



Richmond Newsletter

Visit us on the web at: www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

To say that it's a busy time of year for Richmond families is an enormous understatement when you look through the articles in this issue of Richmond's newsletter. This weekend, families have *three* exciting events to attend, all free of charge and all very entertaining.

- Meet Allan Say, the award-winning author of many children's books set in Japan, this Saturday, December 3rd at The Children's Place Bookstore (see article on page 2).
- Fold origami with folks from the Consulate-General of Japan on Sunday, December 4th (see article on page 5).
- Roller skate with families of 2nd graders at Mt. Scott Park on Sunday, December 4th (see article on page 5).

I will be traveling to Washington DC next week with Richmond parent Catherine Malone, the writer of Richmond's application for the Goldman Sachs award, to accept this honor for our school. Our wonderful PE teacher, Gary Kuney, has agreed to act as principal while I'm out of town, December 6-9. An experienced substitute will fill Gary's place in the gym. Please do not hesitate to contact Gary if you have any questions or needs.

Finally, thank you for all you do to support Richmond Elementary School. When you read the articles in this newsletter you'll be overwhelmed by the level of parent commitment and involvement to our school. Richmond families are amazing!

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Richmond Auction to Benefit Whole School

You've heard that the proceeds from Richmond's annual auction will now benefit every Richmond student in the coming year. First and foremost, the proceeds will go to the fifth grade trip to make sure these graduating students have an exhilarating Japanese experience. This year for the first time in Richmond auction history, 10% of all auction proceeds will be directed to Richmond's Foundation to help us keep essential support staff that benefit every

Richmond child (i.e. PE, Library, and Japanese resource teachers).

How can you help?

1. Secure your babysitter NOW for Friday, March 10th so you can attend the auction.
2. Start asking businesses that your frequent to consider donating something to the auction. See articles inside this issue for ideas and details.

Portland Public Schools

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Special points of interest:

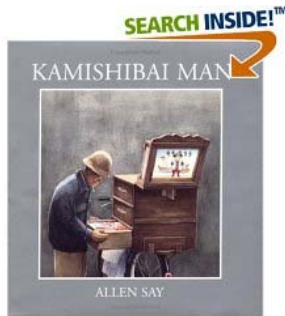
- ☺ See detailed breakdown of costs to replace teaching positions (pg. 6)
- ☺ Get Avian Flu information for schools from our Multnomah County Health Department
- ☺ Read about a variety of family activities in the coming week!

Inside this issue:

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Renowned Author, Allen Say, Visits A Children's Place

A Children's Place Bookstore is pleased to announce that author/illustrator Allen Say will be at the store to present his newest title, *Kamishibai Man* Saturday, December 3rd at 11:00. We hope you will join us for this special event. A Children's Place is located at 4707 NE Fremont (503-284-8294).



***Kamishibai Man* by Allen Say (2005)**

Allen Say's lovely new book is about an elderly Kamishibai (paper theatre) man: an itinerant storyteller who travels around Japan on his bicycle with a big, wooden box mounted on the back seat. The box contains a miniature theater, and beneath it are drawers of candy that the performer sells to eke out a living. Long retired but missing his rounds, he decides to pedal back to the old neighborhood for one last

performance. The story-within-a-story that emerges reveals why this unique type of performance art has all but disappeared. Other excellent books by Allen Say for children ages 4-10:

- The Bicycle Man* (1982)
- A River Dream* (1988)
- El Chino* (1990)
- Tree of Cranes* (1991)
- The Lost Lake* (1992)
- Grandfather's Journey* (Caldicott Medal Book, 1993)
- The Ink-Keeper's Apprentice* (1994)
- Tea With Milk* (1999)
- Home of the Brave* (2002)
- Emma's Rug* (2003)
- Music for Alice* (2004)
- Under the Cherry Blossom Tree: An Old Japanese Tale* (2005)

Simple Steps to Procure Items for the March 10th Auction

Procuring is new for many people so how do we go about it? The following is a guideline for a script that has been used in the past:

- Introduce yourself and let the business know that you are representing Richmond, a Portland Public School, and be able to state some facts about our program.
- Ask to speak to the owner or manager. Sometimes they may not be in so you can either ask when s/he is usually there and plan to return or ask if the procurement letter and donation form can be left. Talk about

- what their business means to you and why you like it.
- Let the business know we have a non-profit 501 c (3) status with the IRS.
- Do not expect to receive a donation at the time you go because if it is a big corporation it usually needs to go to their corporate office.

The main thing to remember is to feel confident that you will secure that item whatever it may be. The easiest way to obtain your confidence is to go to businesses you have gone to frequently.

