



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

We received our *preliminary* staff allocation from our district budget office on Monday and the numbers look like this:

2005-06 allocation was 15.00 FTE*

2006-07 allocation is 14.80 FTE

Difference -0.20 FTE

*FTE stands for "full-time equivalent" and refers to the number of full-time staff.

This drop in FTE would have been much worse if we had not been able to increase our kindergarten classrooms by 100% (two to four classes). Our allocation drop for 2006-07 also reflects the loss of the one-time gift of 0.50 FTE by our superintendent to retain one of our Japanese resource teachers last year. All schools lost this temporary staff allocation for 2006-07.

Unlike many other schools, however, we lack a substantial source of Foundation funds to replace the lost FTE. Richmond families have been generous to our Foundation, to be sure, but the total raised to date barely covers one-third the total cost to replace a full-time staff person.

Over the last few years, Richmond has cut the following positions from our program:

- One Child Development Specialist
- Music teacher
- Reading specialist
- Certified librarian
- Two full-time aides

The staff on this list are talented, dedicated teachers who are no longer able to work with and for your children. One of these people, Leslie Strobel, Richmond's former child development specialist, will be honored next month at Lewis & Clark College as one of several distinguished alumni for service to children and the community.

Like a family that is "house poor" because they have purchased more house than they can afford, Richmond is "trip poor" with the majority of money raised at Richmond going to support the 5th grade trip and Oya No Kai. This situation is slowly strangling the staff out of the school.

We have a strong fundraising committee comprised of volunteers from Oya No Kai, PTA, Foundation and parents at large who are working on a master fundraising program for our strategic plan. A final version will be ready next month.

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Portland Public Schools

Friday, April 14, 2006

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Language immersion presentation for parents on Monday, April 17th
- ☺ Spring Festival details
- ☺ Save our Elms Annual Report
- ☺ Kinder Writers

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RAFFLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

To kick off the SPRING FESTIVAL we have a Raffle going on. Each ticket is only \$2.00 or a book of 10 sells for \$18.00.

We have three fabulous prizes:

- 1st prize) Apple ipod 60gb w/ video
- 2nd prize) \$75 Cash
- 3rd prize) Apple ipod 1gb Nano

We would like the students and staff to help sell tickets to *family and friends*, as well. NOTE: Students should never be asked to sell tickets door-to-door, alone, or to strangers.

The tickets will be on sale until April 24th.

Don't miss out on a chance to win great prizes and help support the Japanese Immersion Program.

Parents are also needed to help distribute tickets for sale as well as monitor the sales.

For ticket purchases, sales or to help out, please contact Kim Tanada at (503) 804-9991 or at ktanada@verizon.net.



WHEN IS THE PTA CARNIVAL?

I have had a few parents and students asking if we are going to be doing the annual PTA Carnival, and the answer is yes! This year's carnival is incorporated with Oya No Kai's Spring Festival on April 22nd. We will have a bounce house, sumo suits for "wrestling" and the many games Richmond students have grown to love. (Even the return of "the pocket lady.") Tickets for the carnival will be sold at the Spring Festival. Parent volunteers are needed to make this fun event a success. There will be a sign up list on the PTA board outside the office. Please contact Kristina Kallen with any questions or for volunteer opportunities.

PTA elections were held at the April 12th Oya No Kai meeting and the PTA board for 2006-2007 will be:

Katy Wolk-Stanley and Kristina Kallen, co-PTA Presidents
Satako Moran, Treasurer
Kim Tanada, Secretary

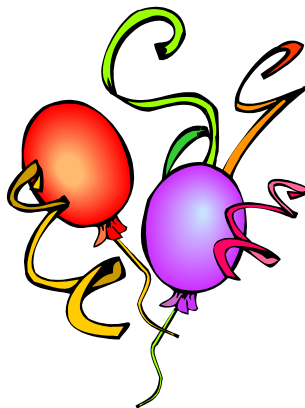
We are still looking for a Vice-President, so if you're looking for a fun way to become involved with Richmond this is your opportunity.

Katy Wolk-Stanley, co-PTA President

"PARTY ON HAWTHORNE" EVENT BENEFITS OUR FOUNDATION

The Hawthorne Blvd Business Assoc. is hosting the 2nd annual "Party On".... Hawthorne, at the Chelsea Ballroom, 1510 SE 8th Ave. 7 to 11 PM, Friday May 12th - \$15, and free for kids 12 or under who are accompanied by an adult.

