



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

Thank you very much for your wonderful staff appreciation activities this week! The flowers, banners, cards, letters, special meals and helpful hands (i.e. classroom cleaning) have been tremendous displays of support for our work at Richmond. We are all very fortunate to be able to educate children at Richmond.

Another thank you goes to all the children and parents who have been so supportive of Lucky the cat's presence in our school office since March 9th. As you know, Lucky was found by a group of Richmond students on our playground. He was starving, severely dehydrated and absolutely alone. The children brought him to our office and together we brought him back to full health and happiness.

Many children, parents and staff were hopeful that Lucky could become our school cat, much like the kitty at Llewellyn Ele-

mentary School in southeast Portland. Unfortunately, a parent has strongly objected to Lucky's presence at Richmond due to the fact this parent's child has an allergy to cats. This allergy had not been shared with our office via school medical forms, so our nurse had no idea about the allergy and potential complications before we introduced Lucky in last week's newsletter.

This situation illustrates the need for parents to keep their child's medical information up-to-date at school. Richmond is located in a community with an abundance of animals and it's not uncommon to find cats, dogs, and even a bunny or two, wandering on our playground. You can easily update your child's records by contacting our secretary, Patsy Burke at pburke1@pps.k12.or.us or 503-916-6220.

Lucky is doing fine at my house and has made friends with Ruby, my large orange cat. Thank you, again, for your gracious support. Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Portland Public Schools

Friday, March 24, 2006

The following special businesses have made donations to Richmond's Foundation:



- © Nippon Express USA (\$1000)
- © Yoko's Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar (\$250)

Inside this issue:

Book Review	2
Gymnastics Champ	2
Music Improv. Class	3
06-07 PPS Calendar	3
Parent Writing Class	4
Catku—Haiku	5
Muralists at Work	6

GREAT NEWS ON TRANSFER NUMBERS

As of Wednesday evening, our list of transfer numbers is VERY encouraging for classes in the 2006-07 school year. 48 hours remain before the transfer deadline as this newsletter goes to print. According to our district transfer office, our transfer numbers are likely to grow by 5-10% in the next 48 hours. So far we have:

Grades 1-5 = 13 requests
Kindergarten = 86 requests

Pre-school (full-day) = 20 requests
Pre-school (half-day) = 17 requests

Our kindergarten numbers are 115% of our target for 75 students in three classes. We need 2 more students for the minimum of 88 students for four kindergarten classes of 22 each. 14 more gives us 100 kindergarteners in four classes of 25 each.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT BOOK TO READ ON VACATION?

The Supernaturalist by Eoin Colfer is a very good book. It is about a boy named Cosmo Hill who lives in an orphanage

in a place called Satellite City in the future. In the orphanage, Cosmo and his friends are forced to test products that are not yet on the market. The products usually give them burns, sores and bruises.

When the chance comes, Cosmo escapes. Soon, He finds himself in a gang of kids who call themselves "The Supernaturalists".



Book review by Hana Stillnaker, Grade 4

They go out at night to fight blue creatures- they call them parasites- that feed on the life force of humans. It all seems to be going well when suddenly, the supernaturalists find out a horrifying secret that forces them to question everything they believe in.

I liked this book especially because of the way that the supernaturalists work together as a team, even when things aren't looking good. I also like the book because of its futuristic setting of 50 mile-high buildings and its funny characters. I recommend this book for children 10 and up because some of it is a little confusing. Read *The Supernaturalist* by Eoin Colfer to find out more.

This book has been highly rated by the American Library Association and has won numerous awards for excellence.

MIKA SAKAI—GYMNASTICS CHAMP IN OUR MIDST!

Did you know that most Richmond students work very hard on their schoolwork AND work to pursue dramatic levels of achievement in musical, artistic and/or athletic endeavors beyond the school day? Mika Sakai is one of those students. She's been a practicing gymnast for several years and just competed in the Oregon State Gymnastics Meet this past weekend. Mika's gymnastic performance earned scores that were outstanding for her age group and helped her team earn a 2nd place trophy.

Mika competed with all the girls in Oregon and these are the places she took in her age group and level (7):

Bars - 5th place
Floor - 3rd place
Vault - Tied for 9th
All Around - 3rd place

Please let us know about your child's success with endeavors outside of school. Our newsletter is a great place to share our students' triumphs in and out of school.

