



Richmond Newsletter

Letter from the Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

In the next few weeks, look for big banners and charts with drafts of Richmond's vision and mission statements on display in the main hallway for your review and feedback. On Tuesday, November 1st, staff and leaders from Foundation, Oya No Kai, PTA, and Site Council will spend the day together with a strategic planning expert to work out the rough drafts of these important statements. We will use feedback from parent surveys completed after Back-to-School Night to inform our work. Our goal is to have a viable rough draft of a vision statement that clearly captures the long-range plan for Richmond and the Japanese Immersion Program, as well as a mission statement that communicates what

Richmond and the JMP are all about. Here's how you can get involved in this work:

- Give us your feedback about our draft mission and vision statements. Less than 10% of Richmond families responded to the short survey from Back-to-School Night (it was also available in the main hallway and sent out on the Oya No Kai list serve).
- Get involved in a committee about strategic planning work: school expansion, curriculum and instruction, school beautification, etc. Details in next week's newsletter.

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Talented & Gifted Nomination 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 nominations 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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© Prospective Parents, please contact:

Deanne Balzer and Yoshiko Kamata at 503-916-6220.

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Alert Regarding Dogs on the Playground

We have had a number of problems in recent weeks with dog owners allowing their dogs to run freely on the school grounds during school hours. The City and school district require all dogs to be leashed during the hours the school is open for business. Richmond serves students from 6:00 AM—6:00 PM for childcare and instruction, therefore, all dogs must be leashed when on school property during those hours. New signs have been ordered for the fences to remind dog owners and playground users.

Several folks have been less than compliant when staff have stopped to politely ask that they leash their dog. If you see a dog run-



Dogs **MUST** be on a leash on school grounds during school hours (6:00 AM-6:00 PM)

ning loose on school property, please do the following:

1. Never confront the owner if you are with children. We don't want you to risk injury to your child in order to ask for compliance.
2. Alert the school office about the location of dog and description of the owner. Office staff will talk to the dog owner or contact our local police officer for assistance if the situation is a repeat offense.
3. Model good dog behavior yourself if you routinely have a family dog with you when you drop off or pick up your child.

Thanks!

Please Give Updated Contact Info. to the Office!

Have you changed your cell phone number, email address, work site, or other important contact information? If so, please give Patsy a call in our office and let her know the new numbers. You can also email Patsy with this information at pburke1@pps.k12.or.us.

Last week, several schools in southwest Portland had to be locked down prior to the normal dismissal time by Portland Police. The schools had a difficult time getting in touch with many parents to let them know their child would be

held safely at school because parents had not provided accurate and up-to-date contact information. Fortunately, the police activity in southwest Portland ended without incident and children were reunited with families and caregivers without too much delay, but the experience brings an important reminder for us at Richmond.

Thank you in advance for keeping your contact information current with our records! We keep this information strictly confidential and only use it for emergencies.

Has your child lost a coat, hat, backpack, or sweater?

Please check the lost and found rack in the breezeway between the main building and the cafeteria! The rack is filling up and overflowing with dozens of beautiful coats, sweaters, backpacks and hats. There's even a wet-suit to be found.

Unclaimed items will be boxed and sent to the PTA Clothes Closet at Marshall High School by the end of next week (Nov. 4th).



LOST AND FOUND LOCATED IN BREEZEWAY BETWEEN MAIN BUILDING AND CAFETERIA

It's also a good idea to check your child's valuable clothing items and make sure your child's name is written inside. We regularly check lost items for names before hanging nameless items on the lost rack. We love to be able to match a sweater with its owner before the end of the day.

Richmond Foundation Update

Richmond School families raised \$645 last Tuesday by eating pizza at Pizzicato. Thanks to all of you who participated! Numbers are not complete, but after slightly more than a month of fundraising, the Richmond School Foundation has raised at least \$9,205. Last year, Richmond's Foundation raised \$3,910 during the entire year, so we're off to a good start!

