



Richmond Newsletter

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

We have so much to celebrate at Richmond!

On Monday, our Superintendent Vicki Phillips recommended to the Portland Public Schools Board of Education that we have permission to expand our K-5 program by adding a third kindergarten classroom and pre-school program for children of ages 3-4 in the 2006-07 school year. This recommendation is very significant because it commits our district to long-term support for the Japanese Magnet Program and gives us the ability to provide more children with the opportunity to learn Japanese.

The Goldman Sachs Foundation just announced that Richmond has been awarded their \$25,000 prize for Excellence in International Education. This prestigious award was granted to Richmond from a pool

of almost 500 applicant schools from 44 states. Richmond parent and Oya No Kai Board member, Catherine Malone, wrote our application and will join me in Washington DC on December 8th to receive the award.

Richmond has been praised in three different newspapers this week: The Portland Tribune, The Oregonian and the Yuuyake Shimbun (copies of all articles are attached to this newsletter). Please share this good news and praise for our school program with your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers! People need to learn about Richmond from folks like you who have children that benefit directly from our work.

Fondly,

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

HELP US CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF RICHMOND JMP DURING CONFERENCE WEEK— November 21 and 22!

Stop by the office on your way to your parent/teacher conference and pick up a cookie, cup of coffee or tea, and a glass of sparkling cider. We're celebrating all the exciting things we've accomplished so far this year as well as our work to date on im-

portant school tasks. Celebration refreshments will be available in the main hallway across from the office entry.



Portland Public Schools

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Special points of interest:

To arrange a tour of Richmond please contact our Japanese Resource Teachers at:

503-916-5325

or

503-916-6220

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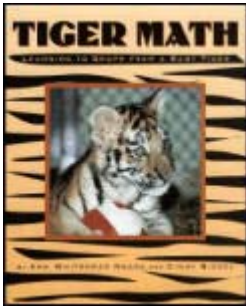
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RECOMMENDED BOOKS TO HELP YOUR CHILD LINK READING, WRITING & MATH

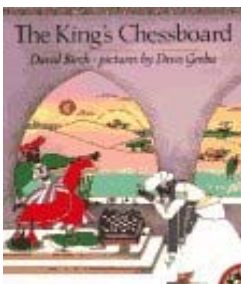


Tiger Math - Learning to Graph From a Baby Tiger by Ann Whitehead Nagda and Cindy Bickel

The informative text in this true story of a Siberian tiger cub born at the Denver Zoo is accompanied by wonderful photos and a variety of graphs. Data, such as the weight gain of this baby tiger, is displayed on more than one type of graph, giving students several examples of the many different ways of representing data.

Five Creatures by Emily Jenkins

The similarities and differences in a family of five unique creatures (three humans and two cats) are explored in a lighthearted way. This book, which started when the author made a Venn diagram of her own family, lends itself to helping students make real-life connections with mathematical concepts. A natural "next step" after sharing the book with children would be to create either a classroom book or a book about their own families.

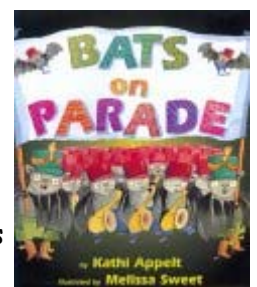


The King's Chessboard by David Birch

When the wise man refuses to accept a reward for his service to the king, the king insists and so the wise man asks for a payment of rice for each square of the king's chessboard--the amount to be doubled each day. Soon the royal granaries are almost empty--will the proud king concede that he has been outwitted?

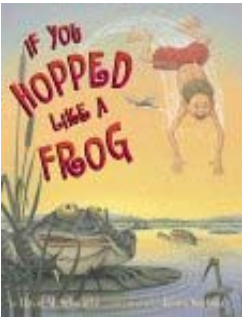
Bats on Parade by Kathi Appelt

On a midsummer's night the Marching Bat Band makes a rare appearance, its members grouped in formations that demonstrate multiplication from one times one up to ten times ten. The witty language and delightful illustrations make this a fun book to read with children of all ages exploring the concept of multiples.



How Big is a Foot? by Rolf Myller

This is an amusing and clever story about a King who wants to give his Queen a very special birthday gift. His gift presents a dilemma that engages children in thinking about the concept of standard measurement.



***If You Hopped Like a Frog* by David M. Schwartz**

This picture book, written for 4 to 8 year olds, would be an excellent resource for teaching ratio and proportion in fourth and fifth grade. The whimsical drawings show that if we ate like a shrew we would eat over 700 hamburgers and if we had the strength of an ant, we could lift a car over our heads. At the end of the book, the author shows how proportions were used to compute these capabilities. As with all his books, Schwartz seems to capture the intriguing and humorous aspects of math and make them come to life for students.