AFTER-SCHOOL SAFETY FOR RICHMOND STUDENTS

A number of Richmond students have been staying after school to play on the playground while they wait for parents to pick them up. This is NOT a safe practice!

It gets dark early on the playground and it is open to the elements and the entire community. Most importantly, there is NO supervision on the playground after school because Richmond teachers are not able to supervise the playground beyond their contractual day.

Parents, please help us ensure your child's safety by:

1. Being on time to pick your child up at 3:00 PM.
2. Instructing your child to wait in the office if you are not there to pick him/her up immediately after school.
3. Consider using the YMCA if it's a challenge to get to Richmond by dismissal time. The YMCA has a sliding fee schedule to make their service affordable for everyone. You can pay for only the time used.

BARNES & NOBLE FUNDRAISER BRINGS \$1,388 TO FOUNDATION!

Ivy Lin from Barnes and Noble let us know that our voucher sales on Saturday totaled \$6,940. **We received 20% of the sale which will total \$1,388!**

Thank you to all who helped get the word out to shoppers about our fundraiser, promoted our school, performed, and helped with calligraphy and origami. Many people "pinch-hitted" to make this work.

"Pinch-hitters" include Kamata Sensei for her time getting last minute supplies, Catherine Malone for bringing the blown-up version of the Portland Tribune article showcasing our school, Suzanne Munro for creating the iron-proof greeting strategy for others to follow, Kathryn Anderson for the brochures, display board and so many other things, Monica Mueller for all those more-than-extra hours she puts into our school and taking the interns out to dinner

afterward, Kaori Oya for getting the calligraphy off to a great start, all interns for their time helping in whatever way was needed, Kristina Kallen for unexpectedly taking on a storytelling shift, Yoshida-sensei and the 1st grade presenters for their interesting and educational presentation, Megumi-sensei for her help with our wonderful kindergarten singers, Ritsuko Fujiwara and Rachel McLean for organizing our 3rd (Iris Smith) and 5th grade singers, all you parents who, like my husband, shuttled kids back and forth all day and all you shoppers who helped create a sound bottom line. I've probably left some people out and I apologize - we have so many talents at our school to celebrate!

Jill PUNCHES
Richmond Foundation

WHERE'S YOUR COAT, HAT, GLOVES, ETC.?

Have you been looking for your child's lost coat, hat, fleece jacket, backpack or gloves without success? You may just find that long lost item at Richmond's Lost and Found rack located on the stairs in the breezeway between the main building and the cafeteria. A quick glance at the rack today reveals the following treasures:

- Dozens of fleece jackets and pull-overs
- Coats
- T-shirts

- Turtleneck sweaters
- Sweatshirts
- Hats
- Lunch bags
- Scarves



Board Hearing for Richmond Expansion—Dec. 5th at 6:30 PM

Superintendent Phillips will present her final recommendations about expansion of Richmond to the Board at a special meeting Monday, December 5, 2005 at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Auditorium 501 N. Dixon Street. Please join us for this hearing to show your support for Richmond's growth with three classes per grade level in a K-5 model.

The Superintendent's recommendation allows Richmond to grow our program over six years beginning with the addition of one more kindergarten class for 2006-07. This will allow Richmond to offer 50% more kindergarten spaces

next year among three classrooms with 25-27 students in each room.

An additional hearing may be scheduled on Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. to receive citizen remarks following the Superintendent's final recommendations. Board Leadership will determine whether or not an additional meeting would be needed prior to the December 12th final approval. The decision will be based upon the community response to the final recommendations.

FOUNDATION TOTAL IS GROWING!

Richmond's Foundation has raised \$12,250.00 in donations. When we include contribution from the Barnes & Noble fundraiser on November 19th we have \$13,600.00!

The Barnes & Noble fundraiser earned \$1,388.14, which is the second highest amount in the history of the Lloyd Center Barnes & Noble store. Way to go Richmond!!!

Using the total of \$13,600 we have raised more so far this school year than in any of the past 5 years:

- 2001-02 = \$6,800

- 2002-03 = \$5,500
- 2003-04 = \$4,600
- 2004-05 = \$3,300
- This year so far = \$13,600.

No matter how much we raise, it will go to teachers for the school -- either 1/4 time, 1/2 time or fulltime, depending on what we raise.

How much do we need to raise for one full-time teacher? The answer is \$94,008. Now, \$94,008 is not the actual take home pay for teachers, however, the table on page 6 of this newsletter will show you the break-

down cost of replacing a full-time certified staff member by each line item. The cost to replace one half-time teacher is approximately \$47,004. We have raised 29% of the cost of a half-time teacher at this point in the school year and 14.5% of the cost of a full-time teacher. This is why the auction is so important.

