



Richmond Newsletter

www.richmondjmp.org

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

This issue of the weekly newsletter contains the draft of the strategies for our new school improvement plan. This draft includes all revisions by Richmond's full staff and our Site Council during their meetings in the last few weeks. Each objective includes the people and/or groups that have been recommended to be responsible for the work. As always, your feedback is greatly appreciated about the content of this draft. Please do not hesitate

to share your ideas, thoughts, etc.

I will be out of town next week to be with my parents during my father's open heart surgery. Shawn Garnett, assistant principal at Mt. Tabor Middle School, will be at Richmond to take care of everyone during my absence. Ms. Garnett is an outstanding administrator who understands the needs of the JMP. I know you will enjoy working with her.

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM OUR PTA

Congratulations to our Scholastic Book Fair poetry contest winners! First place goes to Ryan Little in first grade for "New York City." Second place was a tie between fourth grader Ryen Parno's "Autumn" and second grader Juliet Kallen's "Beach." Ryan Little will receive \$20 to spend at the book fair May 30 through June 2, and Ryen Parno and Juliet Kallen will receive \$10 each to spend. All entries were terrific so hats off to everyone!!!

In support of our strategic plan, the Richmond PTA is endorsing the auction for next year allocates 25% of the proceeds to staffing. As you know, we have lost funding for our Japanese Resources teachers. However, their work does not go away, and we need to find ways to become partners in outreach to the Japanese community as

well as to the community at large. With 25% of funds allocated to staffing, we could begin a "building back" phase of our strategic plan to include a music program, an art program, a counselor, and a reading specialist. These are all essential services that are vital to a child's development. We also need a part-time development director to assist us in achieving our district-mandated mission to grow the program each year. Providing our students with a well-rounded education is our commitment to our students, our parents, and our staff.

Sincerely,
Kristina Kallen, Copresident
Katy Wolk-Stanley, Copresident
Satoko Moran, Treasurer
Kim Tanada, Secretary

Portland Public Schools

Friday, May 12, 2006

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

- ☺ Nippon Express USA (\$1000)
- ☺ Abby Taylor Designs (\$500)
- ☺ Yoko's Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar (\$250)
- ☺ P & A Metal Fab (\$250)

Inside this issue:

Chicken Pox Update	2
M.U.S.E. Concert	3
Rose Parade News	4
Host Families Needed	5
Draft Strategic Plan	6-8
2nd Grade Picture	9
Transfer Window	10

From Your School Nurse, Kathleen Wecks, RN

There have been a couple cases of Chicken Pox at Richmond Elementary School in the last week. Is this unusual? No. Should anyone be concerned? No, not unless your immune system is compromised, such as during chemotherapy.



Recent studies of outbreaks indicate that the vaccine is 85% effective in preventing a mild case of Chicken Pox (Less than 50 lesions) and 98% effective in preventing a severe case of Chicken Pox. Considering Richmond's population of ~300 students, it would not be unusual to have 45 students show signs of Chicken Pox.

The studies of outbreaks among vaccinated children state that the first case was often not identified because it was so mild that there was no indication of disease. Subsequent cases may show up with only 2+ lesions, no fever, and no other identifiable signs of illness. Chicken Pox is contagious before any spots show up, therefore, it is very difficult to prevent the spread to others.

What should we do? Watch children and adults for skin rash identified by a reddened raised spot typically found on face, neck, chest, or back first. The lesion may be mistaken for a pimple. The spot may develop into a blister and crust before disappearing. Once a lesion has been found, that student should stay home until all lesions have appeared and crusted.

All medical conditions are to be kept confidential. No student should be singled out for having chicken pox. Frequently Asked Questions from the Center for Disease Control appear below (in brief) and are available at this link:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/varicella/default.htm>

Is the vaccine effective in preventing chickenpox all the time?

No vaccine is 100% effective in preventing disease. For chickenpox vaccine, about 8 to 9 out of every 10 people who are vaccinated are completely protected from chickenpox. The vaccine almost always prevents against severe disease. If a vaccinated person does get chickenpox, it is usually a very mild case with fewer skin lesions (usually less than 50) lasting only a few days, no fever or a low fever, and few other symptoms.

