



Richmond Newsletter

Letter from Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

If you were unable to attend the general parent meeting on Wednesday, October 19th, hosted by the PTA, you missed a real treat. The Swehla-Ranger family prepared an amazing presentation about their life in Japan during the last school year. Listening to Nigel and Kaia describe how fluently they were able to communicate in Japanese gave me goose-bumps. Over and over, they shared evidence of their linguistic and cultural fluency due to the dedication of teachers and interns at Richmond, Mt. Tabor and Grant High School.

The tremendous impact of the JMP on the lives of our students is the key point we will build upon in strategic planning work. One Tuesday, November 1st our staff and leaders from Oya No Kai, PTA, Site Council

and Richmond Foundation will gather in our cafeteria for a full day of work. We will begin the revision of our school vision and mission statements and divide up into groups to research and made recommendations about important program needs: expansion, curriculum refinement, marketing/promotion, school beautification, and fundraising.

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal



The Swehla-Ranger family:
Nigel, Eric, Janet, and Kaia

Talented & Gifted Nominations Deadline

TAG information and nomination forms are available on the main hall bulletin board outside the office. There is one TAG nomination period throughout Portland Public Schools this year. Here's the calendar for parent and teacher nominations:

- **Nov. 30, 2005** Deadline for TAG nominations to be submitted to Richmond.
- **Dec. 7, 2005** Richmond sends nomi-

nations to TAG office for testing schedule.

- **Jan. 3-May 31, 2006** TAG testing. Families will be notified about testing date at least two weeks in advance by the TAG office.
- **Fall 2006** Draft TAG plans completed by teachers, reviewed by families and submitted to TAG office by November.

Portland Public Schools

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© Contact Japanese Resource Teachers for visitations:

Deanne Balzer and Yoshiko Kamata 503-916-6220

Dbalzer@pps.k12.or.us

Ykamata@pps.k12.or.us

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Grant for Richmond's Cultural Center Submitted

A grant for \$37,258 was submitted to the Portland Schools Foundation this week to fund formal planning for a Japanese Cultural Center at Richmond Elementary. Our vision is to have a Japanese Cultural Center at Richmond that uses the expertise and knowledge of our community partners, families, and teachers to bring Japanese culture to life for our students.

The purpose of Richmond's grant is to provide funding for the development of a comprehensive design plan for this Japanese Cultural Center. The grant would not fund bricks and mortar, but would be used primarily for people with the cultural and technical expertise to help us work together to create a realistic and culturally accurate plan with three essential components:

1. Instructional plan to specify the kinds of cultural

experiences visitors would be able to enjoy and the community partners to help deliver the experiences;

2. Design and construction plan to enable us to achieve our instructional plan in a school building that is almost 100 years old; and
3. Fund-raising plan to help us pay for the actual construction and maintenance of the center.

We should receive word about the funding decision for our proposal to Portland Schools Foundation by mid-November. The Cultural Center committee of parent, staff and community volunteers is led by Catherine Malone, Oya No Kai Board member and parent of two Richmond students. Other grant proposals have been submitted and are in the works, so stay tuned!

Update on New Richmond Website

Jean Mittelstadt, parent of a first grader, has been hard at work on dramatic changes to Richmond's website. She has created a new, professional look for the site and updated all information. Soon, you will be able to access ALL forms, fundraising orders, scrip information and newsletters by clicking onto Richmond's website.

hard? The answer lies with our District information technology system and the fact that its old technology that doesn't make for easy downloading of fancy graphics and information. Jean has been working closely with PPS technology staff to get the glitches resolved. In the meantime, look for a simple link on our old website to Jean's new and improved version.

So, why can't you do this now if Jean has been working so

Visitors from Toyama Prefecture Loved Richmond

A delegation of teachers and administrators from the Toyama Prefecture in Japan visited Richmond classrooms on Wednesday, October 19th. They also spent time at Grant High School, Mt. Tabor Middle School and Atkinson Elementary School.

Richmond students sang for our visitors and they returned the delight by singing several songs to our students. The picture below captures their mini concert.

Each visitor was very impressed with what they saw and experienced in Richmond classrooms and they were not hesitant to share their compliments and praise for the work of our students and teachers.



Visitors from Japan present gifts of artwork from students in the Toyama Prefecture to Richmond 5th graders.

Calligraphy is BACK!

