



Richmond Newsletter

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

Last night was our annual Richmond Curriculum Night and I had the pleasure of hearing your praise for the work of our teachers and support staff. I also had an opportunity to sit in on a few minutes of each classroom presentation to get a sense about your questions and priorities for our school program. This is what I heard as I listened:

- You are amazed at your child's acquisition of Japanese and the evidence of progress you see in class assignments and homework.
- You want more information about how to support learning at home in English and Japanese.
- Teachers are pleased with the increase in classroom volunteers and many parents are willing help even more with guidance from teachers about what's needed most in the classroom.
- You appreciate the extra support from

specialists like our PE teacher Gary Kuney; Lynne Cummings, our Library Assistant; and our Japanese Resource Teachers, Deanne Balzer and Yoshiko Kamata.

- You like the feel of the school and the welcoming atmosphere in the hallways and classrooms. You believe the school year is off to a good start.

I couldn't agree more. The photo below captures the exuberance of our students with their learning. This shows our kindergartners reading their books to our secretary, Patsy Burke. They certainly look happy and proud!

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal



Thanks to Library Volunteers!

The Richmond Library would like to thank Kai and Cruz Miller for their donation of Disney VHS tapes. These tapes will be used throughout the year when daycare is provided by the school during parent gatherings.

Jumpei's mother Nobue Dobashi and Ken's

mother Makiko Aoyagi spent an entire morning in the library translating Japanese books for cataloguing in our library database. Thank you so much for your time and help! Your volunteerism makes a huge difference to every Richmond student, staff member and family.

Lynne Cummings, Richmond Library

Portland Public Schools

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How to contact our Japanese Resource Teachers for school visitation:

Deanne Balzer and Yoshiko Kamata 503-916-6220

Email:

dbalzer@pps.k12.or.us

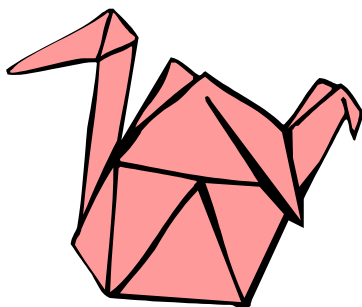
Ykamata@pps.k12.or.us

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OYA NO KAI LISTSERVE

Want to receive the very latest, the most up-to-date news from Oya No Kai? Make sure your email address is current with Oya No Kai so that you don't miss out on exciting events like Intern Night, the 5th grade auction, Bunka



Sign up for the OYA NO KAI listserv to keep in touch with important events K-12.

Sai, and others. Notices about fundraisers and meetings are regularly sent out on the listservs as well.

If you haven't been getting email from the listservs but know you are subscribed, it may be that your email address is incorrect. There are two ways to correct it:

1. Send an email to Jean

Mittelstaedt, Oya No Kai Webmaster, at jeanm@web-strider.com, with your correct email address and the listserv(s) to which you are subscribed. She will check the listserv to make sure that you are subscribed with the correct address.

2. Submit your Oya No Kai directory information form as soon as possible if you haven't already. Be sure to check the box to subscribe to the listserv if you want to be.

The listservs have been a great tool for communication, plus they are timely and efficient, helping Oya No Kai get the word out quickly about things that affect the JMP. We hope you find the listservs useful to you during your family's time in the JMP.

GENERAL PARENT MEETING RESCHEDULED TO OCT. 19

The PTA/ Oya No Kai/ Foundation general meeting has been rescheduled from October 12th to Wednesday, October 19th from 7-8:30 P.M in the cafeteria. This is due to a conflict with Yom Kippur.

The monthly meetings will take turns being hosted by the three parent organizations. PTA will be hosting this first meeting. Childcare will be available and we will end on time. PTA will bring a speaker and also will present our budget and vote on board members. Masako Weiber will talk about the wonderful benefits of hosting an intern. These

combined monthly meetings are important to stay in touch with school decisions.

PTA is looking forward to a wonderful school year and we have lots of great projects in the works, so come here all about it. Get involved to make our school the best it can be!

-Katy Wolk-Stanley
Co-PTA President

CALLIGRAPHY TEACHER STARTS NOVEMBER 4TH

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.



Calligraphy lessons return to Richmond during the school day every Friday!

the school day on Fridays in 30 minute blocks. 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.

Please join us in welcoming Atsuko Wynkoop to Richmond!

NEW PLAYGROUND - PROGRESS BEGINS

Teresa Hill, Amy Boyce Osaki, and I, Maylorie Townsend, are new kindergarten mothers this year. We are committed to raising funds through grant writing to support desired and needed projects and funding. The first grant writing effort we plan to tackle is for a new play structure.

The best grants I have ever produced came from working with a small committee to develop the full details of a project. Once the details are clear, and a clear vision has been created, writing the grant is a very simple process.

We would like to put together a small "Playground Planning Committee" that will meet five times over the next three months. We are hopeful that this will be sufficient for our grant writing team to gather what we need to begin writ-

ing.

