



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

Many of you have been asking if Richmond will really and truly have a pre-kindergarten program at the school next year. The answer, I am happy to say, is most definitely "YES"! We have prepared a solid pre-K program with the following features:

- Full-day and half-day options at Richmond
- Full school day is the same length as grades K-5 (8:45 AM to 3:00 PM)
- Japanese language experience woven throughout the school day through song, dance, rhythm, games, etc.
- Certified teachers and a half-time aide
- Japanese intern in place

The final tuition rates are still being checked by our district budget office, but we are confident the tuition rate will be very competitive with private pre-K providers. We'll keep you informed about every program update in the weeks ahead.

We plan to use the space currently occupied by the YMCA for our new pre-K program. This classroom is very spacious and has all the necessary bathroom facilities already in place. Our YMCA program will move to the cafeteria and former faculty lunchroom in the hopes this space will be more convenient for families with proximity to the parking lot.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

JOIN THE P.T.A. BOARD FOR 2006-07!

It may seem a bit early, but PTA elections for 2006-2007 are around the corner. If you are at all interested in being part of the fun that is PTA, please contact any member of this year's board. Board positions include president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and legislative liaison. PTA board members meet as a board once a month and help to oversee school volunteerism as well as plan school events. This year's board has also brought about the

grandparent's brigade as well as the playground committee. PTA is fun and a great chance to really get to know the other parents who are involved with our great school. The election will be held in March, so please contact any PTA board member if you would like to consider this wonderful opportunity. What we can do for the school is only limited by our imagination.

Portland Public Schools

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Friday, January 27, 2006

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
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Inside Story Headline

Intern article from Masako.,



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Caption describing picture or graphic.

MURALIST COMING TO RICHMOND IN FEBRUARY!

Carol Busch, a Portland artist who loves to work with schools to beautify their buildings, is coming to Richmond February 27 to work on a mural with students in grades 3-5. Our students will create the design and do all the painting of the mural under Carol's guidance. The location of the mural and the theme for the design will be finalized by staff and students next week. In the meantime, the pictures below and right show some of Carol's murals in other elementary schools across our district.



Mural at Stephenson Elementary School



Mural at Edwards Elementary School

The Portland Public Schools Budget: Increasing Accountability, Decreasing Revenue

Portland Public Schools faces a shortfall of \$57 million next year in the *General Fund*, the core budget that pays for teachers and operations in every school. Several factors combined to create this budget shortfall:

- The state cut support for schools again.
- PPS's local option property tax and capital bond levy ended last year.
- The three-year voter approved county income tax ends in June 2006, causing a loss of another \$50 million in annual revenue.

For some measure of how much \$57 million means in the PPS budget:

- It is the cost of 750 teachers' positions.
- Closing schools for 75 days would save \$57 million.
- The cost of the central administration \$14.9 million, or 4 percent of the budget (that's the Superintendent's and Board's offices, public information, legal, finance and payroll, human resources, professional development and curriculum support, research and evaluation).

Mayor Tom Potter plans to present a measure to city voters in May that would support all five school districts within city limits. Meanwhile, the Portland School Board

will prepare two budgets: One that cuts \$57 million to live within the current revenue forecast, and another that would include revenue from the city School Tax, if voters approve it in May.

For more information, check <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/news-c/budget2c.pdf> or email ppscomms@pps.k12.or.us.



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PLEASE CHECK OUR LOST & FOUND!

Our lost and found rack is absolutely overflowing with sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, jackets, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and backpacks. If you're wondering where your child has left an important article of clothing, the chances are VERY good it can be found on Richmond's lost and found rack.

clothing rack is located to the left of the double doors leading from the cafeteria breezeway into the main building. Look to the left as you walk up the two steps in front of the double doors and you'll spot the heaping rack of items.

Where do you find the lost and found at Richmond? The

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program



Portland

Calendar for January 29—February 17, 2006

Sun. Jan. 29	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.
Mon. Jan. 30	Intern host family meeting in cafeteria at 7:00-8:30 PM Fundraising committee meets in room 105 at 6:30-8:30 PM
Tues. Jan. 31	Barbara Adams, Area Director for Cleveland/Franklin Cluster, and team from Harvard spend the day at Richmond Hearing screening for K-1 in room 107 at 9:00-12:00 AM
Wed. Feb. 1	Principal for a Day Coffee/tea for parents in grades 3 & 4 at 8:45-9:30 AM Fire Inspector visits at 10:00 AM 5 th grade trip performance rehearsal at 3-4:00 PM
Fri. Feb. 3	Setsuban (day to chase away evil spirits in Japan) Coffee/tea for parents in grade 5 at 8:45-9:30 AM
Mon. Feb. 6	Young Audiences assembly—Body Vox "Voice of Dance" for grades K-2 at 1:45 PM in cafeteria
Tues. Feb. 7	Young Audiences assembly—Joint Forces Dance Co. "Wheels of Fortune" for grades 3-5 at 1:45 PM in gym Prospective parent information night 7:00-8:30 PM
Wed. Feb. 8	Coffee/tea for parents in grade 5 at 8:45-9:30 AM 5 th grade trip performance rehearsal at 3-4:00 PM
Thurs. Feb. 9	Mt. Tabor information night for 5th graders at 7:00 PM
Fri. Feb. 10	Coffee/tea for parents in grade 5 at 8:45-9:30 AM Scrip pick up day

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE GETS TO WORK!

Planning is underway for a master fundraising strategy to support our school's strategic plan. A committee of parent leaders from each grade level and parent group (Oya No Kai, PTA and Foundation) met on Monday night to begin this work.

Why is this work necessary? Richmond needs fundraising that is specific and coordinated to major strategic plan goals and objectives. The school also needs to reduce the competition between groups for the same parent donation. Finally, Richmond needs funding stability guided by a plan that will outlast any leadership changes. The goals for the group are:

- Develop a plan with two time frames: short-term (1-9 months) and long-term (1-5 years)
- Maximize contacts and resources
- Develop a process to approach corpora-

tions, foundations and major donors (\$500,000 and beyond)

The committee established a "To Do" list for the next few weeks. Their next meeting will be on Monday, January 30 and all formal planning work will follow our established decision making process: Site Council to staff to parent community and back to Site Council for implementation. Here's their list of steps for the next two weeks:

- a. Develop a "hit list" of big corporations and foundations
- b. Draft letter requesting donation to small donors (contributions of \$1,000 or less)
- c. Host a business "Open House" for business leaders on Feb. 15th (no staff help needed)
- d. Send our parent survey (target date is Feb. 3 in newsletter)