There have been lots of cases of chickenpox at my child's school over the past month. Is it too late to have my child vaccinated?

No, it is not too late to vaccinate your child if she/he has not previously had chickenpox or the vaccine. In schools and child care centers, it may take many months for chickenpox to spread to every classroom. At any stage of an outbreak, all susceptible children and adults should be vaccinated.

How long does the vaccine protect someone against chickenpox? Will a booster vaccination be needed?

The length of protection/immunity from any new vaccine is never known when it is first introduced. However, available information collected from persons vaccinated in Japan in the United States show that protection has lasted for as long as the vaccinated persons have been followed (25 years in Japan and more than 10 years in the U.S.). Follow up studies to determine how long protection will last and to evaluate the need and timing for booster vaccination, are on-going. If it is determined in the future that a booster dose is necessary, your health care provider will inform you. Currently, no booster dose is recommended.

Have cases of chickenpox declined in the United States since chickenpox vaccine became available?

Yes, cases have declined dramatically. Since 1995, CDC, in collaboration with Los Angeles County, Texas and Philadelphia health departments, has been monitoring chickenpox cases in these 3 areas in the United States. As use of the vaccine has increased, chickenpox cases have declined substantially.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE CPPS ANNUAL MEETING!

When: Sunday, June 4, 2006 from 3-5 PM

Where: Kennedy School Community Room, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue

Agenda: We are inviting a couple of school board members for informal discussion. Bring your questions and comments on public process, the upcoming community conversations, a possible November local option campaign, or other items.

- Preview the CPPS parent involvement survey
- Help set CPPS priorities for the coming year
- Election of CPPS board members

Good food, good conversation, good company, all for a good cause: our kids and our schools.

CPPS - 503.220.0577; cpps@cppsportland.org



JUST A FEW TICKETS LEFT FOR THE ROSE CITY RACE

We have 6 tickets left! Tickets are \$40 per team and 100% of the proceeds go directly to Oya No Kai. This is a great way to support our school while having a great time around Portland! The start location will be disclosed Friday, May 19th.

The ROSE CITY RACE is a unique urban adventure that 4 Portland parents have organized just for Portland! 100% of the proceeds go to Portland Public Schools. You will visit more places and learn more about Portland in 1 day than you ever thought possible. 2-person teams will run, walk and use public transit to find RacePoints throughout Portland. RacePoints will test teams with a variety of fun and adventurous challenges. Grab a family member, friend

or intern and come join us for a day of adventure in Portland! There will be prizes and a CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY!!!!

Race Day: Saturday, May 20th

Race Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

After Race Party: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Age requirement: Must be 16 or older

Ticket Price: Tickets are \$40 per team (2-person teams)

Payment: Check is made out to Oya No Kai

Registration: If you would like to register or have questions please contact: Sarah Stephens at (503) 788-3980

or <mailto:rosecityrace@gmail.com>

rosecityrace@gmail.com.

M.U.S.E CONCERT ON MAY 21st

The M.U.S.E. Band students will have their spring concert on Sunday, May 21 at Wilson High School. Beginning Band students perform at 1:00 and the intermediate and advanced bands perform at 3:00 PM. Students from all 22 schools will be in attendance performing as one large ensemble. The M.U.S.E. Honor Band will be featured at both concerts. Students who placed in the M.U.S.E. Solo and Ensemble Festival will be announced as well as the bands that placed at this years M.U.S.E. Band Festival. We are all looking forward to our participation in the Junior Rose Parade next year as well.

Pre-registration for M.U.S.E. classes is in full swing.

Forms will be sent to the school office and are also available on our website at www.museband.com. Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Bryant Allard

M.U.S.E

503-296-7713

info@museband.com,

FORM NEEDED FOR STUDENTS TO MARCH IN PARADE

OOPS! WE NEED LIABILITY FORMS FOR THE PARADE...