Atsuko Wynkoop, a retired high school Japanese teacher in Beaverton, will be teaching calligraphy to our 3rd, 4th and 5th students. She is studying her calligraphy with a well-known teacher in Seattle (Akashi Calligraphy) and is excited about the opportunity to share her skills with Richmond students.

Teachers will send one-half of their class at a time to work with Mrs. Wynkoop. Classes with Mrs. Wynkoop will start on Friday, November 4th and work with grades 3-5, with plans to serve students in grades 1-2 after the New Year.

Here's the schedule for calligraphy classes



Classes start Friday, November 4th

during the school day every Friday for students in grades 3-5:

Morning Classes

3rd grade at 9:30-10:00 AM

4th grade at 10:15-10:45 AM

5th grade at 11:00-11:30 AM

Afternoon Classes

3rd grade at 12:30-1:00 PM

5th grade at 1:15-1:45 PM

4th grade at 2:00-2:30 PM

Richmond Recognized at PPS Board Meeting Mon. Oct. 24th

Richmond Elementary School will join many other Portland Public Schools that received "Exceptional" and "Strong" ratings on the 2005 Oregon State Report Card at Monday's Board of Education meeting for special recognition. Presentations of achievement certificates for schools will be at 7:00 PM. You can watch the Board meeting on cable channel 49.

3rd-5th Graders Meet Author Eleanora Tate

Our wonderful library aide, Lynne Cummings, arranged for the award winning author Eleanora Tate to visit Richmond this week. Ms Tate met students in grades 3-5 to share her books, talk about how she gets ideas for her stories, and crafts her writing to capture the reader's attention. She read from several books that she's written and showed us pictures from her childhood and adult life to illustrate the connection between an author's real-life experiences and published fictional account.

Please look for Eleanora Tate's books the next time you're at the library or your favorite bookstore:

- Thank You Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Front Porch Stories at the One-Room School
- The Secret of Gumbo Grove
- Retold African Myths
- The Minstrel's Melody (American Girl Mystery)
- Just an Overnight Guest



Visiting author Eleanora Tate presents gift of books to Richmond Library!

Portland Public Schools

2276 SE 41st Street
Portland, OR 97214
Phone: 503-916-6220
Fax: 503-916-2665
Email: keanders@pps.k12.or.us

Japanese Magnet Program



Japanese Homework Club to start after teachers share info. with parents at November conferences. Look for details in future newsletters!

Richmond Calendar for October 21- Nov. 1st

- Fri. Oct. 21 1st payment for student trip fund due to Oya No Kai. Forms also due (intent, medical, etc.)
Homestays begin for students from Katoh School
- Mon. Oct. 24 Katoh students at Richmond all week!
- Tues. Oct. 25 Kindergarten field trip to pumpkin patch with 5th grade
Pizzicato Dough 4 Dollars fundraiser for Foundation
Scrip Order Day
Oya No Kai Board Meeting at 6:45 PM
- Wed. Oct. 26 Portland Taiko residency in cafeteria 12:30-3:00 PM
- Fri. Oct. 28 Scrip Pick-Up Day
- Sun. Oct. 30 Daylight Savings Time Ends—FALL BACK 1 HOUR
- Mon. Oct. 31 Fukano teachers visit Richmond in the morning
Halloween
- Tues. Nov. 1 NO SCHOOL—PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY Staff and parent leaders work full day on strategic planning (8:30-3:30 PM) in the cafeteria

PTA NEWS

The PTA Fall apple fundraiser looks to be a big success. We got an unexpected but welcome advertisement when yesterday's Oregonian Living section featured the Kiyokawa apple orchard. Thank you to everyone who placed an order. Pick up will be next Friday the 28th in the gym starting at 2:00 P.M. If you are able to help distribute apples, please contact Kristina Kallen by e-mail at kmk456@comcast.net.

Thank you so much to the Swehla-Ranger family (Eric, Janet, Kaia and Nigel) for speaking at yesterday's PTA general meeting. Their tales of a year spent teaching/ being students in Japan was very inspiring. To know that a family with no Japanese background could be prepared enough from the JMP to attend a Japanese school impressed all that attended. The differences between

American and Japanese school culture were most interesting. The respect that teachers and principals garner was a lesson for us all. Let's remind ourselves of all the hard work and dedication that our staff puts in for our children. Take a moment to thank a teacher, take a moment to thank our principal. And most importantly, if you have criticism for our staff, use respect with your language and in your manner. We all benefit from a culture of respect.

-Katy Wolk-Stanley
Co-PTA President