



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

Let me introduce you to "Lucky", the 6-month old kitten in the picture to the right. Lucky was rescued from our parking lot last Friday by a small group of students who noticed he was extremely emaciated and weak. Lucky had tried to find food in our cafeteria and even parent automobiles prior to being brought to the school office by our students.

The bad news is that we've been unsuccessful in our search for Lucky's owner. When rescued, Lucky lacked a collar and pet license (required for all cats in Multnomah County) and does not have an ID chip, according to the staff at the local veterinary clinic, Pet Samaritan. Parents have been to several neighbor homes to inquire about Lucky's owner and have come up empty handed.

The good news is that Dr. Powell, Lucky's

new veterinarian, has given him a full check up and determined Lucky is a healthy, happy, and very gentle kitten. Dr. Powell believes Lucky would make a wonderful school kitty and your children agree completely. Our school nurse, Kathleen Wecks, RN, has checked student medical records and assures me that none of our students have allergies to cats.

I will take Lucky to classrooms next week to give students and Kitty a formal introduction to each other and review basic rules for care and handling. Look for Lucky to greet you in classrooms and hallways very soon!



WORD PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

On March 17th, there was a flute recital. The recital hall had 90 seats, and $\frac{2}{3}$ of them were full. There were also two people on stage, one person at the door handing out programs, and a person working the lights.

How many people were in the recital hall?

 How many people would have been in the recital if $\frac{1}{2}$ of the seats were full? _____

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Problem written by Hana Stillnaker, gr.4

Portland Public Schools

Thursday, March 16th

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Help balance the PPS Budget
- ☺ Spring Festival is coming
- ☺ School Design Proposals leaked to The Oregonian
- ☺ What are your intentions for next year? Please fill out form and return it to school by April 7, 2006.

Inside this issue:

Chalkboard Project	2
PPS Budget	3
Online Safety Issues	3
Spring Festival	4
School Beautification	4
Scrip Update	5
PPS Design Proposals	6

CHALKBOARD PROJECT'S IDEAS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION

The Chalkboard Project debuts its ideas about improving education in Oregon this week and the list is getting lots of attention. Chalkboard, funded largely by Oregon foundations with ties to the business community, is attempting to get Oregonians talking about fixing the state's broken education system and is seeking feedback on the plan as it gears up for a legislative push in 2007. The plan addresses educator quality, school funding and accountability, the three issues Oregonians consistently say they want to see discussed. "Depending on your point of view, there are things to like and dislike," said Shirley Skidmore, communications and outreach director. The proposals include:

- Create a peer mentor program that pairs master teachers and administrators with beginners for their first three years of their careers.
- Compensate educators based on their skills and job performance.
- Reduce class sizes from 25 to 15 students in kindergarten and first grade.
- Pair struggling readers with tutors through the third grade.
- Develop a best-practices program to improve the running of schools. Chalkboard believes schools could save as much as \$118 million if they used purchasing cooperatives and a uniform data system. Other ideas include reforming student transportation systems and eliminating early retirement contracts.
- Reduce expenditures on employee health care to the national average. Oregon health insurance costs equal about 20 percent of salary costs. The national average is 14 percent. The group said districts could manage

those costs by joining insurance pools.

- Replace the state's "Education Stability Fund" to a general rainy day fund and increase the cap from 5 percent to 10 percent of the state's general fund. That would add \$285 million by the 2014-15 school year.
- Identify new revenues from new sources. Chalkboard specifically said new revenues should not come from the state income tax. It does not identify what taxes the state should pursue to diversify its revenue source away from the income tax.

The full proposal will be posted on Chalkboard's Web site and is being widely discussed by various education groups, including the statewide teachers union, the Oregon Education Association.

Chalkboard will gather feedback through June, then roll it into a final set of recommendations it will take to the Legislature when it next gathers in Salem. On the Internet: www.chalkboardproject.org. wculverwell@bizjournals.com | 503-219-3415



"PDXposed GOES TO SAPPORO" DVD IS DISAPPOINTING FOR RICHMOND

This past Sunday was the premier of the DVD entitled "PDXposed Goes to Sapporo", the cable show that launched their series about a visit to Sapporo, Japan with lessons at Richmond Elementary. The first episode in the series was filmed in Amy-Sensei's classroom prior to the film crew's departure for Sapporo in August 2005. Richmond students were used to teach the film crew about essential language and cultural expectations and parents volunteered considerable amounts of time to make taping arrangements for the film crew. Oya No Kai even paid \$135

district fee for the use of the classroom space for filming.

Unfortunately, the episode with Richmond students has been eliminated from the DVD entirely, with no mention of Richmond's involvement or support for the series in the credits. This is a serious oversight by the editors and sponsors that had full knowledge of the importance of Richmond's involvement (i.e. Sapporo Sister City Association, NW Airlines, etc.).

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BALANCE THE PPS BUDGET!

How would you balance the Portland Public Schools budget? A new on-line tool allows community to weigh choices and offer ideas on budget cuts, investments to help schools live within their means.

