



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

Over the next few weeks you will see several key initiatives come together to comprise a total school improvement plan for Richmond. The first initiative is the final staff plan for 2006-07. Here's a quick summary of the information and plans I have so far:

- Richmond's staff plan for 2006-07 will be complete by the end of April. On Monday, April 10th I expect to receive the details about the number of staff positions allocated for Richmond next year.
- Our Site Council and staff will see the allocation next week and I will publish the details in the April 14th newsletter.
- Our Superintendent's recommended budget for 2006-07 keeps school staff allocations at the same level as 2005-06 with one exception for Richmond: removal of one half-time position given to Richmond for this year only. This position is filled by one of our Japanese Resource Teachers and you have heard me explain

the temporary status for this position since September.

- Richmond's enrollment will grow by almost 100 students next year. This growth will be factored into our staff allocation and plan.
- Parents and staff had several opportunities to offer feedback for our staff plan. You responded to a lengthy survey in February with questions about your staffing preferences. Results from that survey are published in this newsletter and will be used to guide decisions about our staff plan for 2006-07.
- Richmond staff will see the draft staff plan on Monday, April 24 and have time to offer feedback. Parents will have two opportunities to offer feedback on the revised plan before it goes to our Area Director. The short article below contains the details.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

PARENT INFO. SESSIONS BUDGET/STAFFING

Two opportunities have been set up to give parents a chance to hear about Richmond's budget and staffing proposal for 2006-07 and offer feedback before the final plan goes to our Area Director at the end of April.

Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00—8:30 PM

Wednesday, April 26 at 8:45—10:00 AM

Both sessions will be in the cafeteria.

Portland Public Schools

Friday, April 7, 2006

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Find out how you can get involved in the next auction!
- ☺ Learn about the results from the Feb. parent survey.
- ☺ Read about the fun planned for our Spring Festival April 22nd!

Inside this issue:

Oya No Kai Board	2
Auction Proceeds	2
Enrollment Update	3
Gen. Parent Meeting	3
Auction 2007	4
Spring Festival News	5
Parent Survey Results	6

OYA NO KAI BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Oya No Kai is recruiting for new board members. We have 5 slots to fill. The elections will be held 5/18 at Richmond. These are for 2 year terms. The board meets once a month, year around. Most board members also head up a committee (ie. hospitality, cultural, communications, fundraising, program, homestay/intern, richmond school exchange program, mt. Tabor middle school, grant high school and nominating committees).

The Oya No Kai board consists of 11 total directors and/or officers including President, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. The board is the governing body of ONK that makes decisions regarding how money is spent on cultural support, interns, 5th grade cultural exchange, JMP classroom support (Richmond, Mt Tabor and Grant), & Westwind. We work closely with administrators of the

JMP to promote the well-being of the program. We oversee fundraising events such as Scrip, gift wrap, poinsettia and plant sales, Chinook Books and the auction. We also support Kurabu summer camp activities, ESL classes (for interns), homework club, and the 8th grade research residency.

If you are interested and want to know more about the duties of a board member, please email monica at monica_mueller@hotmail.com. We also would like to invite interested folks to come to our April 25th board meeting at 7pm which will be held at board member Liz Evans home. We especially need parents of Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students for these positions.

Sincerely,
Monica Mueller
Oya no kai president

AUCTION SALES TOP \$108,000

What we have all been waiting for since March 10th. Drum roll please.....the auction sales were \$89,000 in addition to \$19,000 for the intern fund. We are not done yet—we still have the after auction sale on April 22 with the Spring Festival.

With this year's auction we had the MOST ticket sales, the MOST money raised for the interns, and the MOST overall school involvement. This proves that an auction with proceeds that benefit all grades at Richmond can be

a tremendous success. We know this is the beginning of many more successful auctions. Pulling together as a total school for the benefit of the Foundation, interns and 5th grade trip really made this auction a big success.

Thanks to everyone who played a part in making this auction successful. Now we know what we can accomplish when we work together.

WORD PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Kara was playing a video game. On the video game, Kara had to walk 60 yards to get to her boat. If she had already walked $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way, how many more feet did Kara have to walk?

My answer is _____
Name _____
Grade _____

Problem written by Hana Stillnaker, grade 4



Solve this week's math problem and enter to win a math puzzle book!

Cut out this week's word problem and your answer and place your entry in the math problem box in the main office. The drawing for the weekly prize winner occurs every Thursday afternoon!

UPDATE ON ENROLLMENT/TRANSFER NUMBERS

GOOD NEWS!!! The number of families wishing to enroll their child(ren) in our Japanese immersion program for the 2006-07 school year continued to climb right before the March 24th deadline. Here are the numbers of families wishing to enroll their child at Richmond next year:

Grades 1-3 = 15 students (7 at 1st, 5 at 2nd, and 3 at 3rd)

Kindergarten = 98 students (79 students listed for 1st place, 19 students listed for 2nd/3rd place)

Pre-school (full day) = 30 students

Pre-school (half day) = 22 students

Portland Public Schools plans to re-open the transfer process at the end of April/beginning of May to give families another chance to consider transfer options if they live in school neighborhoods that have been identified for closure or reconfiguration. We do not anticipate final enrollment numbers to be available prior to June.

What does this mean for the number and size of classes next year?

- We have enough kindergarteners for four classes of 19-20 students each without an aide. We need 23 students per class to qualify for an aide.
- We have enough preschoolers for two classes!
- Richmond's enrollment will grow by a minimum of 27-33% or 83-102 students, giving us a total enrollment of approximately 392-411 students next year.



WHO IS THIS MYSTERY PERSON?

