



Richmond Newsletter

Letter from our Interim Principal

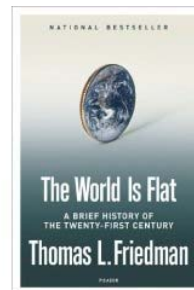
Dear Richmond Families,

One of the best things about being the principal at Richmond has been the opportunity to hear many success stories about graduates of Richmond's Japanese Magnet Program. Just this morning, Charlie McAllister, a district employee from our facilities department, was at Richmond to check on our elevator and stopped to tell me about his daughter. He explained that despite the fact that his family had needed to move to another district in the Portland metro area during his daughter's high school years, he attributed her academic success to the excellent academic foundation laid by Richmond's teachers in the JMP. Mr. McAllister's daughter has won national math and science awards and continues to excel with Japanese proficiency. "Richmond is an A+, number one school," said Mr. McAllister. I couldn't agree more.

As I listened to Mr. McAllister this morning I was struck by his description of the strong link between language proficiency and strong math/science achievement. This link has been well documented by research.

The current book on my nightstand, *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman (2005), describes the positive effects of second language, math and science proficiency for students and society. If you haven't read Mr. Friedman's book, I encourage you to take a look. He provides a powerful rationale for language immersion programs and offers food for thought to enrich our strategic plan and our instructional program at Richmond.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Anderson,
Interim Principal



Portland Public Schools

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Contact Us:

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

keanders@pps.k12.or.us

Patsy Burke, Secretary

pburke1@pps.k12.or.us

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Take the Budget Quiz!

Portland Public Schools has a short budget quiz to help community members gauge their level of understanding about how your local school is funded. It can be a good starter for where folks are on the state of our budget. This is the link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/recipient/survey-intro.zqi?p=WEB224FMFE55XX>



BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT IS TUESDAY, SEPT. 20TH

Are you interested in learning more about Richmond's achievement, school budget, staffing, parent groups, volunteer opportunities, strategic planning or district support for our school? If your answer is "Yes!" to any of these questions, then plan on coming to Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00 -8:00 PM.

The purpose of this evening is to give families an opportunity to get acquainted with our wonderfully supportive parent groups and our new principal, Kathryn Anderson.

Teachers regret that classrooms will not be open for Back-to-School. All of us value the informal parent/teacher/student time this event traditionally offers, but we are faced with huge budget challenges this year and

lack the means to pay teachers to attend another evening event. Curriculum Night, on Thurs. October 6th will be the time for teachers and parents to gather in classrooms to learn more about Richmond's curriculum and the classroom program.

Agenda for Back-to-School Night

6:00-7:00 PM Family picnic on school grounds. Food available for purchase from local vendors as a benefit to the Richmond Foundation.

7:00-8:00 PM Parents gather in the cafeteria for presentations by principal and parent groups. Childcare available in the gym and YMCA space by YMCA childcare providers.

Calling All Room Reps!

The PTA is holding an initial meeting with the room reps from each class next **Wednesday, September 21st from 3:10 to 3:30** in the staff room. We will discuss the roles of the room reps this year, hand out a list of volunteers who have already signed up to help (there are several!) at specific events, and talk about our upcoming year. We are very excited about this year and look forward to meeting all of you!!!

PTA has already received 35 PTA volunteer response sheets which is absolutely spectacular. Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise to Richmond!

PTA also hosted a very well attended coffee for new kindergarten parents this morning in the teachers' staff room. Thanks to our faithful PTA leaders for hosting this event and providing coffee, tea, pastries and ginger cookies. Everyone had a delightful time and parent feedback indicates they really appreciated the opportunity to get acquainted.



5th Grade Trip Planning Underway

5th grade Mandatory Meeting Date: September 28, 2005 at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria.

Learn more about the auction and the class trip. There are forms that need to be filled out to let the trip planning committee know your intentions; how many children are planning on going and who wants to chaperone. At our last mandatory meeting we had a few parents indicate their interest. Please think about the possibility of chaperoning - it is a great experience!



Gift Wrap Fundraiser Underway!

Gift-wrap fundraiser starts on 9/19 Monday. Gift-wrap is the only fundraiser dedicated solely to the general Oya No Kai fund. The general fund is used for:

Classroom supplies,

- Field trips,
- Library funds,
- Intern support,
- Ice cream social,
- Web support,
- Calligraphy,
- Program advertising,
- Newsletter printing,
- Insurance,
- Docent costs (school tours),
- Copying costs, etc.



