



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

LETTER FROM INTERIM PRINCIPAL

Dear Richmond Families,

This Wednesday morning I received the most wonderful surprise any principal could ask for—flowers from every Richmond student and a beautiful sign of thanks. Apparently you've been planning this amazing surprise for quite some time. You are incredible keepers of secrets!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your kind words of support and gracious display of appreciation for my work! I cannot begin to adequately express my gratitude for this beautiful gesture and 23 vases of flowers (yes, 23 vases, per Allison Mueller's careful count). The fragrance from the flowers has filled the main office and hallway and visitors to my office have had a hard time finding me among the floral display.

By coincidence, I had just reiterated my commitment to remain at Richmond in the coming year during separate conversations on Monday with my supervisor Barbara Adams, and Superintendent Vicki Phillips. They know I'm committed to continuing my work at Richmond and also know parents and staff are anxious for a District decision. I'll keep you informed about their decision.

In the meantime, keep your eye on the District budget process via our newsletter and web site. Both sources will have the most current information I can provide.

Domo arigato!

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Portland Public Schools

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ Read the new criteria for budget decisions from Portland Public Schools Board of Education (pages 3-4)
- ☺ Enrollment is booming for pre-school and kindergarten in 2006-07!
- ☺ We need host families for Pre-K, K and 1st interns.

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NEW FEATURE!

WORD PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Lynne was cleaning out her bedroom. She noticed that she had three piles of clean clothes and four piles of dirty clothes. She counted one of the piles of clean clothes and figured out that each pile of clean clothes had about seven articles of clothing in it. She counted one of the piles of dirty clothes and figured out that each pile of dirty clothes had about eight articles of clothing in it.

Problem by Hana Stillmaker, grade 4

How many clean clothes did Lynne have ____
How many dirty clothes did Lynne have? ____
How many clothes did Lynne have altogether? ____

Student name: _____
Grade: _____

Cut your solution out of the newsletter and place in the box in the office for our weekly drawing for a math prize.



AUTHOR, KATE DICAMILLO, IS COMING TO PORTLAND!

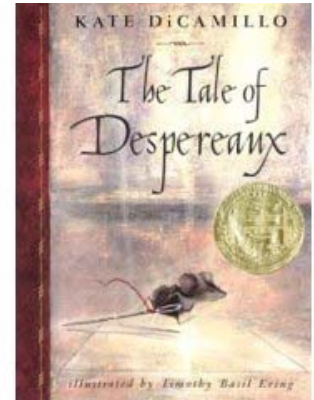
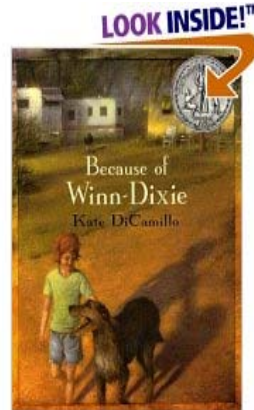
Have you read *The Tale of Despereaux* or *Because of Winn-Dixie*? Well the author (Kate DiCamillo) of *The Tale of Despereaux* and *Because of Winn-Dixie* is coming to PORTLAND!! Aren't you surprised?

She'll be in Portland on Monday, April 10th at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on 1126 S.W. Park Ave. I'm going because I'm reading *The Tale of Despereaux*. You should come too.

Tickets are \$10 for Adult and \$5 for Student (K-12).

IT IS GOING TO BE FUN!!!!

By Joi Fukushima, grade 4



TEACHER APPRECIATION COMING UP!

Thank you to all the children and their parents who made Wednesday's "Principal Appreciation Day" a success. The view from the stage of the field of waving flowers was an incredible sight to see. It was a great moment for Richmond's Community.

We will be celebrating "Teacher Appreciation Week" the week before Spring break - March 20th - 24th. In past years we have provided delicious lunches for our teachers, as well as something special each day of that week such as gourmet coffees, flowers, and such. We are looking for fresh new ideas that really reflect how much we appreciate our fabulous teachers and support staff. If you have

an idea for something great, please tell any of us on the PTA board in person or by e-mail, or simply jot a note and put it in the office PTA box. The teachers give their hearts to our kids 5 days a week all year long, let's take this one week and show them how much their dedication means to us parents.

The annual "Run for the Arts" will take place on Friday, March 24th. We will be asking for many volunteers for this fun event, so mark your calendar. PTA will provide enough refreshing popsicles for both the kids and parents, so come join the fun.

