



Richmond Newsletter

A Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

This last Saturday I opened my mailbox and received a nice surprise—the latest issue of the weekly magazine, The Economist, featured a cover article and in-depth survey about Japan's economic revival and recognition as a powerful world economy, once again. This news is good for Richmond Elementary School and the Japanese Magnet Program because it helps us reinforce the importance of Japanese language immersion, our cultural partnerships, and our global approach to education. As the article concludes:

"Great prizes are within reach for Japan: rising productivity, rising living standards, a rising international reputation and, above all, a rising chance to face up to China on equal, or even superior terms."

The article goes on to say that Japan's closest ally and friend will continue to be the United States and gives several examples of areas of mutual growth.

Staff and Site Council have been given a copy of the article. If you haven't read the article yet, I encourage you to pick up a copy at your local news stand.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Anderson
Interim Principal



The Economist, October 8, 2005 issue on Japan's economic revival

Portland Public Schools

Volume 1, Issue 6

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ General Parent Meeting set for Oct. 19th at 6:30 PM in the Richmond Cafeteria
- ☺ Richmond receives a "Strong" rating on the Oregon Report Card (copy enclosed)
- ☺ Prospective Parent Packets under revision

Inside this issue:

Pizzicato Fundraiser	2
Gift Wrap Winners	2
Parent Packets	3
5th Grade trip news	3
Richmond Report Card	4
Foundation Update	Enc.
PPS Budget Picture	Enc.

REMINDER—No School on Fri. Oct. 14

Schools across Oregon are closed on Friday, October 14, 2005 to give teachers the opportunity to take advantage of a variety of professional workshops and seminars. While we know days away from school can be a hassle for families, we also know you recognize the value of educators working to improve their professional practice. After all, how many of us would use a doctor who hadn't kept up to date on new medical procedures or select an attorney who was not proficient with the changes in

his/her area of case law?

It's the same for educators. New research in education leads to exciting improvements in classroom practice. Please don't hesitate to ask us what we're studying, reading and discussing as professional educators who are interested in the steady improvement of our own classroom and school-wide practice.

Pizzicato Fundraiser for Foundation Set for Tuesday, October 25!

Pizzicato will generously donate 20% of its E. Burnside store's sales on Tuesday, October 25th to the Richmond School Foundation. Pre-orders will be due in the Foundation mailbox no later than 8:45 on Monday morning; pizzas and salads pre-ordered will be available at school in the cafeteria at 3:00 on Tuesday for pick-up.

Pizzas will be par-baked (meaning you bake at home for another 8 minutes for freshness) and salads will come with dressings on the side. Please note that Pizzicato is requesting a minimum of split pizza orders. Please be sure to charge the highest price when splitting a pizza. **We need a volunteer to deliver pre-orders to the Wilson bus stop that Tuesday.** Any takers? Please contact Jill Punches at (503) 233-6075 or email at punches1@msn.com.



Yummm! Pizza for dinner on October 25th!

Winners of the Gift Wrap Drawing

Congratulations to the winners of our gift wrap drawings:

- 3rd grader Audrey Nevue won the drawing for the \$40 Washington Mutual Savings Deposit
- Kindergartener Sophia Holland won the drawing for the \$40 Toys R Us Gift Cards
- 1st grader Ayu Nguyen won the drawing for the \$40 Barnes and Noble Gift Cards

Please call Meg Matsushima (503.335.7777) to make arrangements to receive your prizes.

Gift Wrap Orders are not too late. If you have not yet turned in your gift wrap order it isn't too late,

Innisbrook will allow us to add to our order until October 21st (next Friday). Catalogs and order forms are still in the Office by the Gift Wrap Return Box.

Thank you to everyone who has participated with the Oya No Kai Gift Wrap Fundraiser! We received 156 orders from Richmond and Mt. Tabor totaling approximately \$14,000 including \$700 in on-line sales and \$200 in donations earmarked for Oya No Kai's general fund instead of an order. Gift Wrap will be arriving at Richmond the week of Nov. 14th. We will have more specifics as we get closer to the week of the Nov 14th. A special thank you to all the volunteers that helped distribute and count the returned orders.

WE DELIVERED OUR THANK YOU TO DR. PHILLIPS

The PTA delivered to Dr. Vicky Phillips, PPS Superintendent a thank you letter signed by a large number of our parents. The letter thanked her for addressing our issues from last year as well as gifting the JMP with an extra 0.5 FTE that allowed us to keep our resource teacher position intact. (Yoshiko Kamata and Deanne Balzer) \$55 was collected and went toward buying flow-



Richmond PTA Officers delivering flowers to Dr. Vicki Phillips. Her assistant Val Anderson is pictured on the left.

ers and a lovely gourmet basket of nibbles. Dr. Phillips was not in her office, but the gifts were graciously received by her assistant, seen here in the photo.

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward this goodwill gesture!

GENERAL PARENT MEETING ON OCTOBER 19TH

Come to the Wednesday, October 19th PTA sponsored all school meeting (6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.) to hear the Range-Swehla family speak. Janet, Eric, Nigel and Kaia just returned from teaching and studying in Japan for a year and will be talking about how the JMP prepared them for this incredible experience. Nigel 8th grade and Kaia 11th grade will share from their trip and talk about how life at a Japanese school compared to life in the JMP. The PTA will also be presenting its 2005-2006 yearly budget, as well as talking about the great projects PTA is undertaking for our kids. Childcare will be provided and we will end on time.