The meeting dates we have selected are **five Mondays: Oct. 17th, Nov. 7th, Nov. 21st, Dec. 5th and Dec. 19th From 6-7pm.** (We have selected this time so parents working full time may also have the opportunity to join this committee)

If you are interested in joining this committee, or have any comments or questions, please contact either Theresa or myself by phone or e-mail:

Maylorie Townsend
503-235-0362
maylorie@gmail.com
com

Teresa Hill
503-860-6703
terebachi@yahoo.

PARENT REPS CONFIRMED FOR RICHMOND SITE COUNCIL

Our election for the third parent representative to the Richmond Site Council is complete and Tim Smith will begin his two-year tenure on the Council beginning with our next meeting on Monday, October 10. Tim Smith is joined by Richmond parents, Jennifer Lootens and Tracy Christensen, as the voice of parents on the Council. All three parents play a key role on the Site Council, not only are they the formally elected voice of our parent community, they bring a wealth of personal and professional experience to the Council that enrich our discussions about school improvement questions and plans.

The Site Council's legal charge is to direct the planning and implementation of school improvement efforts. All Site Council meetings are open to every Richmond family member and school staff. Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month from 3:15-5:15 PM. We meet in the teacher's lunch room next to the school office. Please join feel free to join us and look for minutes of meetings to be posted on the main hall volunteer bulletin board. Minutes will also be posted on the Richmond website in the next few weeks.

RUMOR CONTROL ABOUT KINDERGARTEN RECRUITMENT

Have you heard the rumors that Richmond **MUST** get letters of intent from 50, 100, 75, etc. families before the end of 2005 in order to remain open? These rumors, or a variation of them have been flying around the school. They are **ALL** false.

If you hear stories such as these, please ask the storyteller two questions: 1) Have you heard this directly from the building principal or staff member? 2) Have you read this information in the newsletter? If the answer to ei-

ther of these questions is "No" then remind them they are probably dealing with rumor rather than fact. Here's the fact about kindergarten recruitment:

We are asking parents and family members if they may be interested in placing a child at Richmond for kindergarten in 2006-07. We have an information sheet in the office and on tables at Curriculum Night. The purpose of the information sheets is to get names of potential kindergarten families so we can send them updated JMP program material as soon they are printed in the next few weeks.

AN UPDATE ON RICHMOND SCHOOL FOUNDATION'S NUMBERS

Richmond School Foundation has received \$2,299 to date. This amount comes from Richmond families, Noho's Hawaiian Café and ice cream sales from Back-to-School Night. We expect another \$100 from matching donor, Intel Corporation, as well as Lloyd Center Mall, where we placed 11th in their "Race for Receipts" contest. Five Richmond families are pledging monthly, two are pledging less frequently and one family made a sizable one-time contribution. Based on pledge totals, we're looking at a total of \$4,070 and through June we should be at \$5,120 - surpassing the total we earned last year already! Of course, these numbers don't include Pizzicato's "Dough for Dollars" night on October 25, Barnes & Noble on November 19, or two school events slated for 2006.

Thanks to the following families who we know have contributed already: Felcher, Flesey, Henderon/Nam, Klinger, Mueller, Perneti, Panches, and one anonymous. ***We need more families participating, however, to ensure we have adequate staffing for next year.*** Remember, our goal is \$150,000 this year! If you have questions, concerns or need more information, please contact Andy or Jill. Andy Felcher can be reached at (503) 231-1641 or felcher@comcast.net and Jill Panches can be reached at (503) 233-6075 or panches1@msn.com .

Eight Reasons to Support Richmond School Foundation this Year:

1. The Portland Public Schools budget will fall by \$67 more million next year due to the loss of revenue from a local option levy and a capital bond paid through our property taxes.... That's about 8 percent of your property tax bill (and all your neighbors who don't have kids in school). Last year's budget was 391.2 million dollars while this year it's \$350.9 million dollars with the following year budgeted for \$312.8 million. Think about it: Could your household cut 30% of its budget in two years with rising healthcare and energy costs?
2. To soften the budget, PPS is spending 12 million of its reserves this year. The district can't continue to spend that kind of money from its savings.
3. A dismal PPS budget outlook means each school will lose an average of 1 or more FTEs. One of our .5 Japanese Resource Teaching positions for this year is a ***gift*** from Superintendent Vicki Phillips (and we thank her!).
4. It costs approximately \$77,000 to fund one teaching position. Replacing our 1.5 teachers will cost approx. \$150,000, since a third of what we raise goes to the Portland Schools Foundation to support all schools. ***We need to raise this money by March, so it is available for next year.***
5. If we don't raise this money, we will lose staff next year. State legislators have failed to raise revenue to provide more money for education and the I-Tax - the 1.5% 3-year income tax which was designed to provide a temporary fix until the state raised revenue - will end this year. Currently, there is no solution to raise state or local revenue. ***Local school foundations have been told to 'save ourselves.'***
6. The federal government is cutting back on expenditures for schools, including money to support schools in low-income areas. This is forcing the district to redistribute funding.

