



Richmond Newsletter

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

This week Richmond hosted a joint staff and parent leader planning session to begin the work of crafting a viable strategic plan to help Richmond expand and improve our wonderful Japanese immersion program. Parents and staff tell me our Nov. 2nd planning session was a first for the Richmond community. My hope is that joint parent/staff sessions such as this become standard practice when we're wrestling with important issues that affect the full community.

So, now that we're off to a solid, positive start with strategic planning, what are the next steps? Richmond's Site Council will be

the group of parents and staff to coordinate strategic planning over the next few months. We have divided parents and staff into committees to work on these items over the next few weeks:

- Recruitment plan to attract new families to Richmond for 2005-06
- Adding the pre-school program to Richmond for 2005-06
- Advertising plan

Look for the draft mission and vision statements to be posted in the main hall in the next few weeks. Your feedback is essential!

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Portland Public Schools

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Interested in information about Richmond's Japanese Immersion Program? Contact:

Deanne Balzer or Yoshiko Kamata

503-916-6220

Dbalzer@pps.k12.or.us

Ykamata@pps.k12.or.us

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NOV. 19TH

Richmond School Foundation is hosting a fundraiser at Barnes and Noble on Saturday, November 19. We'll have a JMP table in the children's area to showcase our wonderful program, but we need help in order to direct shoppers to our area, offer calligraphy, and origami - and we'd like some brief entertainment spots, too! Families with children of all ages are welcome to participate!

Shifts are ideally 2 hours, from 11 to 1, 1 to 3, and 3 to 5, however, we'll try to work you in, if your time frame is different.

Anyone purchasing just about anything at Barnes and Noble between 11 and 5 p.m. on the 19th will help the Richmond School Foundation with 15 to 25% of the sale, if they use a voucher (which will be available at cash registers). Last year, the 5th Grade Class raised \$800 from \$4,000 in sales.

To sign up, please email Jill PUNCHES at punches1@msn.com. For questions, email or call (503) 233-6075.

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SITE COUNCIL NEWS

The first order of business is to plop down a huge 'Thank you' to Jean Mittlestadt and Kathryn Anderson for creating and sustaining user-friendly and consistent communication means for the Richmond JMP. Despite the rain of daily haps and mishaps, the snowy mountains of detail in need of plowing (and in some instances, tunneling) through, and the first sleet of 'cuddle up and doze for a month' winter illnesses, the weekly newsletter and website prevail! Three cheers for the unstoppable Wonder Women of JMP advanced communication!

As a result of their labor, Site Council can (and will) now post meeting dates, agendas, minutes, news briefs and reports to the Richmond Website. Meeting dates will also be listed in the calendar section of the weekly newsletter. Our next meeting will be held on Nov. 15th from 3:15-5:15.

Unless otherwise noted, all site council meetings will be held in the school staff room. All meetings are opened for public observation. If you would like to place an item on the agenda for community discussion, please submit a written request to our fantastic chairperson, Karen Meier.

At our next meeting, Richmond JMP subcommittees will report on their most recent activities and future direction. *****NOTICE TO ALL PRESENTING SUBCOMMITTEE:** Please provide site council with an electronic copy (floppy or CD) of your report, so that it can be compiled into a general report. Thank you!!!

Adieu,
Tracy Christensen
Site Council Parent Representative 03-06

RICHMOND'S NEW HOME ON THE WEB!

Come one, come all to view Richmond's brand-new, redesigned Web site:

<http://www.richmondjmp.org>

Here you'll find up-to-date information about the Japanese Magnet Program, faculty and staff contact information, calendar dates, fundraiser details and forms, school news, teacher Web pages, newsletters, PTA and Site

council updates, links to Japanese resources, and much more. There is even a search function to help you find what you're looking for. Future upgrades may include discussion forums and/or a blog, listservs, an interactive calendar, and pictures!

Suggestions are always welcome. Feel free to share any ideas and chocolate with Webmistress and JMP parent Jean Mittelstaedt at jeanm@web-strider.com.

Barnes and Noble Fundraiser for Foundation Slated for Saturday, November, 19 at the Lloyd Center!

Do these rainy days make you want to curl up with a good book? Stop by Barnes and Noble at Lloyd Center on Saturday, November 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bring a voucher or ask for one at any cash register when purchasing and Richmond School's Foundation will receive 15 to 25% of the total proceeds.

Don't forget to visit the children's section where JMP families will offer calligraphy,



Barnes & Nobel fundraiser for
Richmond Foundation on Nov.
19th from 11:00 AM—5:00

origami and singing - a nice way to market our school and build our program.

We still need LOTS of volunteers to make this event a success! Shifts are for 2 hours. We need greeters at both entrances. JMP students of any age can help with crafts. Please contact Jill PUNCHES at (503) 233-6075 or email punches1@msn.com.

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW???

Winter weather is on the way. Although rare, it is sometimes necessary to close school or delay the opening of school due to the unsafe weather conditions. In making the decision if schools should remain open or closed, first consideration is given to student and staff safety, while keeping in mind the importance of attendance and learning.

Before the school district makes the decision, local meteorologists, transportation officials, and traffic safety experts are consulted. The school district will attempt to make the decision as early as possible and communicate it quickly to the media and our own website. Sometimes it will be possible to make the decision the night before, but



**Winter Weather is on
the Way!**

often this decision cannot be made until early in the morning. The Student Transportation Department distributed the Alternate Emergency Snow Route Stops booklet to students who ride the bus. Please check this book when there is snow, to make sure your children are at the correct bus stop. Local radio and television stations will broadcast closure information. You can also check for updates on the District's website at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us> or Portland Info Net at <http://pdxinfo.net>

BANK DAY NEWS (Seeking a new coordinator)

Bank Day is up and running. The 5th grade helpers are doing a fabulous job! We are having between 60 and 70 bankers every week!! This is a great way to get in the habit of saving and to save for your 5th grade trip.