Richmond will sell tickets for the event and \$5.00 of every ticket will go to the Richmond Foundation. Patsy will collect your ticket orders, so leave them with her in the office.



Besides the Robbie Laws Band & the Blueprints, there will be a huge array of food provided by businesses on Hawthorne, such as 3 Doors Down, Bread & Ink Café, the Italian Joint, Common Grounds, Bowers Bakery & Michelle's Chocolates. Bar is no-host though. This is a fun event to benefit the wonderful neighborhood where our school resides.

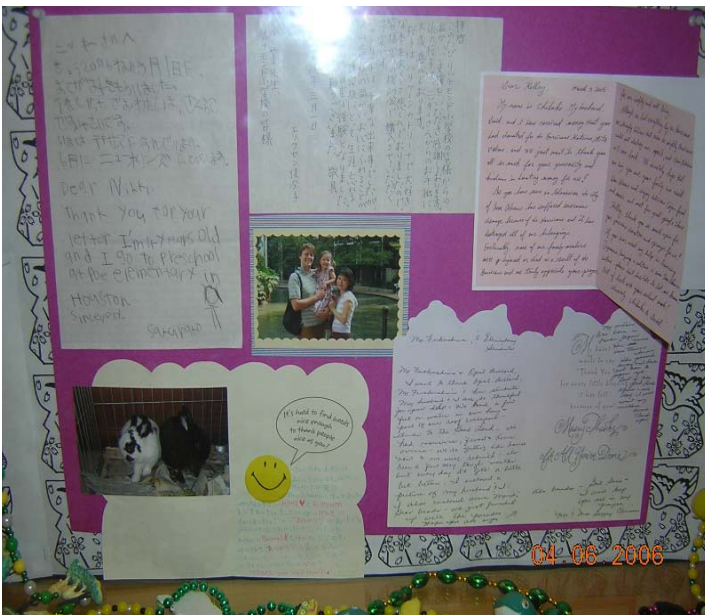
For more information check the web at: www.thinkhawthorne.com

Richmond Hurricane Katrina Relief encouraged many Japanese in New Orleans

I would like to share heart-warming news. Last September the 4th and 5th graders participated in Hurricane Katrina Relief. We raised a little more than \$200 and wrote caring letters to students and teachers of Japanese in New Orleans. Some wrote us back cards and letters to tell us how much our letters and donation encouraged Hurricane Katrina victims. Some even made famous **Mardi Gras Beads** for us and they were displayed in our showcase in front of our office (see the pictures below). They are gorgeous!

Hurricane Katrina deprived many important assets from the victims. Their discouragement was beyond our description. How happy we are to hear that Richmond 4th and 5th graders could help the victims revitalize their energy.

Ando-sensei
4th grade



PTA IS CALLING ALL POETS!

PTA is sponsoring a poetry contest!!! Calling all poets! We need all you poets out there to send in your original, creative, and sparkling poems for our annual poetry contest. First prize is a \$20 gift certificate at our May 30th through June 2 book fair! Second prize is a \$10 gift certificate. Please submit all your poems to Mrs. C in the library, and she and the PTA board will vote on the poems and chose the winners so start writing!!!

ANNUAL REPORT FOR "SAVE OUR ELMS"

Richmond School Save Our Elms		
2005 Annual Report		
Contact person: Jill PUNCHES		
412 NE Hazelfern Place, Portland, 97232		
(503) 233-6075; punches1@msn.com		
Beginning Balance in 2005	\$	62.03
Deposits (all from coffee purchases)	\$	1,130.00
Expenses*	\$	536.65
Ending Balance for 2005	\$	655.38
*Expenses include \$24 in bank fees, \$25 for a hose to water new Dutch Elm-resistant trees and the remainder (\$487.25) went to Portland Roasting for coffee.		
Friends of Trees and the Richmond Neighborhood Association teamed up to provide Richmond School with four Dutch Elm-resistant trees and two Pagoda trees for the school grounds. The Elms replace trees that were lost in the past ten years due to lack of pruning. Several Richmond families participated in a summertime watering program to ensure our new trees remained well-hydrated and healthy.		
Coffee Sales for Richmond School's <i>Save Our Elms</i> program was quiet for the first half of the year. Coffee sales picked up in September, thanks to Richmond parents, Mikiko Mori-Gilles and Paul Gilles, who works for Portland Roasting. Orders are filled on a weekly basis with three varieties of coffee to choose from. As a result our sales for the last three months of 2005 were close to the 2004-2005 school year total of \$390. As of April, 2006, our account has more than \$1,100.		
In mid-April, Mrs. Naylor's 2nd graders will learn about our Elm trees, thanks to the dedication of Nigi Riegler, an education student at Lewis & Clark College who is working with Mrs. Naylor as a student-teacher.		
- submitted by Jill PUNCHES		