Most of the money earned from school fundraisers goes directly toward class trip funds. We earn 50% of the proceeds from gift-wrap and all the kids benefit this year from the monies raised. We have been operating at a deficit for the last 3 years and our surplus fund is dwindling. Please be generous and support this fundraiser!

Remember to turn in your Oya no kai directory forms, business ad forms and volunteer forms. You can put those papers in the Oya no kai box in the office. We will be unveiling our new membership forms at Back to School night on 9/20 Tuesday. If you are not able to come, we will have membership forms available on the table in front of the office. Money donated to Oya no kai for membership goes to the all-important general fund as well and is tax-deductible.

Japan Festival 2005—Oya No Kai and Richmond Represented

Please join us at Japanfest at Uwajimaya's in Beaverton from 11:00 to 5:00 PM this weekend, September 17th and 18th. JMP 6th graders who went on the trip this summer will be performing on Sunday about 12:30 PM. Oya No Kai will be selling greeting cards made by our 5th graders to support their trip and we will be pre-selling our special Okada Sensei t-shirt. Oya No Kai funds pay for the booth rental of \$150.00.

ber, one of our goals is to double the size of the kindergarten class next year from 50 to 100. If you have time, stop by to say hello, or better yet, help staff the booth. Our principal, Kathryn Anderson will be there on Saturday helping, as will Yoshiko-Sensei.

Monica Mueller, Oya No Kai President

We are at this festival to promote our program. Remem-

We Need Written Notice for Changes to After School Plans

Please send a handwritten note to school with your child when your child's after school arrangements deviate from the normal routine. A handwritten note from you helps us ensure the safety of your child in many ways:

- Children and adults forget changes to the normal routine when we get busy or distracted. A note in our hand helps all of us remember the revised routine.
- We do not always have time or access to email before

or during the school day, so an electronic note may not reach us before it's time to go home.

- School bus drivers have been trained to only accept a handwritten note from a parent before allowing a child to ride the bus home with another student.
- A written note helps other school employees or classroom volunteers who may not know your child well (e.g. substitute teacher, intern, etc.) support your revised plan.

Portland Public Schools

Richmond Elementary School
2276 SE 41st Street
Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 503-916-6220
Fax: 503-916-2665
Email: keanders@pps.k12.or.us

Japanese Magnet Program

Calendar for September 17 to October 7, 2005

Sept. 17-18	Japan Festival at Uwajimaya Center
Sept. 20	Back-To-School Night at Richmond 6-8:00 PM
Sept. 21	PTA Room Rep Meeting 3-3:30 PM in staff rm.
Sept. 27	STOPPS School Bus Safety Training 9:45 AM Scrip Order Day
Sept. 28	5th Grade Trip Meeting 7:00 PM in Cafeteria
Sept. 30	Scrip Pick-Up Day
Oct. 7	Applications for scholarships for 5th grade trip are due SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Great Activities Happening Before & After School

A wonderful array of extracurricular activities is beginning to take shape for Richmond students. Look for flyers with registration information in your child's backpack in the week ahead.

Here's the list of scheduled groups and activities we've organized so far. Several classes have yet to be finalized and will be announced in this newsletter when instructors and/or organizations present final plans. Calligraphy *is* coming!

Monday

- **Shotokan Karate Classes** at 3-4:30 PM for all ages in the gym
- **Pottery Class** at 3:15-4:15 PM for all ages in room 17 (off cafeteria)

Tuesday

- **Muse Band Program—Beginning Band** at 3-3:40 PM for students in grades 4-5 in room 17 (off cafeteria)

- **Muse Band Program—Intermediate Band** at 3-3:40 PM for students in grades 4-5 in room 17 (off cafeteria)

Wednesday

- **Shotokan Karate Classes** at 3-4:30 PM for all ages in the gym
- **The Young Players Theatre Group** at 3-4:00 PM for all ages in the cafeteria (starts Oct. 19th)

Thursday

- **Muse Band Program—Beginning Strings** at 8-8:40 AM for students in grades 2-5 in room 17 (off cafeteria)
- **Girl Scouts** at 3-5:00 PM in room 17 (off cafeteria)

Friday

Nothing scheduled before or after school.