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# Richmond Newsletter

## Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families:

I really enjoyed the chance to meet many of you at our Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, September 20th. Thank you so much for your kind words of welcome and encouragement! Your commitment to the Japanese Magnet Program and our staff is truly invigorating.

In case you were not able to attend our Back-to-School Night, you will find extra copies of my "State of the School" presentation on the big blue table in the main hallway outside the office. Copies of information handed out by Richmond's foundation, PTA and Oya No Kai are also on this table.

Please take a moment to complete the blue parent survey regarding your vision for

Richmond Elementary School. We really need to hear your ideas as we work to craft a strategic plan that precisely meets the needs of our students, families and staff. Extra copies of this survey can be found in the office along with the box to return your completed survey.

Thank you to the many parents and children who have donated to the 4th and 5th grade fundraiser for schools affected by Hurricane Katrina. Your generosity, along with the dedication of our 4th and 5th grade students and teachers, led to more than \$200 in donations in one evening for this important relief effort. Wow!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

## Parking Lot Drop-Off/Pick-Up Concerns

Drivers: We know you're in a hurry, but please, please follow our guidelines for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up of your children in the school's parking lot. The safety of your children is at risk because a few drivers are ignoring some basic expectations. Please:

- Help your child exit/enter the car quickly on the right side of the car to avoid exiting into the path of a passing

car. Avoid side-by-side drop-offs and pick-ups in the car so kids do not have to walk in front of automobiles.

- Keep good-byes brief! Park your car if you need to continue a conversation with your child.
- Do not stop your car in the center of the parking lot to talk on your cell phone or to folks walking through the parking lot. Thanks!

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## Portland Public Schools

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How to Contact the Japanese Resource Teachers:

Phone: 503-916-6220 x409

Deanne Balzer's email is:

[dbalzer@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:dbalzer@pps.k12.or.us)

Yoshiko Kamata's email is:

[ykamata@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:ykamata@pps.k12.or.us)

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# Buy Coffee to Support Richmond's Elm Trees

Richmond School is lucky to have 18 mature Elm trees on the school grounds. Richmond's *Save Our Elms* affiliate, a non-profit 501(c) 3 group, raises money to inoculate the trees against Dutch Elm Disease (DED) by selling coffee. Richmond's *Save Our Elms* has also paid some of the cost to prune trees to keep them healthy.

DED is a fungus that kills the trees, once infected, within 2-3 weeks. An infected tree can quickly infect adjacent trees. The fungus is spread by a beetle attracted to dead wood. Good tree pruning and regular inoculation prevent the spread of DED which has ravaged Elm trees in communities throughout the United States. According to the City of Portland Urban Forestry Department, Portland has about 3,000 Elm trees and approximately 35-55 confirmed cases of DED each year. About half of the Elm trees in the Richmond Neighborhood are at Richmond School. *Save Our Elms - Richmond Affiliate* has \$390 in the bank right now; it costs about \$150 to inoculate each tree using volunteers.

Please consider purchasing coffee offered through Portland Roasting. The cost is \$10/lb. with 50% going to *Save*

*Our Elms*. This year, we will offer three kinds of coffee:

- **Santa Leticia** is a medium-dark roasted, Farm-Friendly Direct™ coffee. For every bag of coffee sold, Portland Roasting plants a fruit-bearing shade tree.
- **French Organic** is dark-roasted, certified organic coffee.
- **Swiss Water Process (SWP) Cascadia Decaf** is medium-roasted, certified organic, fair trade, shade grown coffee.

Please email Paul Gilles at Paul@portlandroasting.com or fill out the order form below and place in the office. Orders placed by Thursday at noon will be available for pick-up on Fridays after school in the cafeteria. Please write checks to *Save Our Elms* and place payment in the office, too.



Sip our coffee—save an elm!

## Coffee Order Form to Support Richmond's Elm Trees

### Save Our Elms Coffee Order Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee	Ground	Whole Bean	Totals at \$10/lb.
Santa Leticia			
French Organic			
SWP Decaf			
<b>Totals</b>			

Questions? Please contact Jill PUNCHES at (503) 233-6075 or punches1@msn.com.