Parents, please pick up a liability form from the table outside of the office and fill it out for your children if you are even thinking about joining the Japanese Immersion Program in the parade. Only a legal guardian can fill this out for the child participant.

If your child will be cared for by someone else, you still need to fill out the form and turn it into the office. We need to meet at the area at 12:30pm sharp. You may bring your lunches to eat before the parade begins. Please make sure restroom breaks have been taken. We will be marching in the whole parade, from start (NE 56th & NE Thompson area) to finish (at Grant High School).

Don't forget to make a flag to wave in the parade! The dancers are practicing twice a week and doing so well! This is exciting...if you have any questions, please contact Melanie, 503-775-2865, wmdrj@quik.com.



KIDS JAM!

Improv Music Class is going well. We have 8 students from almost all grades and we have learned several scales and chord progressions and played rhythms to them. The school has a great collection of marimbas which offer an excellent way to learn keyboard and drumming skills simultaneously. The instructor provides tap shoes for the kids who want to experiment with rhythm tap dance as part of the jamming experience (not required).

On Saturday, May 20th at 3:30 pm the kids are invited to jam with me on the "Greasy Kid's Stuff" stage at the Alberta Art Hop, on NE Alberta Street.

We meet after school on Tuesdays and we have 4 more classes so it is not too late to join in! For more info or to sign up contact Michael Conley at 503-287-3459 or email tappercession@yahoo.com The fee for the class is \$30 for 4 weeks.

M.U.S.E. PARENT MEETING

We have a "New Parent Meeting" scheduled for our band and string programs at two different locations and dates. The following schools will have a cluster meeting on Wednesday, May 24 at 7pm at Alameda Elementary:

Alameda
Archbishop Howard
Irvington
Rose City Park

If parents cannot come that night they are invited to our other cluster meeting on Monday, May 22 7pm at St. Ignatius School:

All Saints
St. Ignatius
Holy Family
Richmond
Llewellyn
Winterhaven



Parents can come to either meeting.

HOST FAMILIES FOR INTERNS NEEDED FOR SUMMER

A big thank you for the current host families for taking in our Japanese interns. They are happy to have such nice families and are getting used to school and life here. Still, our ongoing effort to find host families for the interns continues.

We are looking for possibly up to five families from August. I understand that some of you out there might have some family trips planned and might not know what you are doing in August and September. But we can work out minor issues. Some families are willing to host an intern for a shorter period of time, which we might be able to arrange if you are concerned about working around a fixed schedule.

Please let me or Deanne know if you are interested in

hosting an intern from August - November. Having interns in the classroom is a very crucial part of the immersion program, and our children directly benefit from their assistance in the class!

Your support will be deeply appreciated.

Masako Wieber
ONK intern helper



WARM WEATHER WEAR



The warm spring weather is finally here! To keep everyone safe and healthy following are some reminders on appropriate dress at school:

- No flip flops (not safe on playground or in PE)
- No spaghetti straps
- No undershirt-type tank tops
- Shorts and skirts need to be no shorter than about 2 inches above the knee
- No inappropriate sayings or pictures on t-shirts

And finally, we do live in Oregon, so it may still rain; bring a light jacket!

Thanks!

DEPOSIT DUE FOR 5TH GRADE TRIP

The 4th deposit for the fifth grade trip to Japan is due Wednesday, May 17th. Mail your deposit to the Oya No Kai post office box or bring it to the cultural series meeting on the same day.

Parents are required to attend the last 15 minutes of the Wednesday, May 17th cultural class to learn about the

yen exchange form. Please plan to attend!

Oya No Kai, Inc.
P. O. Box 14392
Portland, OR 97293

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - ACHIEVABLE GOALS

Writing (targets set by District):

- Increase the percentage of students who meet/exceed writing standards to 71.4%.
- Reduce the percentage of students scoring low/very low on writing standards by 10% for a total of 14.5% or less.
- Increase the percentage of students who exceed the writing standards by 10% for a total of 6.5% or more.

Reading:

- A minimum of 98% of Richmond 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will meet or exceed the Oregon reading/language arts standards.