Thank you for your generous donations and hard work with Foundation fundraising!

Richmond Foundation & Staff

SCRIP ORDER UPDATE

Scrip orders from this week (November 29) will be available to pick up in the Richmond cafeteria on **MONDAY, December 5**. To accommodate the longer turn-around time with our new Scrip company, **December Scrip orders will be due FRIDAY, December 9**, at 8:45 am. Standing order changes will also be due by Friday 12/9. This will ensure

your Scrip will arrive before we leave for Winter Break.

I'll also have extra Scrip for our most popular merchants (Starbucks, Powell's, grocery stores, Bed, Bath & Beyond, iTunes, etc). You will be able to buy that Scrip after school on Monday, 12/5, and Friday 12/16, cash or checks **ONLY** for those sales.

Thanks for your participation in Scrip - the profits do add up!

For questions, call Leslie Kowash, 503-235-5513 or onkscrip@comcast.net.

GENERAL PARENT MEETING ON DECEMBER 14TH

Please plan to attend the General Parent meeting on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 PM.

This month, the meeting is hosted by Oya No Kai and will include updates on all aspects of their cultural support for our students. You will also have a chance to hear about auction plans, 5th grade trip details and the work of

Oya No Kai to promote the Japanese Magnet Program.

Check out the current issue of Metro Parent Magazine for the Oya No Kai advertisement about the JMP.



See you at the General Parent Meeting on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria!

Mt. Tabor 6th Grade Presentation About Japan Trip on Dec. 6

The long awaited 6th grade presentations of their '05 summer trip to Japan is ready to come to Richmond next Tuesday, December 6th. We hope this is an opportunity to make this a celebration and connection between Richmond and Mt. Tabor JMP.

Parents of current 4th and 5th grade students are invited to see this wonderful presentation.—especially if you are one of the parents who will be a chaperone with the 2006 group.

Trip presentations will be held in the cafeteria at the following times:

- The a.m. group will present from 9:25-10:30.
- The p.m. group will present from 12:45-1:45.

Please note: This presentation will be in Japanese without translation!



Boys' house at Gokayama



Kiyomizu, Kyoto



Touring Kobe

FAMILY TIME AT ORIGAMI WORKSHOP SUN. DEC. 4TH

Put on your Richmond T-shirt and head to a wonderful, free family event this coming SUNDAY, December 4th. **The Consulate-General of Japan at Portland is pleased to announce its 17th Annual Origami Workshop.**

The Workshop will be held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on the Mezzanine Level of

the World Trade Center (SW First Ave., between Salmon & Taylor)

Admission is FREE. All origami materials will be provided and everyone is welcome to walk-in during this time.

This origami event is a great opportunity for families to enjoy themselves around a fun and traditional Japanese

activity. It's also a prime opportunity for families to promote Richmond's Japanese immersion program. Please consider attending this wonderful event to introduce Richmond families to our new Consul-General.

Questions? Call the Consulate-General of Japan at 503-221-1811.

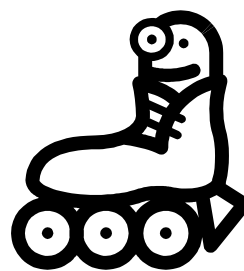
ROLLER SKATING PARTY FOR 2ND GRADE FAMILIES SUN. DEC. 4TH

Families of Richmond 2nd graders, *after* you leave the origami workshop at the World Trade Center (see article above), head over to the Mt. Scott Roller Rink for two hours of family skate time with fellow 2nd grade families!

Questions? Call Shannon Sweet at 503-238-7240 or Amy Virnig at 503-803-7678.

Directions to the Mt. Scott Roller Rink from the World Trade Center are:

1. Cross the Willamette river on the Ross Island Bridge and head east on Powell Blvd.
2. Veer right onto Foster Blvd. at 52nd and Powell.
3. Continue on Foster



4:30—6:30 PM

Mt. Scott Roller Rink

until 72nd.

4. Make a right turn on 72nd. The Mt. Scott Community Center is approximately 3 blocks.
5. Rink entrance is down ramp on 73rd.

Please bring a finger food. Drinks/cups provided.