***A Remainder of One* by Elinor J. Pinczes**

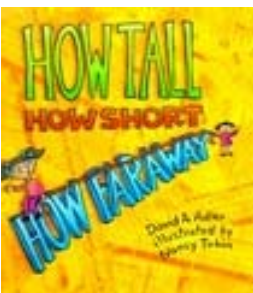


From the author and illustrator of *One Hundred Hungry Ants* (1993), here's another picture book rooted in mathematics--the rhyming tale of a bug named Joe. When the 25th Army Corps of beetles proudly marches past their queen in two rows, her majesty insists that Private Joe, marching alone at the back, drop out to make the rows come out even. The next day the squadron in three rows, and the next, in four, but each day Joe is distressed to be marching alone, a remainder of one. All ends well when the bugs go marching five by five: "' Good show!' said her grace. 'Your rows are divine. We see no remainder to ruin your line.'"

Using bold lines reminiscent of those in linocut prints, the colorful artwork uses visual rhythm as effectively as the verse uses meter and rhyme to punctuate the marching tempo of the text. Young children who get to know Joe's ragged regiment will understand the concept of remainders before anyone mentions long division in the classroom. With its sympathetic main character, bouncing verses, and expressive, comical illustrations, this makes an entertaining choice to read aloud.

This book can be used with students from first to fifth grade. Students can investigate lining up different numbers of ants. What are the remainders? What is the next number that will have a remainder of 1 when divided by 2,3,4? In the next ant hill, there was a remainder of 1, when they lined up by 2's,3's,4's, and 6's, but a remainder of 4 when they lined up by 5's. Is there no number they can line up in so that "the coolest bug-soldier beneath the hot sun, smart Joe" can line up and no longer be a remainder of one? By seven, by heaven, that will do the trick. A great book for fifth and sixth grade students as well as younger readers.

***How Tall, How Short, How Far Away* by David A. Adler**



Using engaging graphics and language that is clear and easy to follow, this book provides children with an introduction to concepts of measurement. The author explains how systems of measuring developed in ancient Egypt and Rome; how measurements became standardized; the origin of the metric system; and methods of measuring length, height, and distance, including both metric and U.S. customary measurements.

TAIKO IS GOING STRONG!

Our 4th and 5th grade students have started their series of classes with Portland Taiko every Wednesday afternoon in the cafeteria. Here are a few pictures to give you an idea about the level of fun for our students. Thank you to Oya No Kai for the funding to make this exciting experience a reality for our students!



CONFERENCE NOTE SHEET

One of the items from last week's newsletter generated a lot of great feedback from parents. Many of parents let us know that they appreciated the short list of questions for parent/teacher conferences that were written in the interim principal's letter. Several parents have asked that we reproduce those questions on a full-sized sheet of paper to give them a place to take notes during their conference. Well, ask and ye shall receive! We've done just that and they appear back-to-back after the calendar page.

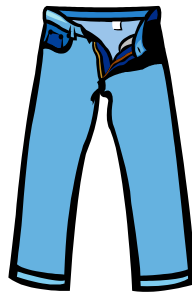
HEAD LICE CHECK NEEDED

We've had a few cases of head lice among our students in the last week and want to encourage parents to give your child's head a check. Watch for scratching, particularly at the base of the neck and around the ears. Please encourage your children to avoid sharing coats, hats, etc. with other children.



WHILE YOU'RE CLEANING YOUR CLOSETS...

As you go through your closets please think about donating any outgrown children's pants to our school office. We desperately need pants in sizes 6-10 for those inevitable accidents that are part of every cold and flu season. Pants with elastic at the waist are particularly helpful because the fit is not as tricky.



You can drop off any donations in the school office.

Thank you in advance for thinking of us when you do those essential household chores. We GREATLY appreciate your generosity!

We currently have plenty of t-shirts, sweat-shirts, and socks, but lack enough pants.

Pants in sizes 6-10 are needed in the school office!

Richmond's Scholastic Bookfair Opens November 28th

Richmond's fall-term Scholastic Bookfair will open its doors Monday, November 28th and run through Thursday, December 1st. Join us in the Volunteer Room between the hours of 8:30 am to 9:30 am or 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm on these days--or from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm during the Craft Fair on December 1st. Remember to bring your holiday gift list for your favorite readers! Twenty-five percent (25%) of all proceeds will go to fund new books for our library at Richmond.

If you wish to volunteer at the bookfair, please contact Kristina Kallen via e-mail at kmk456@comcast.net with your available time slots. As an added incentive to volunteer, we will hold a drawing for two \$25.00

gift certificates redeemable at the Richmond Scholastic Bookfair for product.