Mathematics:

- A minimum of 98% of Richmond 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will meet or exceed the Oregon math standards.

Japanese:

- A minimum of 98% of Richmond students (grades K-5) will meet each of the Japanese language benchmarks for listening, speaking, writing, and reading.

Art:

- 100% of Richmond students will meet or exceed grade level expectations for their participation in all aspects of art (music, visual, drama, and dance) including experiences that reflect culture and art from Japan and other countries.

Assessment to Inform Instruction:

- Divide required assessments between English and Japanese teachers to share results about student progress and equally distribute assessment workload.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

DRAFT Strategic Plan Objectives

Establish team leaders for Primary and Intermediate teachers to lead monthly team meetings. Use extended responsibility pay to compensate team leaders for time (classroom teachers and principal).

Change committee focus and structure to support goals and objectives of the strategic plan. Details per staff discussion and consensus (classroom teachers, support staff and principal).

Prioritize at least 50% of professional development days for English and Japanese language teams to work on the following projects (classroom teachers and principal):

- Revise Japanese curriculum to include pre-school strand
- Refine and coordinate work in the cultural section to the plan for Richmond's cultural center
- Writing framework for pre-school to grade 5 across both languages

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Create a comprehensive menu of art, culture and athletic experiences offered pre-school to grade 5 within the school day (Japanese Resource Teachers to complete before June 2006).

Create a comprehensive menu of art, culture and athletic classes offered at Richmond during the summer and before or after school. Design a booklet with description, schedule and cost for each activity. Establish one registration form and payment system for classes (Japanese Resource Teachers to complete before June 2006).

Coordinate and support practicum students (principal and classroom teachers).

Revise format and day for monthly morning assemblies (principal, classroom teachers, PE teacher, Library aide).

Prepare a design plan for a Japanese Cultural Center & Garden at Richmond. Design plan includes physical space, program plans, fundraising strategies and partnerships necessary to implement (parent leaders and principal).

PARTNERSHIPS & PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Facilitate volunteer recruitment, leadership, and scheduling (PTA).

Provide volunteer training to support writing instruction (PPS literacy specialist, classroom teachers, principal).

Complete new parent handbook (principal).

Develop a PreK-5 curriculum map for all subjects (principal).

Continue parent curriculum night in Fall (classroom teachers).

Expand partnerships with groups in Portland's Japanese community (principal, Site Council, parent groups).

Collaborate with school-based partners (e.g. Foundation, Oya No Kai, PTA) on school-wide initiatives (principal and Site Council).

Coordinate host family recruitment for interns (Oya No Kai).

DRAFT Strategic Plan Objectives

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION

Improve cleanliness via increased diligence with custodial service and daily classroom cleaning by students (all).

Paint hallways and classrooms (parent volunteers and principal).

Expand classroom displays of student artwork on a monthly basis (classroom teachers).

Improve school grounds with permanent artwork, a Japanese garden and landscaping (Cultural Committee).

Replace playground structure (PTA playground committee).

MARKETING & RECRUITMENT

Pursue formal school name change with PPS Board of Education to better reflect the school-wide immersion program (Site Council and principal).

Revise packets for prospective parents (parent, teacher and community volunteers).

Revise packets for community & business partners (parent, teacher and community volunteers).

Continue refinement of new website (Jean M. and principal).

Provide Japanese fluency assessment to determine eligibility of students wishing to enter program in grades 1-5 (Japanese teachers).

Maintain training and coordination of docents for Wednesday tours. Conduct tours once per month October to December and weekly January to March or until transfer deadline closes (Oya No Kai).

Continue participation in community festivals, fairs, and school expos (e.g. Oban, Japan Festival, Mochitsuki, etc.) with professional displays of school artifacts (principal, parent volunteers, high school JMP for community service credit).

Solicit articles about Richmond for professional education journals and local news media (principal and Site Council).

DRAFT Strategic Plan Objectives

FUNDRAISING

Expand grant writing to support strategic plan's goals/objectives (principal).