Richmond Elementary School

RICHMOND FOUNDATION

Our Foundation has a goal this year to raise \$150,000. This amount might seem enormous, however, when we think about the funds needed to replace teachers it is a very reasonable goal. The data I collected from the Back-To-School Parent Surveys indicated that many parents wanted to know the actual cost of a typical teacher the Richmond Foundation fund would cover. The following table will show the cost of \$94,008 to replace a typical staff member for the 05-06 school year.* Now, \$94,008 is not the actual take home pay for teachers, however, the following table will breakdown the cost of replacing a full-time certified staff member by each line item:

If we raise \$94,008, this is what we pay for:

TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED	\$94,008 for 1.00 FTE	\$147,012 for 1.50 FTE
Portland Schools Foundation Contribution* *Remember we must raise 33% more than we need to cover the Portland Schools Foundation set-aside for grants to high-poverty schools without Foundations.	\$29,669	\$44,504
Total amount needed – (subtract) Portland Schools Foundation Contribution=	\$94,008-\$29,669 = \$64,339 (subtotal)	\$147,012 - \$44,504 = \$102,508 (subtotal)
Subtotal - (subtract) Benefits*/ Health and Welfare= *Benefits (PERS, social security, workers compensation, unemployment employee life, retiree health, and early retiree payments)	\$64,339 - \$21,060 = \$43,279	\$102,508 - \$37,589 = \$64,919
Base Salary (1.0 FTE) *FTE stands for full-time equivalent	\$43,279 for 1.00 FTE	\$64,919 for 1.50 FTE

*Costs above are for Richmond's least expensive staff member using the 2005-06 salary scale and benefit costs. We do not know the costs for teacher salary or benefits for the 2006-07 school year because: 1). This is part of the Portland Public Schools (PPS) - Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) collective bargaining agreement and negotiations for contract renewal will begin between PPS and PAT in January 2006; and 2). Teachers typically increase on the PPS/PAT salary scale each year based upon years of experience and level of education. This teacher may elect to take graduate coursework throughout the year that will move him/her to a higher "step" on the salary scale and increase the rate of pay.

Questions? Contact Kathryn Anderson, Richmond Interim Principal at 503-916-6220 or via email at keanders@pps.k12.or.us

AVIAN FLU INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS
PROVIDED BY SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES
In Consultation with Multnomah County Health Department

What is Avian Flu?

Avian flu ("bird flu") is an infectious disease of birds caused by type A influenza viruses that affect birds. There are many subtypes of type A viruses. All bird species are thought to be susceptible to viral infection especially domestic poultry including chickens and turkeys. Migratory waterfowl are the natural reservoir of avian influenza viruses.

Avian flu is spread among birds by the infected birds shedding flu virus in their saliva, nasal secretions and feces. Fecal-to-oral transmission is the most common mode of spread between birds.

The first documented infection of humans with the avian influenza virus, known as H5N1, occurred in Hong Kong in 1997. This resulted in severe respiratory disease in 18 humans. The investigation of this outbreak determined that close direct contact with live poultry infected with the virus was the source of human infection.

What is the current situation?

The outbreak in Asia has prompted concern about the potential for another worldwide flu epidemic, also known as a "pandemic". Flu pandemics occur periodically and are part of the broader pattern of human health and disease. There have been three pandemics in the last century: 1918, 1957 and 1968.

H5N1 bird influenza has spread to poultry flocks in SE Asia, Indonesia, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and Romania. This situation is of concern because H5N1 can cause severe illness in humans more easily than other avian viruses. Symptoms range from typical flu-like symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches to eye infections, pneumonia and severe respiratory distress. As of November 17, 2005, sixty-seven of one hundred and thirty humans infected have died. Almost all of the people who have gotten avian influenza had contact with infected poultry by directly handling infected birds.

The World Health Organization states that because all influenza viruses have the ability to change, scientists are concerned that one day the H5N1 virus could spread easily from one person to another. Fortunately, that day has not yet come.

What is the risk for Oregonians at this time?

Public health groups (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, State and County Health Departments) have been monitoring this situation since 2004.

There have been no cases of birds or humans infected with the H5N1 virus in the United States. Little or no evidence exists at this time that transmission takes place from person to person. In case of a pandemic, the concern would be on the virus changing or mutating. Turkeys and chickens in this country are safe. Cooking kills the virus. Those who travel to countries with known outbreaks may be at risk and should take precautions to avoid contact with birds in live food markets and to eat only well cooked poultry.

Is there a plan for emergencies?

There is coordinated effort for regional emergency preparedness and response plans. Public health agencies and health care systems are working together:

- Hospitals have plans to increase capacity to hospitalize additional patients.
- The local medical society is organizing physicians to develop plans for private practices: appropriate patient scheduling, triage, infection control and follow-up care.
- Similar planning is taking place in community based and low income clinics.