FLU SEASON IS STILL WITH US

Richmond's classrooms and office are seeing a high number of sick children with the following symptoms:

- Fever (usually 100+)
- Nausea, vomiting and/or severe stomach aches
- Extreme fatigue

Many children tell us they let one or more caregivers know they were feeling ill prior to coming to school. Please, please do not send your child to school if he/she shows signs of illness. Our classrooms become little flu factories when children are sent to school sick. Thank you, in advance, for helping us keep Richmond students, families and staff as healthy as possible!



SEMI-ANNUAL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

May 30 through June 2 Richmond is hosting our 2nd annual spring book fair. This is a great opportunity to purchase books for your host families for the 5th grade trip to Japan and well as purchasing books for summer reading for your children. Our goal is to raise \$1500 and with your support we can do it!

All the proceeds benefit our library. Please come and join in the fun by volunteering. It is a great way to see what Scholastic has to offer, and you will have the

chance to win one of two \$20 gift certificates offered only to the volunteers. Your name will be entered into the drawing each time you volunteer, so the more times you work the greater your chances of winning the gift certificate!!!

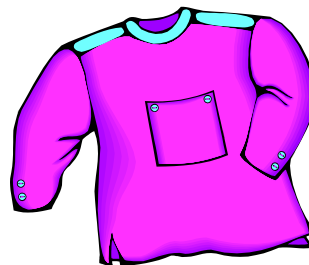


PLEASE CHECK THE LOST & FOUND!

Has your child misplaced a coat, fleece vest, sweat-shirt, t-shirt, jacket, lunch bag, or backpack? If any of the items on this list are missing from your home, the chances are very good that you'll find them hanging on Richmond's lost and found rack.

Where's the lost and found rack at Richmond? You'll find lost clothing and school items awaiting their owners on the rack by the double doors leading to the main building from the cafeteria breezeway. Look to

the left of the double doors just before you walk up the two steps toward the kindergarten classrooms and stairs to the office.



Most kids can barely pronounce the word "chrysanthemum," much less spell it. That doesn't stop the kindergartners in Dana Jacobsen's class from trying it out as best they know how. In a science lesson one day, they observe a magnified image of the chrysanthemum on a TV screen.

"Casafram are fun to dasxavr," 5-year-old Garrett Waggoner pencils in shaky letters next to his drawing of the flower, carefully placing a finger between each word for proper spacing. (Translation: "Chrysanthemums are fun to discover.") Garrett's classmates have equally creative ways to spell words, but in kindergarten, the focus is on trying your "personal best," as Jacobsen likes to remind them several times a day. "I've never had a group that writes like this," said Jacobsen, a veteran teacher at North Portland's Chief Joseph Elementary. "It's the independent, structured work time where they get to write and write and write every day."

She's talking about the latest push for kindergarten literacy that Superintendent Vicki Phillips is supporting in her proposed budget, released last week. The kindergarten literacy initiative comes at a total of \$93,000, a small portion of the \$6.6 million she proposes to spend on new curriculum and materials. Those funds also would buy new science and math textbooks for elementary students, a new high school social studies curriculum and new language arts materials in every grade. The kindergarten materials, which were piloted at a half-dozen schools for a year and first funded district-wide in this year's budget, consist of a teacher's guide called *Kid Writing and Worktime* kits full of literacy activities, and were first used district-wide this year. It's the first time kindergarten teachers across the district have the same core materials to teach class, receive professional training to teach literacy skills and collect their students' work throughout the year to measure their progress.

Susan Enfield, director of the district's Office of Teaching and Learning, says the materials provide equity in the schools for the first time. "In a system this size, it's very hard, unless you have a standardization of materials, (to assure) that every child in every classroom is getting access to the same quality learning experience," she said. "What we're doing is putting the same tools in the every teacher's hands."