Increase individual pledges to Foundation (Foundation).

Increase corporate pledges/sponsorships to Foundation and school (Foundation).

Transfer auction proceeds to Foundation over six years (Site Council and principal).

Collaborate on Spring Festival with school community groups and partners (Oya No Kai and principal).

Transfer all planning and coordination of 5th grade trip to Oya No Kai due to lack of non-classroom staff to do this work (principal).

Collaborate with Oya No Kai on grants to provide funding for trip scholarships for students and chaperones (principal and Oya No Kai).

PICTURE FROM CHILDREN'S DAY PERFORMANCE

Ami, the 2nd grade intern, took this photo at the Sunday, May 7th Children's Day performance at the Japanese Garden. There were about 30 students who sang under Mogi Sensei's direction for two performances. The songs included the traditional "Koi no bo ri" about the koi kites flying over the roof tops, "donguri koro koro" rolling acorn, and "Klarineto kowashichata" the broken clarinet.



Portland Public Schools

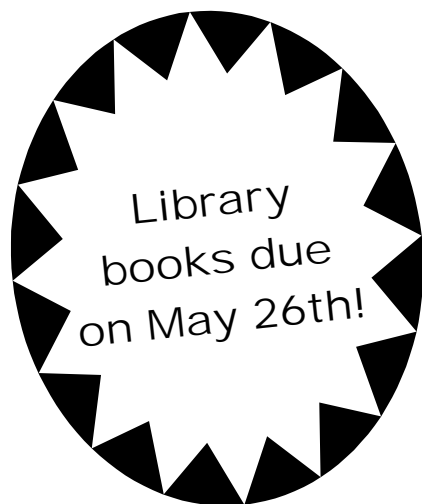
2276 SE 41st Street
Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 503-916-6220

Fax: 503-916-2665

Website: www.richmondjmp.org

Japanese Magnet Program



CALENDAR FOR MAY 12-31ST

Fri. May 12	Transfer applications available in paper and online (see below) Party on Hawthorne benefit for Richmond Foundation
Mon. May 15	Taiko practice in cafeteria for grade 3 at 9:00-10:50 AM and grade 4 at 1:00-2:50 PM
Tues. May 16	1st grade field trip to see Charlotte's Web at 9:00 AM
Wed. May 17	5th grade cultural series in cafeteria at 6:45-8:30 PM
Thurs. May 18	Author/illustrator Randy Emberlin assembly for K-2 at 12:30-1:30 PM and grades 3-5 at 1:45-2:45 PM
Mon. May 22	Scrip order day Kinder and 5th graders to Zoo at 9:30 AM—1:30 PM Deadline for transfer applications (see below) Taiko practice in cafeteria for grade 3 at 9:00-10:50 AM and grade 4 at 1:00-2:50 PM
Tues. May 23	2nd Grade to Tryon Creek State Park 9:30-1:30 PM Young Audiences assembly for K-2 at 1:45 PM
Wed. May 24	5th grade cultural series in cafeteria at 6:45-8:30 PM
Thurs. May 25	Safety Patrol Picnic at Oaks Park 9:30 AM—2:00 PM
Fri. May 26	Scrip pick up day & Camp Westwind starts May 27-29th!
Mon. May 29	Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
Tues. May 30	Volunteer Appreciation at 6:30 PM in cafeteria

TRANSFER WINDOW OPEN AGAIN MAY 12-22

Portland Public Schools will re-open the transfer process on May 12th through May 22nd to allow families a second chance to transfer to the school of their choice. Here's the timeline:

- May 8th Letter of notification mailed to all parents of elementary and middle school students
- May 12th Online and paper applications available
- May 16th Richmond mandatory meeting at 7-8:30 PM
- May 22nd Application deadline
- May 23rd Richmond mandatory meeting at 7-8:30 PM
- June 9th Lottery results mailed to families

- June 15th Deadline for families to withdraw from approved transfer

Families who applied for a transfer by the original March 24th deadline should not submit another application if their school choices have not changed.

Web information at: www.schoolchoice.pps.k12.or.us