still in development, this fun packed afternoon will feature hands-on activities like Gyotaku (fish printing), Ikebana, Sumi-e, & fish catching; entertainment such as Japanese traditional dance, Taiko, Sumo wrestling and Koto; a variety of sweet and savory foods from local restaurants; and community vendor exhibits! We are also working on an evening Benefit Concert to be held at Grant High with a nationally known performer.

Our hope is that the festival will capture the excitement of spring while bringing together all ages of the JMP community K to 12th grades and alumni. We have also included our Richmond neighborhood and city-wide Japanese community members in the fun in order to bring further attention to our outstanding program and strengthen the JMP's ties to the rich network of Japanese organizations and resources in Portland.

Festival proceeds will enable Oya No Kai to continue supporting the Native Speaking Intern program (*preK-12), 5th and 8th grade cultural exchanges, Japanese art classes, and the homework club among other educational enrichment opportunities.

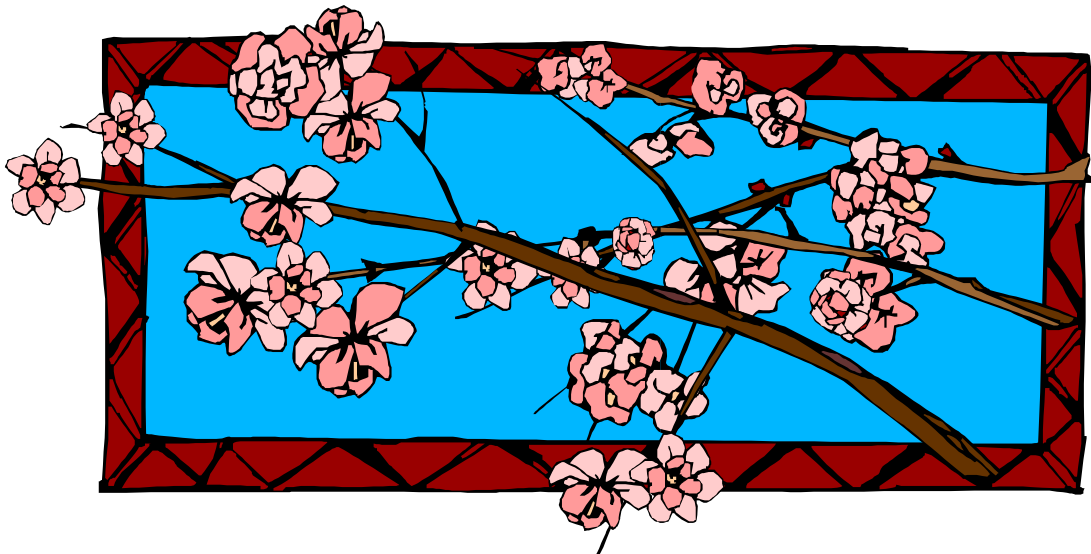
More about the Spring Festival will follow as the event (and dryer weather) draws closer. But why wait? Join the fun NOW and help make the festival the "must go" event of the year. All levels of volunteerism are welcome. We need your enthusiasm and creative spirit.

Domo Arigato,

To volunteer or get more information about the Spring Festival, please contact:

Meg Matsushima at (503) 335-7777 megmatsushima@comcast.net or
Kim Tanada at (503) 804-9991 ktanada@comcast.net

*Starting in the fall of 2006 the JMP will be the first PPS language immersion program to offer language immersion from Pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.



Portland Public Schools

2276 SE 41st Street
Portland, OR 97214
Phone: 503-916-6220
Fax: 503-916-2665
Website: www.richmondjmp.org

Japanese Magnet Program



Portland

Calendar for January 20-February 6

Mon. Jan. 23	Fundraising committee meets at 6:30-8:30 PM in rm. 105 Scrip order day
Tues. Jan. 24	Oya No Kai Board meeting at 6:45 PM
Wed. Jan. 25	2nd Grade coffee/tea at 8:45-9:30 AM Mandatory meeting for auction and 5 th grade parents regarding Japan trip 7:00 PM
Thurs. Jan. 26	Information night for Prospective Parents 7:00-9:00 PM in cafeteria
Fri. Jan. 27	3rd Grade coffee/tea at 8:45-9:30 AM Scrip pick up day
Sat. Jan. 28	Mochitsuki 2006 at PCC Sylvania Campus 12:00-4:00 PM. Richmond will have a booth to display information about our school with packets for interested parents. Richmond students perform at 12:20 PM.
Wed. Feb. 1	Principal for a Day 4th Grade coffee/tea at 8:45-9:30 AM
Fri. Feb. 3	5th grade trip performance rehearsal at 3-4:00 PM Setsuban (day to chase away evil spirits in Japan)
Mon. Feb. 6	5th Grade coffee/tea at 8:45-9:30 AM Scrip order day

JURIED ASSESSMENT FOR STATE TESTS

The State's juried assessment process is available to students who have mastered state content, but who have been unable to demonstrate that mastery on statewide assessment tests. For a juried assessment, the student submits a portfolio of work that is reviewed by a panel of judges to decide if the materials demonstrate the student's ability to meet state standards. Juried assessments are available for students in grades 3 through 8, plus the CIM (high school) level. A new option for juried assessments allows a district to submit student work in a language other than English. Parents who are interested in getting more information about the juried assessment option should contact the principal of their child's school. An Intent to Submit a Juried Assessment form is due to the OR Department of Education in mid-April, so if this is something you want to consider, please contact Kathryn Anderson as soon as possible. You can reach Kathryn at 503-916-6220 or via email at keanders@pps.k12.or.us. A brochure about the process and copies of the form will be available in the school office.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE UPDATE

Clay Hoffman, an expert cartoonist, is currently working with every Richmond classroom on the artistry of cartooning. He's been at Richmond this week and will continue through January 27. If you happen to be at Richmond during the school day, please take a moment to stop in room 204 to get a peek at this work with our students. It's really exciting to see what they're coming up with!

We also need a few parent volunteers to assist Clay and classroom teachers as they work with students. Volunteers are especially needed on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 25
Thursday, January 26
Friday, January 27

Any amount of time is greatly appreciated. You don't need to have the cartoon art skills of Charles Schulz to be a valuable member of our instructional team.