Portland Public Schools faces a \$57 million shortfall next year, due to the end of both the local option property tax and the local income tax over two years. How do you think the Superintendent and School Board should balance the budget?

Try your hand at a budget calculator worksheet now on-line at the Portland Public Schools website:

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/survey/shortfall.php>

The budget worksheet lists the types of spend-

ing choices that are confronting school district leaders as they work to balance the budget for next year, including difficult decisions and tradeoffs to be weighed in providing the best schools possible for 47,000 students with limited funds available.



Try your hand at balancing the PPS budget!

This new tool, similar to budget worksheets used in past years, is one more way that the School Board and Superintendent plan to incorporate community feedback and ideas as they develop the budget.

PPS BUDGET HEARINGS

COMMUNITY MEETING. Thursday, March 16, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Roosevelt High School Campus, 6941 N. Central (Spanish and Hmong interpretation is planned)

BOARD WORK SESSION. Monday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon (No public testimony planned at this point.)

COMMUNITY MEETING. Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lent Elementary School, 5105 SE 97th (Spanish, Rus-

sian, Vietnamese and Chinese interpretation is planned)

COMMUNITY MEETING. Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wilson High School, 1151 SW Vermont

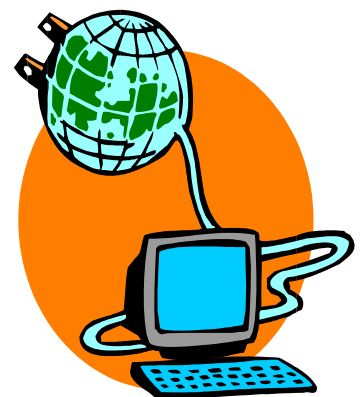
More information is available under the "Budget" link on the Portland Public Schools website, www.pps.k12.or.us.

HELP YOUR CHILD BE ONLINE SAVVY

With online communities such as <http://www.myspace.com> and student blogs creating more and more issues for schools, students and staff need help in dealing with the concerns these activities can raise.

This week's tip sheet, created by the National Crime Prevention Council, suggests ideas to help kids become online savvy and avoid cyber bullies. One idea: "Set up e-mail and instant messenger accounts with your parents. Make sure not to put your name, age, address or phone number in

your profile." Read more tips at: <http://www.mcgruff.org/ProblemSolver/cyberbully.htm>.



HELP US PLAN THE SPRING FESTIVAL!



**The First Annual Spring Festival is on
April 22nd from 11:00 to 5:00**

We have started the initial planning but need lots more input from our JMP parent community to make it a success.

Spring Festival Planning Meeting

Tuesday March 21st at 3:10 in the Cafeteria

If you would like to help but can't make it please call or e-mail Meg Matsushima at megmatsushima@comcast.net or 503.335.7777 or Kim Tanada at terryngirlz@comcast.net or 503.705.9604.

MATH PROBLEM SOLVER OF THE WEEK IS...

Congratulations to Maya Montgomery, grade 4, who is the winner of this week's drawing for the correct solutions to the weekly math problem. Maya won a sudoku book for hours of more fun with logic problems.

Thanks also go to Hana Stilnaker, our 4th grade writer of the math problems. Hana has been writing these problems on her own, above and beyond her regular math assignments and homework. We're grateful for her initiative.

HELP BEAUTIFY OUR SCHOOL WITH FRESH PAINT!

A small group of parents plan to join Kathryn for more hallway painting over a couple of days during Spring Break. We'd LOVE to have the help of any willing and energetic painters, so give us a hand! You don't need to bring anything—just show up in clothing that can withstand paint spatters and dust. We'll have all the necessary materials ready to go and will provide lunch and snacks. We're trying to arrange babysitting on-site, so please give Patsy a call in the Richmond office if you know of a good sitter we should pursue (503-916-6220).

Here are the days and times for our painting work:

Thursday, March 30th 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Friday, March 31st at 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Please call or email Kathryn if you can help, so she can plan for the proper amount of snacks and lunch (keanders@pps.k12.or.us).

Portland Public Schools

2276 SE 41st Street
Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 503-916-6220

Fax: 503-916-2665

Website: www.richmondjmp.org

Japanese Magnet Program



Fri., March 17	No School-Teacher Planning Day
Mon., March 20	Run for the Arts Pledge Sheets due today!!
Mon. March 20-Fri. March 24	is Staff Appreciation Week
Mon., March 20	Scrip Pick-up Day
Tues., March 21	Oya No Kai Board Meeting- 6:45 PM
Wed., March 22	Trip Performance Rehearsal 3-4:00 PM
Fri., March 24	Elementary Transfer Deadline is today!!
Thurs. March 30 & Fri. March 31	Help with Richmond hall-way painting
Mon., March 27-Fri. March 31	IS SPRING BREAK — NO SCHOOL
Mon. April 3	Plant Sale ends

TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK COMING UP!

Next week is teacher and staff appreciation week. We have five days to show our appreciation for all the hard work and dedication that the Richmond staff puts in for our children. We will be expressing our gratitude by doing something different for them each day.