Richmond's school savings is the longest running program. I would like to see that it continues. This is my 8th year of coordinating bank day and I would like to train someone to continue next year. My daughter is in 5th grade this year and I will not be at Richmond next year.

a parent in the kindergarten or 1st grade is most

desirable so they can be the coordinator for a few years. I will train and come help next fall to walk you through the beginning of the school year. Bank day is every Wednesday from 8:20-8:45. We usually finish up around 9:45. If you are interested and would like more details, please call me. It is a rewarding job!

Wendy sakai
Bank day coordinator
503-246-5298

HOW TO REPORT AN ABSENCE

The Richmond office wants to clarify how to report your child's absences this year.

If your child is sick or missing school for any reason, please call the office at 503-916-6220 before 10:00 AM, if possible. The absence will be recorded as "excused" and you will not need to write a note the following day. Be sure to call every day if your student is home multiple days, or the remaining absences will be considered "unexcused". If you know in advance that your child will be absent, send a

note to the teacher/office so that the absence can be recorded correctly.

If you forget to call on the day of absence, please send a note to the teacher/office the next day. We've had many unexcused absences this year with no phone calls or notes.

Thanks for your help. Hopefully, this will become an easy process for you that will provide the district with accurate information on your child.

Letter to Richmond Parents and Staff From the 5th Grade Class

We have all heard about the budget problems with schools around Oregon. These problems have the potential to threaten the viability of both our school and the Japanese Magnet Program as a whole. The 5th Grade Class, Oya No Kai, and the Richmond Foundation are all joining forces to do what we can to help our school and the JMP. We have all agreed to share proceeds from the 5th Grade Auction in order to work together to help try to solve the funding needs of all organizations. While the Auction normally funds the 5th Grade Trip to Japan with funds also going to Oya No Kai and to help defray the costs of our Interns, this year we will also be helping to fund the Foundation with their efforts to replace staff positions expected to be lost with next year's budget.

The arrangement we have agreed upon works like this: 10% of the net proceeds will go to Oya No Kai and 10% will go to the Foundation. Then the 5th Grade Trip will be funded. The remaining funds will be split between the 5th Grade Class, to start saving for our 8th Grade Trip, and the Foundation. The more that is raised by the auction, the more that every organization benefits. In order to best realize the potential of the auction, we are asking for your help.

For the parents of Kindergarten through 4th Grade kids we need help in the following ways:

- We need a parent to serve as a liaison between the Auction Committee and the Room Representatives for each class.
- We need help from everybody with the procurement of auction items. Procurement Forms will be available from Room Reps, any 5th Grade parent, or on the Oya No Kai Shelf in the Volunteer Room. We need donations of every type. If you have questions regarding donations or need ideas, feel free to contact any Auction Committee member. Remember, donations are tax-deductible!
- We have a goal for each class to donate a class project, as has been done in the past, but in addition, a bigger ticket item for the Oral Auction that is not specific to that class. If you need ideas for the class project or for the other item, please contact Marlene Ikeda at kenr@highstream.net or (503) 590-5312.
- We need help on the day of the Auction for set-up, decoration, will call, check-out, cashiering, tear down, etc.
- We need your attendance at the Auction to help make it successful.

For the staff of Richmond, we need this help:

- A person to serve as liaison between the Auction Committee and the staff.
- Someone to serve as the representative teacher on the 5th Grade Trip. If possible we would like to use Teacher Development Funds to help defray costs of this in order to make more funds available for each organization to share.
- We need help with the procurement of items to auction. Procurement Forms are available from any 5th Grade parent, or on the Oya No Kai Shelf in the Volunteer Room.
- Your attendance at the Auction to help make it successful.

One of the reasons for this sharing of funds is to help bring all organizations together for the common goal of making our school and the JMP the best they can be in order to make the future of our program the brightest possible.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions please contact Gina Azzaro-Budak, the 5th Grade Auction Volunteer Coordinator, at mjbudak@msn.com or (503) 281-9099.

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program

Calendar for November 4-25, 2005

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 (7-5-3 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

PTA NEWS: Craft Fair, Playground and Fundraisers

The PTA is working to put together some great upcoming events. The annual craft fair this year will include booths of locally, parent made crafts for sale to benefit our school. If you are interested in being part of this, please contact Suzanne Munro. The PTA is organizing a U-cut Christmas tree event for December 10th. The Beaver-creek farm is owned by JMP parents Claire and Mike Reid. The PTA will provide cocoa, hot cider and volunteers. Proceeds will go to the Richmond School Foundation. JMP parent Sarah Nevue has arranged for the Oregon Ballet Theater to donate 25% of Richmond purchased ticket sales from "The Nutcracker" to go back to our Richmond School Foundation. These are all great ways to support our wonderful program and have fun at the same time. Specific detail will follow for all of these events.

The PTA would like to thank Wendy Sakai who has headed up the Washington Mutual School Saving Program (bank day) for years. This is unfortunately her last year with a

student at Richmond, and needs to pass the opportunity on to another parent. Hopefully, this would be someone who has a few more years left at Richmond. If this is something you think you could do, please contact Wendy or one of the PTA board members.

The playground committee has already met with a number of playground companies and will meet again on Monday evening. We will be installing a Japanese theme playground to be student ready for Fall 2006. Our school is getting better and better thanks to the hard work of our parents and staff.

-Katy Wolk-Stanley
Co-PTA President