This gorgeous picture on the left was taken at Mochitsuki. Can you guess who this person really is? Here are a few hints:

- She's an avid runner.
- She loves to travel and will be heading to Japan this summer with the annual 5th grader trip.
- She has served on Richmond's Site Council for two years and is the Council chairperson this school year.
- She has been a teacher at Richmond since 2002.

GENERAL PARENT MEETING—Wed. April 12th at 6:30 PM

Please mark your calendar for our April parent meeting on Wednesday, April 12th from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Richmond cafeteria. Babysitting will be provided and a wonderful dinner will be available from Peggy St. John, a 3rd grade parent and part owner of the Ironhorse Restaurant. The menu will include chicken enchiladas and cheese enchiladas, black beans, rice, salsa and chips for \$3.00 a plate.

Meet our 11 new interns from Japan
See a movie from the 2004 5th grade Cultural Exchange
Vote for next year's PTA officers
Hear Kathryn Anderson give an update on strategic planning and Richmond's staff allocation for 2006-07
Receive an update on the Richmond Foundation
Hear what Oya No Kai has been doing for the JMP

The agenda for the evening gives you an opportunity to...

See you on April 12th!

Auction 2006 Going, Going, GONE! Auction 2007 Coming, Coming, SOON!

Congratulations to this year's auction committee on a fun and successful auction! Thank you for your hard work.

Believe it or not, it is time to begin thinking of next year's auction. Like this year, it will be a school-wide auction. That means the money will help fund the 5th grade class trip, Oya No Kai and our fabulous interns AND the Richmond Foundation.

So many areas of expertise are needed to make the 2007 auction another smashing success.

Are you a big-event, party-loving organizer?

Are you a financial budgeting wizard?

Are you a million-dollar generating sales person? (We want you!)

Are you a creative wonder? (Graphic arts? Decorations? Flower arranging? Other?)

Are you a computer or technical expert? (Word processing? Spreadsheets? Slide shows? Sound production? Other?)

Are you a "worker bee" willing to roll up your sleeves and help as needed?

Whatever your skills and knowledge might be we need YOU to make next year's auction great.

The first 2007 auction-planning meeting will be **Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00pm** in the Richmond cafeteria.

Please come with your ideas, questions, words of wisdom and volunteering spirit.

One more note: Although no decisions have been made regarding next year's venue, the MAC club has penciled Richmond in for Saturday, March 17. Steve Dorsey has also penciled us in for that night as our auctioneer. If you have ideas for an auction venue please share them.

E-mail "worker bee" Jody Little littlej@qwest.net or "worker bee" Melanie Scheuermann wmdrj@quik.com with your comments, questions or commitments.

Richmond's Spring Festival

Starting a new JMP tradition. One you won't want to miss!

Saturday, April 22

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(Consul-General of Japan at Oregon opening festivities at 11:30 a.m.)

Participate in contemporary and traditional Japanese activities and entertainment.

Meet representatives from citywide Japanese organizations.

Enjoy Japanese food and art.

Activities will include Gyotaku (fish printing), Mochi pounding (rice cake), Ikebana (flower arranging), Sumi-e (brush painting), calligraphy, origami (paper folding), tea demonstration with samples, carnival games. Entertainment throughout the day on two community stages including traditional dance, Taiko, martial arts demonstrations, Japanese pop music. Have fun on the Velcro Wall (participants wearing Velcro jumpsuits stick, upside down, on an inflatable wall), Sumo Wrestling (in inflatable Sumo suits), Surfing Machine and Bounce House.

Be part of the tradition. We need volunteers to:

- ❖ Give 20-minute sushi demonstrations throughout the day?
- ❖ Make four clear donation boxes (12 x 12 x 12) with lockable lids/slots on top
- ❖ Run a Calligraphy booth
- ❖ Work a 1 to 2 hour shift the day of the festival

We need your connections for:

- ❖ Vendors to sell Japanese-related items. Tables are \$25 and we request 25 percent of sales.
- ❖ Japanese organizations or companies that would like to be represented. Tables are \$25.
- ❖ Japanese restaurants or vegetarian restaurants to donate "to go" lunches that will be sold at the Festivals. We will display their menus and make sure Festival goers know the source of their wonderful meal.
- ❖ A loan of commercial size rice cookers to use throughout the day.
- ❖ Bonsai specialists who can do demonstrations.

Contact:

- ❖ Meg Matsushima at 503-720-9915 or megmatsushima@comcast.net
- ❖ Tim Tanada at 503-804-9991. terryngirlz@comcast.net

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Japanese Magnet Program



CALENDAR FOR APRIL 7-28, 2006

- Mon. Apr. 10 Site Council mtg. at 3:15-5:15 PM
- Tues. Apr. 11 Scrip order day
Mad Science classes start at 3:00-4:00 PM
- Wed. Apr. 12 Trip performance rehearsal at 3:00-4:00 PM
General parent mtg. at 6:30 PM in Cafeteria
Chaperone mtg. at 7:00 PM in Library
- Fri. Apr. 14 Scrip pick up day
- Mon. Apr. 17 Dr. Mimi Mets 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

PTA NEWS

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make "Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week" and "Run for the Arts" the huge success that they were. The PTA box has been stuffed with thank you notes from the teachers who really appreciated the Richmond community's effort.

Thank you!

The PTA Board has one opening for the 2006-2007 school year. The position of vice-president is vacant and needs to be filled. The PTA meets monthly to organize volunteer efforts and different Richmond events. We are an extremely open board looking for parents who want to make a positive difference in our children's school. (It is

very fun, with much laughing.) If you are at all interested, please contact Katy Wolk-Stanley or Kristina Kallen in person or by e-mail. We'd love to have you join the PTA leadership team!

Katy Wolk-Stanley
Co-PTA President
dalekaty@spiritone.com