MONDAY: Gourmet coffees and Cinnabons will be provided to welcome the staff to the beginning of a great week. Thank you Paul Gilles and Desiree Miller. (No volunteers needed) Also: Give a teacher their dream come true - Help clean their classroom!

TUESDAY: Flowers for staff. Each child will be asked to bring one flower for each of their teachers to place in vases set up at the front of the cafeteria to be deposited in the appropriate vase when the children enter the cafeteria. We need volunteers to set up vases either Monday p.m. or early Tues a.m. and to help get the flowers in the correct vases. We also need volunteers to carry the vases to the appropriate sites.

WEDNESDAY: Staff academy awards at the Wednesday

assembly. We will let parents know by the list-serve what they can do to help. (It's a surprise!)

THURSDAY: Staff luncheon. We need volunteers to sign up to bring specific dishes for lunch in the staff room. "Hair of the Dog" Brewery will donate beers for the teachers to take home. Thank you Allen Sprints. People can sign up via email or on the PTA bulletin board.

FRIDAY: Massages and live music for staff; PTA gifts to all staff.

Let's show our great staff how much they mean to our Richmond community. Please e-mail [Katy Wolk-Stanley at dalekaty@spiritone.com](mailto:dalekaty@spiritone.com) with any questions.

RICHMOND ELEMENTARY – JAPANESE IMMERSION

2006-2007 Student Enrollment

We need to know whether your child will attend Richmond next year in order to set a limit on the number of transfer spaces for grades 1-5. Please take a moment to complete the following and return to Richmond's office by Friday, April 7, 2006.

Student Name _____
Current Grade _____
Grade Level for 2006-2007 _____

Please Check One:

My child will attend Richmond in 2006-07 (see question below).

My child will not attend Richmond in 2006-07 because...
_____.

We do not know at this time.

What are the important characteristics and needs of your child that we should consider as we decide on classroom placement for 2005-06?

Please share information on this sheet that would help us in our careful classroom placement of your child. Individual teacher requests should not be included.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Scrip Update – March 2006

- **When can I pick up my scrip order for this week?**
- **WHICH day is Scrip Order Day now?**
- **Whoops! I forgot to order Scrip this week - do I have to wait until next time?**
- **Does it really help anything if we order Scrip?**

Have you been asking yourself these questions lately? Do you walk past the Scrip table on Fridays and wonder what we're doing there? Here are a few answers:

This week's scrip will be filled & available for pick-up in the Richmond Cafeteria on **MONDAY, March 20**, because of the inservice day at Richmond on Friday. All remaining pick-up days will be the usual Fridays.

Scrip ORDER DAYS have moved to MONDAYS due to longer shipping times from our vendors. I will be more consistent about sending out email reminders the week before from now on - I know it's thrown a lot of people off. The remaining order days this year are: **April 10**, April 24, **May 8**, May 22 and **June 5**. Standing Orders will be filled on the dates in **bold**. Orders are due by 8:45 Monday morning, to the Richmond Office or the Scrip Volunteer in the Richmond Cafeteria, or via email.

If you **forget to order Scrip**, you can come by the Richmond Cafeteria on Friday to buy what we have on hand. We won't have everything on the order form, but we always have grocery store scrip, and usually have many others, especially restaurants & book stores. We can only take cash or checks on Friday, and it's a great way to stock up before the weekend!

And finally, **YES it matters if you order Scrip!** This year, all classes combined have bought over \$250,000 of scrip so far, and have earned a total of over \$18,000 for their classes, Oya No Kai, and Richmond Foundation. *With a redoubled effort, we can make our goal of \$25,000 this year.* And this is with less than half of each class placing orders - with higher participation, we could raise a great deal more money, and it doesn't cost you anything more. So let's kick it up a notch this Spring!

Order forms & envelopes can be found online at oyanokai.org/fundraising, in front of the Richmond office and in the Richmond cafeteria. You can also email your orders to onkscrip@comcast.net. *If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Kowash at 503-235-5513 or onkscrip@comcast.net.*



IMPORTANT!!!

The two slides below are the school design proposals for Richmond and the JMP that were leaked to The Oregonian yesterday. The complete Power-Point document with details about proposals for ALL schools has been placed on our school website. Additional copies will be available in the office. Principals learned about this information last night as we watched the news—just like you. :(I'll be at a principals' meeting all day today and will share any and all news gleaned from this meeting with you via the list-serve.

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Hosford International – Plan A

- Hosford International Middle currently has Chinese and Spanish.
- Could add Japanese feeding from Mt. Tabor to Hosford and Cleveland; instead of Mt.Tabor and Grant.
- Would free transfers spots at those schools and bolster Hosford enrollment by 150 over 3 years, from 450 to 600.
- Using 28 of 34 rooms at 26 each = 728 (other district programs there)

Richmond – Japanese Plan B

- Potential to expand to K-8
- Richmond building has 29 rooms.
- Currently 300 students, growing to 450 with expansion of 3rd K. Expanding to K-8 would add $75 \times 3 = 225$. 675
- If they use 26 of 29 rooms, at 26 students each = 676
- Reduces Mt.Tabor enrollment by 50/ year. High school feeder?