The flyer for the Kiyokawa PTA apple fundraiser went home in your child's backpack yesterday. Please take a look and think about placing an order of these wonderful,

healthy treats. Fall is perfect time for applesauce, pies or even just a bit of apple bobbing. This fundraiser replaces the cookie dough of years past. Let's look toward healthy eating for our families. Orders are due Friday, October 21st for the school pick-up on Friday, October 28th.

A special thank you to JMP parents Dana Birchmier and Anthony Frison for arranging for FedEx to donate the Hood River to Portland shipping for the PTA Kiyokawa apple fundraiser. This corporate donation means we do not have to drive the many miles round trip to pick up hundreds of pounds of apples. Does your place of business have anything to offer the JMP?

-Katy Wolk-Stanley, co-PTA President

PROSPECTIVE PARENT PACKETS—Tell us what you think!

Richmond staff are in the process of dramatically changing the look and contents of the packet of information we share with prospective parents. We've requested and assembled packets from the leading competition and from schools with immersion programs in other languages:

- Atkinson Elementary School (PPS-Spanish Immersion)
- Catlin Gable (private, Japanese program)
- French-American School (private, French Immersion)
- International School (private, Japanese program)
- Oregon Episcopal School (private, Spanish program)

- Portland French Academy (private, French Immersion)
- Woodstock Elementary School (PPS-Chinese Immersion)

Packets from these schools are on display in the Volunteer room (105). Take a look when you have time and use the sticky notes nearby to point out the features you like and dislike in each packet. Feel free to respond in English or Japanese. Your feedback will help us narrow down the features that have the potential to be most effective in telling our story to prospective parents.

Thanks!

This Week's 5th Grade Trip News

*On Thursday, October 12th, ONK voted to retain the present structure of the auction for 2006. The fifth grade class will keep all but 10% of this year's auction proceeds.

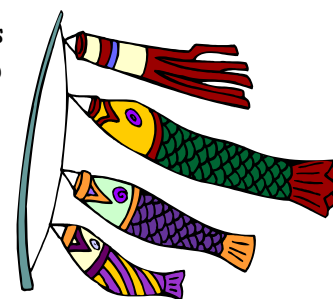
*We have six committed chaperones. Based on an estimated 40+ students, we are half of the way to a fully chaperoned trip.

*Due to Tokyo's extreme expense and our commitment to ONK to keep trip costs down (in exchange for ONK's willingness to keep the family contribution at \$600.00), The Trip Committee has eliminated the Tokyo leg of the trip.

*Additionally, the committee is considering shortening the trip by a few days to minimize costs. The length of the trip has not been decided.

*Alternative itineraries are being investigated.

The Trip Committee



5th Grade Trip News

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 14-31, 2005

Oct. 15	Japanese delegation from the Toyama Prefecture arrives in Portland
Oct. 17	Scrip Pick-Up Day
Oct. 17-21	PPS workmen at Richmond all week for repairs throughout the school
Oct. 19	PTA sponsored monthly general meeting at 6:30-8:00 PM in the cafeteria Japanese delegation spends day at Richmond Author visit: Eleanora Tate at 1:00-3:00 PM with grades 3-5
Oct. 21	PTA Kiyokawa Apple fundraiser, orders due Homestays start for students from Kato School
Oct. 25	Scrip Order Day
Oct. 28	PTA Kiyokawa Apple fundraiser, delivery to Richmond Scrip Pick-up Day
Oct. 31	Halloween!

RICHMOND'S OREGON REPORT CARD SHOWS "STRONG" RATING

Portland Public Schools are strong and getting stronger, according to state report cards released on Wednesday by the Oregon Department of Education.

The report cards assigned a grade ranging from "exceptional" to "unacceptable" to schools across the state for 2004-05, based on student achievement, attendance and other data. Almost two-thirds of Portland Public Schools receiving report cards for 2004-05 were rated "strong" or "exceptional" - a level reached by only half of schools statewide. **Richmond received a "STRONG" rating again this year. A copy of Richmond's report card is included in this newsletter.**

Seventeen Portland schools moved up in the ratings, continuing the strong gains in achievement from the previous years. Schools at every level made gains: 11 elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools and one K-12, the Metropolitan Learning Center. Meanwhile, eight schools slipped a notch, including six elementary schools

and two middle schools.

These schools achieved an "exceptional" rating: Abernethy, Ainsworth, Astor, Bridlemile, Duniway, Forest Park, Glencoe*, Hollyrood, Irvington*, Laurelhurst, Lincoln, MLC, Rieke, Sabin, Skyline, Smith, Stephenson*, Vernon,* West Sylvan, Winterhaven, Woodstock (* These schools were named exceptional for the first time.)

These schools improved their report card rating from last year: Abernethy, Applegate, Atkinson, Beaumont, Cleveland, Glencoe, Irvington, Kellogg, Kelly, Kenton, MLC, Peninsula, Scott, Stephenson, Tubman, Vernon and Wilson.

Superintendent Vicki Phillips shared information about the report cards at Southeast Portland's Cleveland High School, which joined Southwest Portland's Wilson High school as one of two high schools that moved up a grade to "strong" this year.