Enfield says kindergarten isn't just for playtime anymore, it's an opportunity to give kids a leg up in reading and writing in first grade, which in turn reduces the number of students who later need to take special education or English-as-a-second-language courses to catch up to their classmates. Enfield points to research on children's brain development and case studies that show the clear benefits of pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten, especially for at-risk populations.

"Many children are not coming from a home where there are books around," she said. "Getting them reading and writing at an early age sets them up for success in school. The longer you wait, the harder it is to get them where they need to be." That's the primary reason the district over the past few years has phased in full-day kindergarten programs in all of its schools except one * Glencoe Elementary in Southeast, which chose not to participate because parents were happy with half-day kindergarten. Glencoe Principal Judy Scott said the community recently decided it now wants to begin a full-day program to improve achievement, so the school is starting on a plan to implement it in fall 2007. Scott, who's been with the district for 30 years, said her teachers have enthusiastically received the new literacy push. "The kids are growing. Parents are engaged. It's a big, big improvement," she said.

Fresh approach for teachers—Susan Corey, kindergarten teacher at Faubion Elementary in Northeast Portland, especially appreciates the opportunity for professional development that comes with the literacy curriculum. Faubion was one of the pilot schools to use the book last year to teach phonics, journal-writing and writing lessons. "I think after you've taught for so long, you get stuck in your rut," said Corey, a teacher of 20 years. "It's always good to learn something new. When you're excited, the kids are excited."

Enfield said that for the first time, kindergarten teachers are getting together for training sessions and learning to be resources for one another. "Teaching has for so long been an autonomous profession," she said. "This opens the doors. We want to move people toward asking questions, not feeling shame. That's a shift in the district culture."

The *Worktime* kits are produced by two New Jersey women who are both teachers and moms. They're sturdy, green plastic tubs containing Ziploc bags full of organized literacy lessons in the form of worksheets, games and plastic letter tiles. The colorful and engaging activities, which can be adapted for kids at different skill levels, largely replace the tired workbooks or purple-inked dittos teachers have used for decades.

"Kids are successful when they do it," said Cathy Feldman, one of the partners of New Jersey-based Reach Associates. "It's not just paper and pencil oriented." Lee Kappes, her business partner, said she's gotten a good response overall from teachers in Portland during training sessions. "In some classrooms, there's complete implementation. Other teachers haven't found their comfort level to fit it into their curriculum yet."

Extra work is worth it - Jacobsen has not only embraced it, she's enhanced it with her own learning tools, such as a 63-piece alphabet puzzle she purchased that morning to add to one activity corner. One *Worktime* activity asks students to respond to art by examining a photograph and writing what they see. Another asks them to compare two different flowers displayed in vases on the table, noting which is bigger, which smells better and which color they like better.

"It's a lot of work for a teacher, but it pays off," Jacobsen says. She prepares her students for their journal-writing session each morning by asking them to sit quietly with their eyes closed and imagine what they will write about. They sit, squinting, some covering their eyes with their hands, to focus. When they're done, they turn to a partner and share their ideas. They talk in animated voices about sword fights, dragons, race cars, flower gardens and Hawaiian shirts, since it's Hawaiian Shirt Day at the school. Then it's time to get their journals out and start writing. Jacobsen sits with students and hovers above those who need help, pointing to frequently used words posted around the room. She has her assistant work with a few of her students learning English, and a couple of trained parent volunteers drop by to give individual help to students during journal time. Donna Grobey says her 5-year-old daughter, Kate, started kindergarten knowing how to read but hadn't done much writing before. Now, she says, "at home she'll make a list or write a letter. She'll just go in her room and write."

SPRING FESTIVAL NEWS!

Saturday, April 22nd (11:00 AM-5:00 PM)

On behalf of Oya No Kai and the Richmond PTA we would like to invite you to the 1st Annual Spring Festival at Richmond on Saturday April 22nd from 11:00-5:00. Oya No Kai and Richmond's PTA have collaborated and transformed the Richmond Carnival into a huge all day Japanese Festival. We will have performances throughout the day (see below for the *tentative* schedule). We will have vendors and community groups set up in the halls and classrooms of the 1st floor along with games and activities for children of all ages.

Here are some additional specific events happening during the Spring Festival.