- Plans are being made for special "stand-alone" treatment centers or Medical Care Points to take some of the burden off the hospital systems.
- Emergency response plans include consideration of culturally specific groups and non-English speaking people.
- Behavior health providers are planning to meet the needs of the anxious and stressed public.
- Organizing a Medical Reserve Corp to utilize health care providers in the area.
- Public Health has an increasing ability to track infectious disease cases.
- Mass prevention by vaccination and treatment when they are available.
- Closure of schools and businesses and limit public gatherings.

What can the public do?

- Stay home and away from people if exposed and or ill. Isolation and limited quarantine were used and successful in controlling the SARS epidemic.
- Get a flu shot! There is value in keeping healthy and discouraging co-infection.
- Increase social distance. Flu is spread within three feet.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. Wash hands frequently, especially after sneezing, coughing, and blowing nose.
- Maintain a healthy immune system: quit smoking, eat a well-balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables, exercise regularly, sleep 7-8 hours every night, get regular medical checkups and keep immunizations up to date.

What can parents do?

- Check your child's immunization records and be sure they are up to date.
- Keep your child home if he/she is ill.
- Teach "cover your cough", good and frequent hand washing, no sharing of food and drink or utensils.
- Make sure all contact and emergency contact information is correct for school or day care.
- Discuss any health problems your child has with the school nurse.
- Read information your child brings home from school and call the school if you have any questions.

What can school districts do?

- Be prepared for *any* emergency situation (earthquake, fire etc.) and follow district and building protocols.
- Review evacuation plans and include accountability for students and staff, volunteers in the building.
- Review parent notification protocols for emergencies. Have a plan for students whose parents cannot be contacted in an emergency.
- Request consultation from local and county emergency response agencies if you have concerns about your emergency plans.
- Review safety/emergency response team duties and introduce the team members to the staff and volunteers.
- Follow any directions from local and state officials.

Please be aware that local, state, and federal health agencies will keep the public informed when new information becomes available as well as any actions that need to be taken. For more information:

Multnomah County Health Department
<http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/health/>
 Oregon Department of Human Services
www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/index.shtml

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen>
 World Health Organization
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/avian_faqs/en/index.html

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program



Richmond Calendar for December 1-12, 2005

- Thurs. Dec. 1** Last Day for Book Fair in Volunteer Rm. 105
Craft Fair in cafeteria 6:00-8:00 PM
- Fri. Dec. 2** NO SCHOOL—Teacher Planning Day
- Sat. Dec. 3** Meet author Allen Say at The Children's Place at 11:00 AM
Best of the NW at Oregon Convention Ctr. 10:00 AM-6:00 PM to benefit the Portland Schools Foundation
- Sun. Dec. 4** Origami Workshop at the World Trade Center 1:00-3:00 PM
Roller Skating Party for 2nd Graders at Mt. Scott Roller Rink
- Mon. Dec. 5** Scrip Pick-up Day
Playground committee meeting 5:30-8:30 PM in G. Kuney's office
PPS Board Meeting—Richmond parents needed to testify about the importance of bus service to/from school 6:30-? PM at District Headquarters (501 N. Dixon near the Coliseum)
- Tues. Dec. 6** Mt. Tabor 6th Grade Japan Trip Presentations 9:25 AM and 12:45 PM
- Wed. Dec. 7** Taiko Workshop 12:30-3:00 in the cafeteria
- Mon. Dec. 12** Site Council Meeting at 3:15-5:15 PM
Playground committee meeting 5:30-8:30 PM in G. Kuney's office

Playground Update:

The playground committee is moving forward with our plans for wonderful new equipment to be installed for the 2006 school year. We are looking to install a large play structure in the Northern area where the "volcano" had been, and to integrate new equipment into the Southern area. The committee has already met a number of times, and we are now at the fun part - picking a contractor to make our dreams of a Japanese theme playground a reality.

The three finalists will come and present their proposals Monday, December 5th starting at 5:30 P.M. in Gary Kuney's office. Anyone wishing to be part of this important decision is invited to attend this meeting. We will meet one week later December 12th at 6:00 P.M. to vote on who to hire. You must attend both meetings to have a vote.

Once we have a budget for the playground, we can start to

apply for grants. This project will be almost entirely funded by grants. The PTA has put forward approximately \$5,300 in seed money, but it will take much more to see this through. If anyone has any grant connections or wishes to be part of the playground committee please contact me.

-Katy Wolk-Stanley
Co-PTA President & Playground Committee Member