-Katy Wolk-Stanley, Co-PTA President

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 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 7th at 3:10 in the Volunteer Room. 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.

Note from Kathryn: The following announcement from Superintendent Vicki Phillips was shared with the Board of Education on March 1st and with principals on March 2nd. This information has also appeared in various news articles over the last week. I thought you would appreciate this information, too.

Portland Public Schools Building Stronger Schools in Tough Economic Times

Criteria for Determining Cuts and Redeploying Resources for 2006-07

Portland Public Schools' new five-year strategic plan (2006-2011) contains a promise – to ensure strong achievement results for our students and to sustain hope and confidence in our public schools.

Delivering on that promise means we must face our current budget reality head on, tackling the challenges of declining enrollment and declining revenues while protecting our children's education. It means recognizing that our voters are feeling economically constrained, are tired of temporary school funding solutions, and require more transparent and accountable decision-making by the school district. It means facing some tough choices and making some tough decisions.

Over the next few weeks, we will make the difficult decisions necessary to develop a budget for the next school year that does everything we can to preserve, and even improve, our ability to provide our students with the quality education that they deserve. We are committed to ensuring that PPS is organized in a way that is sustainable and that provides a solid foundation for the education of every child, in every school, in every neighborhood in our district.

Over the next few weeks, we will work with our partners (e.g., city, county, business leaders) to address some of the \$57 million shortfall facing PPS going into the 2006-07 school year. This will include spending down PPS reserves; perhaps to levels that are less than financially prudent. It will also, hopefully, include significant one-time funding support from our community partners for the coming school year. In addition, PPS will need to make up a large portion of the shortfall with permanent cuts in school and district services. These cuts will be in addition to cuts made at the start of this school year.

Over the next few weeks, our students, staff, parents and community will have several opportunities to weigh in on an ongoing dialogue about the future of PPS. We look forward to receiving insights and advice on how we might tackle the cuts we will need to make. As the Superintendent and Board of PPS, we want to share the criteria on which we will weigh advice on cuts, propose a plan and, with your feedback and support, make the final decisions.

Criteria for determining the cuts to the PPS budget that will be required for 2006-07 include:

1. **Preserve (and, where gaps exist, increase) core educational opportunities for our students**

- Offer a rigorous curriculum and excellent teaching and learning so that every child in every school in every neighborhood is served well and so that they all have access to literacy, math, science, social studies, art, music and wellness programs.
- Sustain the emerging and successful reforms already underway (e.g., **language immersion programs**, high school transformation, Jefferson redesign, advanced coursework, early childhood initiatives).
- Maintain reasonable class sizes and a reasonable school year.



[Important
bullet about
immersion
programs here!](#)

2. **Stabilize PPS for the longer-term**

- Provide a foundation for educational excellence by establishing schools of the size and scale that meet our community's needs and can accommodate the core educational opportunities for our students.
- Position PPS to live within existing resources (i.e., consistent state revenues and a local option at the appropriate time), making strategic choices and using any additional or supplemental resources to increase achievement outcomes and opportunities for students.
- Address the factors that elevate the cost of doing business in PPS, to the extent that they are within our control: old schools, large buildings with relatively few students, rising health care costs. [PERS and student demographics (high cost special needs) are not within our control]

3. **Increase the accountability and performance of central services**

- Continue to ensure the alignment of central services and staff in support of the educational work undertaken in schools, building on the efforts of past years and recent months we will be relentless in pursuit of efficiency and effectiveness.
- To the fullest extent possible, concentrate resources on school and classroom needs.

As we look to the future, it's clear that PPS must reach out to our community and demonstrate that we are worth the investment. In addition, we must work closely with the governor and state legislature to ensure a level of state funding going forward that provides adequacy and stability along with the opportunity for targeted, strategic investments to ensure that our students graduate ready to participate fully in Oregon's growing economy.

How can you get involved in budget discussions for Portland Public Schools? Several public hearings have been set up for the following dates. Time and location have yet to be determined and will be announced in a flyer that we send home as soon as the Board of Education office finalizes plans.

March 8

March 9

March 20

March 21

March 23

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR PRE-K, KINDER & GR. 1

As you know there will be 11 interns coming at the beginning of April. Thanks to some generous JMP families, we have found several host families that are happy to receive an intern into their home. However, we are still looking for **four families** at Richmond.

Please contact Masako Wieber if you are interested. If you have expressed an interest you are willing to host but have not submitted the form yet, please contact Masako. Patsy also has copies of the host family form in the office in case you want one faxed to you or wish to pick one up.