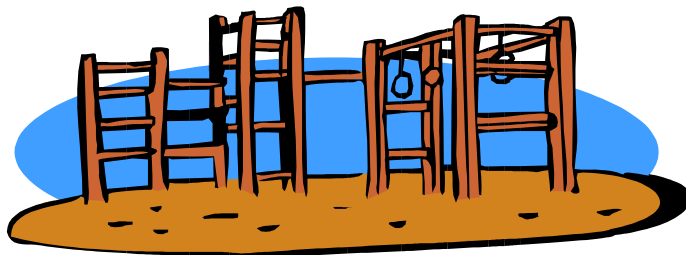
## Playground Planning is Underway!

We're working to improve Richmond's playground!

Work has begun to research the cost to replace all the playground equipment with bright, new features. A group of three parents are also researching grant opportunities to help fund the project and a parent who is a professional grant writer has offered to help write grants. Several grant opportunities have already been identified and planning is underway.

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal, is currently working with the district to get precise information about the vendor and cost to replace the swings that were removed over the summer. Blair Fitzgibbon, district architect and project manager, is the person who has this information,

but has been difficult to reach. His number is 503-916-2000 ext. 4211. Perhaps parents will have better luck reaching Mr. Fitzgibbon than the principal!



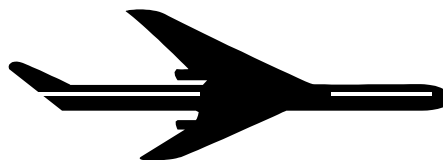
We're working to improve Richmond's playground!

## Mandatory Meeting for 5th Grade Parents — Sept. 28th

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!

If you are at all interested in sending your child on the Japan trip then this meeting is mandatory. Important trip forms will be handed out at this meeting. If you are unable to attend please send a representative to get the information and the forms that you will need.



## Foundation Funds to Support Richmond

The following two questions came from parent surveys turned in at Back-to-School Night. Answers follow.

***How can Richmond retain donations to our foundation to support staff positions?*** Richmond keeps 100% of the first \$5,000 donated to our Foundation each school year. Richmond keeps 67 cents from every dollar raised for our foundation above and beyond the \$5,000 mark. The remaining 33 cents from every dollar donated to Richmond remains with the Portland Schools Foundation (not part of the district of Portland Public Schools). This reserve amount funds a variety of grants to schools across the

district. Several teachers and our principal are currently working on two grant proposals for Richmond to support strategic planning and the cultural center. These grants are due in mid-October for funding prior to the end of 2005. Keep your fingers crossed that we're successful!

***Do parents have the choice of participating in fundraisers or making a donation straight to the Foundation instead?*** Parents, grandparents, friends, relatives always have the ability to make a donation to Richmond's Foundation. You can place your donation in the Foundations mailbox in the main office. All donations are tax deductible.

# Great Activities Happening Before & After School

A wonderful array of extracurricular activities is beginning to take shape for Richmond students.

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)

- **Mixed Media Art Class** 3:15-4:15
- **Art with Amy** 3-4:00 PM in rm. 17

## 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.

## Scrip Update

Thanks to everyone who ordered Scrip last week - our first order of the year was over \$28,000, which earned more than \$1500 for our class funds and Oya No Kai. Tuesday, September 27, is our next order. A couple of notes:

1. We moved the Friday afternoon pickup to the main office, but that seemed to cause confusion. **From now on, Friday Scrip pickup will be IN THE RICHMOND CAFETERIA, from 2:45-3:15 pm.** We will also sell available Scrip on these Fridays.
2. Please give your orders to Patsy in the Richmond office or to the Scrip Volunteer in the Cafeteria on Order Tuesday mornings. Orders **MUST** be turned in by 8:45 am. We cannot guarantee that late orders will be filled. You may still email orders to [onscrip@comcast.net](mailto:onscrip@comcast.net) by Monday 8 pm before an order day.
3. If you indicate you will pick up your order at Richmond but are unable to, contact Leslie Kowash (503-235-5513) to arrange a pickup time.
4. Check your order *as soon as you receive it*. We are careful when we fill orders, but we do make mistakes.
5. We are eligible for Safeway eScrip by the end of September. You can register your Safeway Club Card at [eScrip.com](http://eScrip.com), and select Oya No Kai as your organization. Up to 4% of your Safeway purchases will go to Oya No Kai. You can also sign up friends, family, neighbors - anyone who shops at Safeway in any state.