NEW JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASS OFFERED AT PCC

Parents, here's your chance to improve your Japanese! Miyoko Fuse is offering a new class in "Spoken Japanese" at the southeast campus of PCC. Her class is an excellent chance to introduce yourself to this beautiful language in a stress-free environment. Here are the details for this class:

Instructor: Miyoko Fuse
Course number : 24113
Location : SE Portland PCC Campus (82nd and Division)

http://www.pcc.edu/location/default.cfm?fa=findLocation&siteCode=SE&frm_location=TABOR> Center / TABOR / room 126

Time: 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
Days: Wednesdays
Dates: 05-Apr-2006 thru 07-Jun-2006



MUSIC IMPROVISATION CLASS OFFERED AFTER SCHOOL

KIDS JAM! Music Improvisation Class at Richmond Elementary (Music Room) with Michael "Shoehorn" Conley

Tuesday afternoons 3:05-4:05 PM

Begins Tues. April 4th

ALL AGES

Fee: \$30 for 4 weeks, renewing monthly

Children will use instruments from the Richmond music room, which are mostly percussion (including xylophones) and recorders plus piano. Voice and rhythm dance concepts will also be incorporated as time allows. Students who have their own instruments are encouraged to bring them and participate. The instructor will also play his own instruments with the class.



**Class starts Tuesday,
April 4th**

We will rotate instruments and parts to cultivate a comprehensive and FUN approach to music making. Students will be taught some basics such as simple chords and scales, and we will create our own music out of the improvised beats, with the goal of composing a song with Rhythm, Melody, and Harmony (chords) and Lyrics.

Class size is limited to 20 students. A Wednesday class may be added if needed.

About the Instructor: Michael "Shoehorn" Conley has made music in over 30 countries, including television performances in Japan, Ireland, Austria and North America. His two daughters are Richmond students.

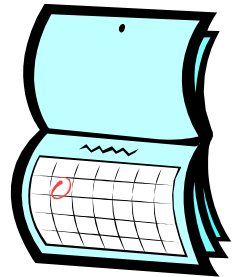
DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR 2006-07 ON OUR WEBSITE

Many of you have been asking when the new calendar for 2006-07 will be released to the general public. We just received the draft calendar for trimesters this week and have put it on the Richmond website at:

www.richmondjmp.org

Use caution with this calendar! Our Board of Education has yet to vote on the district budget for 2006-07 and their final budget may mean calendar changes if they de-

cide to cut school days. The Board will make their final budget decision on Monday, April 24th. In the meantime, use this calendar as a general guide.



PAINT PARTY NEXT WEEK

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).

What do writers need in order to feel successful as writers? Besides having a *passion* for writing, writers need a writing community to share their pieces. This safe writing community listens, gives feedback, and encourages a writer to keep going. A writing community is as essential for young writers as it is to professional writers.

In order to understand how to teach writing and offer support to your own child with writing, it is helpful to understand the writing process yourself...and to become apart of a writing community.

Jill Ostrow, Richmond's extraordinary literacy teacher, is offering a **Writing Workshop for Parents** for the Richmond community that will begin on **Thursday April 6th from 6:30-7:45 pm.** (If we as a group decide on a different time, that is fine, but the day needs to be Thursday.)

There is a limit of 15 so sign up soon if you are interested. This workshop is for parents who are interested in *writing*...so if Japanese is your first language, feel free to come and write in Japanese.

To sign up for this writing class contact Jill Ostrow via email at: jill@bartel.com

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH 11 WRITING BELIEFS:

Developing writers require support

People learn to write by writing

Writing is a process

Writing is a tool for thinking

Writing grows out of many different purposes

Conventions of finished and edited texts are important to readers and therefore to writers

Writing and reading are related

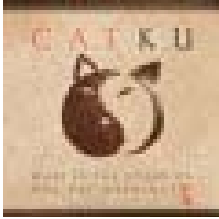
Writing has a complex relationship to talk

Literate practices are embedded in complicated social relationships

Composing occurs in different modalities and technologies

Assessment of writing involves complex, informed, human judgment

We've been writing Catku — Haiku about Lucky the Cat!



Jill Ostrow, our literacy teacher, has been teaching small groups of students to read and write haiku. She recently used the book, *Catku - What is the sound of one cat napping?* by Pat Welch (2004) as a model for her students' writing. Two of their literary creations appear below, along with pictures of the authors and Lucky, the subject of their haiku. We hope you enjoy this glimpse into Jill's wonderful literacy program.

Two other books with haiku about cats are available:

- *Cat Haiku* by Deborah Coates (2001)
- *Catnips: A book of Haiku on Cats* by Joseph Gustafson (1984)



Lucky is so cute
I wonder how old he is?
He is gray and white.

He lives with Kathryn.
Lucky eats in the office.
He has a blue collar.

by Rachel Hartford



He likes to get held.
Lucky in the neighborhood,
has a lot of friends.

Bed under the table
he hates to play with toy mice.
He watches Patsy.

by Lisa Fukumoto



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



CALENDAR FOR MARCH 24-APRIL 9

Thurs. Mar. 30 -31	Richmond hallway painting
Mon. Mar. 27-31	SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL
Sun. April 2	Daylight saving begins "spring forward"
Mon. April 3	Plant sale ends
Tues. April 4	Assembly "The Secret Life of Bugs" at 9:00 AM for grades K-2 and 10:00 AM for grades 3-5 Mandatory meeting for transfers 2:00 & 7:00 PM
Wed. April 5	Trip performance rehearsal 3:00-4:00 PM

MURALISTS AT WORK!