Your home would be a great place for an intern!

ISECE (the organization that helps us find interns in Japan) is anxious to know which intern will be hosted by which family as they have to finalize things. We are still looking for families for the **pre-school, kindergarten and 1st grade** interns.

Your help is very much appreciated.

Thank you very much!

Masako Wieber
masako.w@comcast.net
503-281-0956

UPDATE ON KINDERGARTEN & PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Richmond's first mandatory meeting for parents planning to enroll their child in our pre-school or kindergarten programs in 2006-07 was held this Wednesday with great success. We had prospective parents representing 86 children at our March 1st meetings. Many thanks to the parent and student volunteers who served on our panel of experts:

Jody Little Deb Casey
Shannon Sweet Charlie Lovett (Grant High Student)
Michiko Boutwell Jennifer Snyder
Erin Fisher Brandy Grobart

Enrollment in Richmond's pre-school and kindergarten is

booming! Here are the numbers of applications that have been recorded by the district on-line enrollment system as of Friday, March 3rd:

- **Kindergarten** = 59 children or 79% of enrollment target of 75 students for three kindergarten classes
- **Pre-school** = 15 children or 62% of enrollment target of 24 students for one classroom

Almost 70% of all applications are completed by parents in the last week before the enrollment deadline. We have 21 days until the enrollment deadline on March 24th, so we are in good shape. Yippee!

TIMELINE FOR WRITING RICHMOND'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Yesterday, principals received the new template for school strategic plans and the timeline for delivery to our cluster supervisor. Here's how the timeline applies to us at Richmond:

March 6th—Share template for strategic plan with staff.

March 13th—Share template with Site Council

May 31st—Strategic plan due to Area Director

June 30th—Feedback on strategic plan given to principal

from Area Director

July 15th—Final revision of plan due to Area Director

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Japanese Immersion Program



CALENDAR FOR MARCH 6-

Sun. Mar. 5	2nd Annual Ohanami Festival at the Japanese Garden 3:00-5:30 PM
Tues. Mar. 7	City of Portland Charter Review Commission meeting in Richmond's cafeteria at 2:30-8:00 PM
Wed. Mar. 8	Coffee/tea with principal at 8:50-9:30 AM Trip performance rehearsal 3:00-4:00 PM
Fri. Mar. 10	RICHMOND AUCTION AT Mult. Athletic Club!!! 5:30-11:30 pm
Mon. Mar. 13	Plant sale begins today through Mon. April 3rd Kinder field trip to Children's Museum 9:30 AM-1:00 PM Taiko in cafeteria all day Site Council meeting at 3:15-5:15 PM
Tues. Mar. 14	White Day in Japan (Men give cakes or chocolates to women.) Scrip order day
Wed. Mar. 15	Local business tour day 8:30-10:00 AM Trip performance rehearsal 3:00-4:00 PM General parent meeting 7:00-8:30 PM
Thurs. Mar. 16	End of 2nd trimester grading period Assembly for Richmond students by Montessori kids at 2:10 PM
Fri. Mar. 17	NO SCHOOL-TEACHERS PREPARE REPORT CARDS

PROJECT 2nd WIND STARTS MONDAY, MARCH 6TH

Student Council is proud to announce that they will be sponsoring a service project through the Oregon Food Bank called Project Second Wind. The food drive will take place from March 6th to March 10th. The purpose of the project is for the school to collect food and monies that will be given to the Oregon Food Bank. The Student Council will provide an ice cream party for all classes, if the school reaches its goal of 1,900 lbs.

Richmond students and their families can drop off donations of food during the week of March 6-10, 2006 in large boxes in our cafeteria. The next issues of our newsletter will give readers more specific ideas about the best kind of food donations to bring for Project Second Wind. In the meantime, we've included a quick list for you to keep in mind when you head to Costco or spot grocery sales. Many thanks in advance for your generosity!

OREGON FOOD BANK'S MOST WANTED FOODS

- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, etc.)
- Canned & boxed meals (soup, chili, stew, mac & cheese)
- Peanut butter
- Canned beans & peas (black, pinto, lentils, etc.)
- Pasta, rice, cereal
- Canned fruits
- 100% fruit juice (canned, plastic or boxed container)

PRODUCTS THE FOOD BANK CAN'T USE

- Anything in glass containers
- Rusty or unlabeled cans
- Perishable items
- Homemade items
- Non-commercially canned/packaged items
- Alcoholic beverages, mixes or soda