## Hurricane Katrina Relief: Give Caring Heart To the Victims!





## Back-to-School Night a HUGE Success

The families who attended Back-to-School Night reported having a good time either getting to know members of our school community or listening to the presentations afterward. For some, this was a first chance to meet interim principal, Kathryn Anderson. We are off to a good school year!

Foundation raised \$670: a generous donation of \$609 came from Noho's Hawaiian Cafe from the sale of bentos and \$60 from the sale of ice cream and Popsicles. Thus far, we have also received or received word about three pledges and three donations. One of the donations is a matching corporate grant from Intel.

make this event a success: Kathryn Anderson, Atsuko Ando, Noboe Aoyagi, Vactor Balkam, Lisa Bosca, Patsy Burke, Joe Cameron, Pam Cameron, Lynn Cummings, Makiko Dobashi, Andy Felcher, Paul Gilles, Amy Grover, Chris Hogness, Kristina Kallen, Alison Kaye, Mary Klinger, Leslie Kowash, Theresa Lovett, Catherine Malone, Meg Matsushima, Sally Mays, Jean Middlestadt, Desiree Miller, Monica Mueller, Michelle Mundt, Suzanne Munro, Sarah Nevue, Mike Cbara, Amy Boyce Osaki, Jill Punches, Richard Punches, Cathy Slyman, Jennifer Synder, Dawn Uchiyama, Masako Wieber, Katy Wolk-Stanley, and Ariane Wolf.

Please remember to turn in your volunteer surveys or pledges to Foundation as soon as possible to the Foundation box in the office. Remember, our goal of \$150,000 this year is not only very important to offset next year's PPS's dramatically lower budget figures, but achievable when we all participate! For those of you who were unable to attend, extra copies of Foundation handouts will be available or posted on the Foundation bulletin board near the office.

Jill Punches, Richmond Foundation

## OYA NO KAI Initiatives

If you want to keep busing at Richmond, please contact Victor Balkam [v.balkam@comcast.net](mailto:v.balkam@comcast.net) or Sheila Baumgardner [Sheila\\_Baumgardner@beavton.k12.or.us](mailto:Sheila_Baumgardner@beavton.k12.or.us) for more detail. A survey will be going out soon to families that will be affected by the proposed loss of busing next school year. Team captains will be identified for each bus stop used by Richmond students.

A big THANK YOU to the parents, grandparents and friends who were able to help out at lunch and recess. Having a few more adults helping makes a HUGE difference.

Thank you to the volunteers who came to staff Japanfest at Uwajimaya last weekend. Those volunteers were: Kathryn Anderson, Annette Heiner, Lori Fukunaga, Masako Weiber, Kaia Range(grant), Luke Biorstad (grant), Sheryl Horwitz, and Monica Mueller. We did a lot of public relations work and spoke to many families who have the potential to be part of the JMP in the near future.

## Hurricane Katrina Relief: *Give Caring Heart To the Victims!*

Richmond 4th and 5th grade volunteers raised **\$206** on September 20, 2005, Back-to-School Night for Hurricane Katrina Relief. They made either Origami art or Calligraphy for all the donors, and also gave hand-made thank-you bookmarks. It will be taken to either Red Cross or the local organization that will give our money directory to children who had to be evacuated from New Orleans. Kathryn Anderson, our principal, Minori Fuskushima (5th grade teacher) and Atsuko Ando (4th grade teacher) were very impressed with their high volunteer spirit. Although the money we have raised might be a little in comparison with what the victims of Hurricane Katrina have lost, we really hope that our caring heart will encourage them. We would like to honor high volunteer spirit and caring heart of 4th and 5th graders in Richmond School below.