- Kinokuni-ya Book Store (The Annual Japanese Book Fair) will be selling from 11:00-2:00 payments= cash, credit and/or debit card ONLY!!! (no Gift Certificate and no checks).
- After Auction Auction will be taking place in the Volunteer Room, keep your eyes open for the exact time.
- Sogetsu School of Ikebana will be doing a flower arranging demonstration at 12:30-1:00
- We will have two hands on Ikebana classes one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- Sushi Demonstration by Yosh Aoyagi and Tom Miller around 11:00-1:15, times are being confirmed
- A Local Story Teller (look for details)
- Hair painting (temporary) by Nina Perneti from 1:00-3:00
- Card making by Nancy Williams at 3:00

We want this event to grow into a tread that links the Japanese Immersion Program together. We hope to provide exposure to our program as well as create stronger relationships with the Japan-American and Japanese Community. Our festival has been well received and we look forward to a growing level of success.

Stage 1 (inside)

11:30-11:40 Opening Ceremony with Consul General

11:45-12:30 - A-Key-Kyo

12:30-1:00- breakdown

1:00-1:30 - open

1:30-2:00 - open

2:00-2:30 - Seiha Miyabi Kai School of Koto Performance (Seiha Sakai)

2:50-3:20 - Taiko Group "TOKI"

3:30-4:00 - Karate by Shodokan

4:10-4:40 - Obukan Kendo Club

Stage 2 (outside stage)

11:45-12:00 -JMP 2nd grade group 4 (this is earlier than parents have been told so might not work???)

12:10-12:30 - Mochi Pounding

12:40-12:55 - JMP 2nd grade group 1

12:55-1:10 - JMP 1st graders

1:10-1:25 - JMP Kindergarten

1:25-1:40- JMP 2nd grade group 2

1:40-1:55-Japanese Play Group Performance

2:00-2:20 - Mochi Pounding

2:30-2:45 - JMP 2nd grade group 3

2:45-3:00- Sahomi Tachibana Dance -Yoshiko Kamata

3:10-3:30 - Mochi Pounding

3:40-4:00 - 5th grade Taiko Performance

4:10-4:30 - 5th grade Performance

4:30 -5:00- 8th grade Performance

WE NEED volunteers please contact Kristina Kallen at 503.282.4435 or e-mail her at kmk456@comcast.net we would appreciate the help.

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program



CALENDAR FOR APRIL 14–30, 2006

- Mon. Apr. 17 Dr. Mimi Met's presentation for parents on immersion education at 7:00-8:30 PM in the cafeteria
- Tues. Apr. 18 5th grade taiko practice in cafeteria 3:00-5:00 PM
- Wed. Apr. 19 Cultural series class for 5th grade 6:45-8:30 PM in cafe
- Sat. Apr. 22 SPRING FESTIVAL AT RICHMOND! 11:00AM–5:00PM
- Tues. Apr. 25 Scrip order day
Auction Planning Mtg. 7:00 PM Cafeteria
- Wed. Apr. 26 Spelldown at Richmond for all district 4th gr. 1-3:00 PM
Cultural series class for 5th grade 6:45-8:30 PM in cafe
- Fri. Apr. 28 Scrip pick up day

LANGUAGE IMMERSION SPECIALIST SPENDS DAY AT RICHMOND ON MONDAY, APRIL 17TH

Please join us Monday, April 17th at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria for a presentation about strategies for parents to support language immersion education at home. This presentation will be given by Dr. Myriam Met, a nationally recognized expert on language learning and immersion programs. She will have lots of time for parents to ask questions.

Prior to her evening presentation, Dr. Met will work with teams of Richmond teachers on instructional practices for immersion programs that have proven highly effective in schools across the country. Here's her schedule for the day:

- Morning—work with teachers in grades K-2
- Afternoon—work with teachers in grades 3-5 plus Mt. Tabor JMP teachers
- Late afternoon—staff meeting with Dr. Met to debrief

key issues and finalize list of profession training needs for our strategic plan

- Evening presentation with Richmond parents

Dr. Myriam Met is a Senior Research Associate, National Foreign Language Center, University of Maryland, where her work focuses primarily on K-12 foreign language policy. Her previous positions include supervisor of foreign language programs K-12, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and bilingual education for major urban and suburban school districts. Mimi is co-chair of the New Visions in Foreign Language Education and currently serves on the Executive Council of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. She has been a president of the National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages and a founding member, and later president, of the National Network for Early Language Learning.