OVER 

7. There are *numerous* recent unfunded mandates at the federal and state level. **All of these limit revenue going to our school district.** A few examples include:
- No Child Left Behind - forces districts to comply with federal regulations but it unfunded.
 - Measure 5 - limited property tax increases to 3% per year and shifted emphasis away from funding education using local revenue toward a more centralized state-funded approach. Since this measure passed, state support for education has dwindled when rising costs (think health insurance) and inflation are taken into consideration.
 - A voter initiative that sets term limits for prison sentences. In order to comply, government must spend more to support a higher prison population.
 - A voter initiative that requires 50% voter turnout for a property tax measure increase to pass. Since voter registration is at an all-time high, non-presidential elections are likely to receive 50% voter turnout.
8. Oregon is the 48th least-taxed state...so you are saving money by living in Oregon. Remember, we don't pay a sales tax. It does mean there is less money for schools in Oregon. Giving \$300/semester to Richmond is like taking some of the tax savings you already realize by living in Oregon giving it directly to the school... your own school. So all the money goes to support your local schools.

This is Richmond School Foundation's Plan:

1. **We are asking each family to give \$600 this school year per child.** Break it down in any way that fits your family: monthly, quarterly or twice a year. We realize that not everyone can do this per child and that kindergarten families pay already pay \$300/month.... But \$600 x 240 children = \$144,000 - that's close to our goal! If you feel \$600/year is too much, consider that we all paid \$200-300 per month and we're asking for 20% of that amount. Look for matching employer contributions or grants to lighten up the load.
2. We are asking families to **support our other fundraisers** to make up the difference. Here are some of the dates:
 - **Pizzicato's Dough For Dollars** on Tuesday, October 25. 20% of the East Burnside store will benefit Foundation.
 - **Barnes and Noble at Lloyd Center** on Saturday, November 19 will donate a percentage of sales from customers using a coupon.
 - **The Spring Dance** on Friday, February 17.
 - **End-of-School party** on Friday, June 9.

Finally, this is a voluntary donation...no one has to do it. If we all do our part, however, together we can make big difference. Please fill out a pledge form today!

RICHMOND SCHOOL FOUNDATION PLEDGE CARD



I support our Foundation's efforts to raise money to ensure a quality education for our JMP students. I am willing to pledge monthly to help our school community reach its goal of \$100,000 this year for staff positions.

_____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$15 _____ Other Amount

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

_____ I will write a monthly check to Richmond School Foundation.

_____ Please charge my credit card on approximately the _____th day of the month beginning on _____ and ending on _____.

Card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Your contribution is tax-deductible and you will receive a receipt from Portland Schools Foundation in the mail. Thank You!

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program

Calendar for October 7- 28, 2005

Oct. 10	Site Council meeting at 3:15-5:15 PM
Oct. 11	Scrip Order Day 5th Grade Chaperone meeting at 7:00 PM
Oct. 14	NO SCHOOL-State Teachers' Inservice Day
Oct. 15	Japanese delegation from the Toyama Prefecture arrives in Portland
Oct. 17-21	PPS workmen at Richmond all week for repairs throughout the school
Oct. 19	Chaperone meeting for 5th grade trip 7:00 PM Japanese delegation spends day at Richmond Author visit: Eleanora Tate at 1:00-3:00 PM with grades 3-5
Oct. 21	Homestays start for students from Kato School Scrip Pick-up Day
Oct. 25	Scrip Order Day
Oct. 28	Scrip Pick-up Day

Caring Heart Goes to Katrina Aid for Japanese!

As you might have read in the newsletter two weeks ago, Richmond 4th and 5th graders raised \$206 for Hurricane Katrina Relief. We would like to inform you that our donation will be sent to Katrina Aid for Japanese in Louisiana and Mississippi. We thought it would be very appropriate to help those teachers who are in difficult situations for continuously educating children about the Japanese language. Our 4th and 5th graders are also writing messages to encourage teachers and students. If you would like to be part of this donation, please write a check to Katrina Aid for Japanese by next Friday, October 14th and put it in Minori Fukushima's mailbox.

Gulf Coast Japanese Teachers Need Help

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Japanese language teachers who live and work in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama have suffered along with their neighbors and communities. Some of them have lost their homes,

jobs, computers, books, and other valuables. Schools and universities in New Orleans are closed for at least one semester. The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Japanese has appealed to the national professional organizations, NCJLT and ATJ, for help. If you would like to contribute to the Katrina Aid for Japanese Fund, which has been set up in Baton Rouge to help teachers and other Japanese residents of the afflicted areas, please send your tax-deductible contribution by check to:

Katrina Aid for Japanese
c/o Akiko and Yoshinori Kamo
897 Baird Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-767-3694
[e-mail:katrinajapan@hotmail.com](mailto:katrinajapan@hotmail.com)