Foundation's next event is at Barnes and Noble at Lloyd Center on Saturday, November 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We need your family's help in many ways to make this fundraiser a success! Please use the vouchers that will go home in backpacks to purchase books. Based on the event's total sales (only sales using the voucher will count toward the total), the Richmond Foundation will receive between 15% and 25% in cash. We need about 25-30 volunteers - students paired with their parents will work great - to help at the origami/calligraphy table and to di-

rect shoppers to visit our booth. Vouchers will be available at cash registers, but shoppers will need to ask for voucher if they don't already have one. We also need 4-5 groups of performers to sing, dance or perform taiko for about 15-20 min., each. If you can help out, please contact Jill Punches at punches1@msn.com or call (503) 233-6075.

Coming soon is information about a u-cut Christmas tree fundraiser and an Oregon Ballet Theater promotion for the Nutcracker. On Tuesday, Oya No Kai voted to give some of the auction's proceeds to Foundation. The details are still being worked out, but stay tuned! Please help us make this auction the best ever to not only send the 5th graders to Japan, support Oya No Kai's efforts to provide classroom interns and cultural material, but also bolster the funding for our fabulous staff!

PTA CRAFT FAIR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Do you have a favorite easy craft for kids? The Annual PTA Craft Fair is little over a month away, so we're looking for volunteers to organize craft tables.

This night gives our children an opportunity to make gifts for family members and special friends. The kids love it! But it can't happen without lots of volunteers. We have ideas and directions from past craft fairs, and welcome new craft ideas. No Martha Stewarts allowed; these need to be crafts 6-year-old can do.

To get more information or sign up, please contact your room rep or Suzanne Munro at suzannelmunro@msn.com, (503) 231-5178.



PTA Update

Thank you to everyone who ordered apples for the Fall PTA fundraiser. Together we ordered 180 22 lb. boxes for a whopping total of 3,960 pounds of apples! This huge number makes us even more thankful to the generous people at FedEx who donated the shipping from Hood River to Richmond. It is when we work together that we can realize our combined strength.

Our school year is well underway, and the parent (and grandparent) involvement is a joy to see. The bins in the volunteer room have been a great success. For those of you not familiar with this new system, I will explain. Each staff member has their own labeled bin to put projects in

that they need help with. This may be photocopying, cutting or organizing. An attached sheet of paper explains what the teacher wants. The teachers have expressed great satisfaction with this system. Go ahead and try it out, it takes just a small time commitment and allows our teachers to spend their time more constructively.



-Katy Wolk-Stanley
Co-PTA President

**PTA Apple Order is
on the Way!**

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 28—NOVEMBER 16TH

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|---------------|---|
| 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 |
| Wed. Nov. 3 | Taiko Residency in Cafeteria 12:30-3:00 PM |
| Thurs. Nov. 4 | Bunk-no-hi (Culture Day in Japan) |
| Nov. 10-11 | NO SCHOOL—Teacher Planning Day & Veteran's Day |
| Mon. Nov. 14 | Gift wrap pick-up Site Council meeting at 3:15-5:15 PM |
| Tues. Nov. 15 | Picture Retake Day Shichigosan (3-5-7 Day in Japan) Scrip Order Day Mandatory parent meeting for 5th grade trip |
| Wed. Nov. 16 | Vision screening for students in grades K, 1, 3, 5 General Parent meeting at 7:00 PM |
| Fri. Nov. 18 | Scrip Pick-Up Day |
| Mon. Nov. 21 | NO SCHOOL—Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Tues. Nov. 22 | NO SCHOOL—Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Nov. 23-25 | NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Holiday |

The New Richmond Website is Up and Running!!!

Type in the following web address and you can see Richmond's new website:

www.web-strider.com/richmond

Our new site has been graciously put together by Richmond parent, Jean Mittelstadt. We still have lots of information to place on the website, but you'll be able to see how much easier the access is going to be for families and

prospective parents. Our goal is to have everything that can go home in paper form, go up on the website for your access any day or time. Very soon we hope to be able to put newsletters on the web and limit the number of paper copies we make each week. We hope Jean's work will enable you to have information at your fingertips and allow us to reduce our paper and copier costs and save some trees in the process.

Thanks, Jean, for your great work!