Your name will be entered for each volunteer slot that you work at the Bookfair.

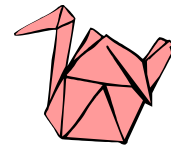
We'll see you there!

Kristina Kallen and Shannon Sweet, Co-Chairs



It's like a bookstore in our school!

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF OYA NO KAI?



Every child in the Japanese Magnet Program benefits from the outreach and support of our parent organization known as Oya No Kai. Membership in Oya No Kai helps provide funds for vital cultural support such as: native Japanese speaking interns in grades K-9; sponsorship of cultural exchange trips for 5th and 8th grade classes; curriculum enhancement; calligraphy (see article below); homestays for international visitors; sponsorship of the Cultural Center on the Richmond campus; Kurabu summer camp for grades 1-5; Westwind camp for families; and

community program awareness.

You can become a member of Oya No Kai by completing the simple information on the brochure attached to this issue of the Richmond newsletter. Drop your membership form in the Oya No Kai mailbox in the Richmond office.

Doomo arigatoo gozaimas!

NEW CALLIGRAPHY TEACHER

We have a new calligraphy teacher. Her name is Yoko Bronstein and her son, David is 10th grade in JMP. She teaches at the Japanese Saturday School and a high school in Beaverton.

This is the new Friday calligraphy schedule for Richmond:

9:45~10:15 3rd
10:15~10:45 4th and 5th
10:45~11:15 4th and 5th

12:30~1:00 3rd
1:15~1:45 4th and 5th
1:45~2:15 4th and 5th

Yoko will come to Richmond on 11/18 to set up the room 107. The calligraphy class starts on 12/9th.



New calligraphy teacher starts December 9th.

NOTES FROM OUR PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

How is my child progressing toward the Oregon content standards and benchmarks for his/her grade level?

What are you doing to support my child if he/she is struggling with any aspect of the curriculum?

What ideas do you have to help me support my child's learning at home?

How are you extending the curriculum for my child when he/she has mastered the content standard in any area of reading, writing, math, science, etc.?

How does my child successfully navigate social experiences at school? What can I do to assist my child with social growth?

How do you use volunteers to help meet the diverse learning needs of your students? How can I get involved to support you in the classroom?

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Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program



Calendar for November 18—December 9, 2005

Fri. Nov. 18	Scrip Pick Up Day
Sat. Nov. 19	Barnes & Noble sale at Lloyd Center for Richmond Foundation
Mon/Tues. Nov. 21-22	NO SCHOOL for parent/teacher conferences
Wed.-Fri. Nov. 23-25	NO SCHOOL for Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 28-Dec. 1	Scholastic Book Fair (PTA Fundraiser)
Mon. Nov. 28	Gr. 3 field trip to Rice Rock Museum (9:00-2:25)
Tues. Nov. 29	Scrip Order Day
Wed. Nov. 30	Poinsettia Sale Pick-Up 1:00-6:00 PM in cafeteria
Thurs. Dec. 1	Craft Fair 6:00—8:00 PM in cafeteria
Fri. Dec. 2	NO SCHOOL—Teacher Planning Day 2nd payment for 5th grade trip due to Oya No Kai
Sun. Dec. 4	Origami Workshop sponsored by Japanese Consulate 1:00-4:00 PM at 2 World Trade Center (SW 1st and Salmon)
Mon. Dec. 5	Scrip Pick Up Day

TALENTED & GIFTED CHARACTERISTICS

Unsure whether your child is a TAG candidate? The following list of common TAG characteristics has been taken from the PPS TAG Parent's Handbook to help guide your conversation about TAG eligibility during your upcoming conference(s):

- **Memory** - Possesses a large storehouse of information on school and non-school topics.
- **Inquiry** - Asks unusual questions for age; plays around with ideas.
- **Reasoning** - Uses logical approaches to figuring out solutions; ability to think things through and come up with a logical answer and explain why this is so.
- **Problem Solving** - Effective strategies for recognizing and solving complex problems.
- **Motivation** - Persistent in self-selected tasks; may be culturally influenced and evident in school and non-school activities; very enthusiastic learner.
- **Insight** - Quickly grasps new concepts and makes connections; keenly observant.
- **Imagination/Creativity** - Produces many ideas; highly original; fluent and flexible producer of ideas; highly curious.
- **Communication Skills** - Highly expressive; unusual ability to communicate effectively (verbally, non-verbally, physically, artistically, symbolically).
- **Interests** - Unusual or advanced interests in a topic or activity; self-starter; peruses an activity unceasingly, beyond the group.
- **Humor** - Conveys and picks up on humor well.