**4th grade:** Trey, Maya, Hana, Grant, Robert, Sarah, Liana, Beau, Nikki, Mika, Allison, Rachel, Colin, I, Ian, Ben, Angelia, Dylan, Alexis, Erika, Ryen, Ainsley, Clara, Madeline, Lydia, Jimmy, Richard

— **5th grade:** Asami, Mika, Keough, Cecile, Quin, James, Tucker, Dennis, Anna, Helen, Akiko, Toby, Maty. —

## Are you interested in serving on Richmond's Site Council?

Richmond's Site Council is charged with a very important job: leadership and stewards of school improvement. The Site Council is comprised of the following groups of people to ensure a council that is diverse in terms of expertise, interest, and alliances.

Teachers make up the majority on the Site Council. Currently four teachers serve for 2005-06.

- Parents make up the second largest group on the Site Council with three members. Jennifer Lootens and Tracy Christensen are two parent leaders on our

Site Council for 2005-06. We are looking for a third parent. If you are interested in serving, please email a letter of intent to Kathryn Anderson at keanders@pps.k12.or.us by Thursday, Sept. 29 for publication in next Friday's newsletter.

- Classified staff make up the next group on our Site Council. These folks are essential to the council's work because they often see every student and work with a broad segment of our school community.
- The building principal is the re-

maining Site Council member, but does not have to lead the work of the council. The Site Council will elect a chairperson when the full group is in place in October.

Site Council meetings are held every second Monday on the month at 3:15-5:15 PM in the volunteer room. Our meetings are open to any and all interested people, so please feel free to join us.

## Thank you to Dr. Phillips!

Last school year Dr. Phillips and the Portland Public School Administration received a lot of our attention. They worked hard, they listened, and they resolved our issues. Dr. Phillips bestowed upon us two gifts: Kathryn Anderson as our interim principal and the one year full-time Japanese Resource Teacher.

The PTA, Oya No Kai, and Foundation would like to send flowers and a thank you card signed by as many of us as possible to Dr. Phillips and the Administration to let them know how much we appreciate all of their hard work. If you are interested in signing the card and donating \$1/family to buying flowers, please stop by the volunteer room beginning Monday,

September 26 to do so. Our goal is to collect 100 signatures by Friday morning, October 7th. Let's show them our appreciative Richmond spirit!

## Calling all Volunteers!

**Calling all volunteers! Please join the PTA in the volunteer room for volunteer orientation on Friday, October 7 from 9 to 10:30.**

We will be covering the confidentiality agreement, safety, how to use the copiers, and the new system for receiving work projects from our magnificent Richmond teachers. We will

also be hosting a social time from 8:30 to 9 in the volunteer room so please join us for coffee and a muffin before we begin our training. Thanks to all of our fabulous volunteers, and we hope to see you there!

## Richmond PTA Volunteer Brigade

## School Expansion in 2006-07

Parents attending the Back-to-School Night presentation by Interim Principal, Kathryn Anderson, heard that Richmond needs to expand the number of classrooms in order to remain a viable magnet program. Many of you have wondered how we can expand the school if our enrollment is limited by the district transfer lottery. Here's how expansion could work:

Schools set the number of student slots for transfer applicants in the winter of each school year. A district report on expansion of immersion programs, recommended increasing the

number of kindergarten slots at Richmond by two more classes. We make our final decision about the number of transfer slots in December after serious discussion with staff and our Stie Council. If we decide to increase the number of kindergarten slots, our class limit will increase from 55 kindergarten students in the 2005-06 school year (equivalent of two classrooms) to 110 kindergarten slots, or four classrooms for 2006-07.

Increasing the number of kindergarten spaces allows us to do three things:

- 1). Reduce the likelihood of the lottery if the number of applicants does not exceed the number of slots;
- 2). Virtually guarantee all siblings gain admittance to Richmond, even though they will continue to receive transfer priority; and
- 3). Increase the diversity of our school population.

## Pizzicato "Dough for Dollars" Fundraiser—October 25th

The program is called "Dough for Dollars" and here is how it works: Pizzicato will generously donate 20% of store sales at their E. Burnside location on Tuesday, October 25 to benefit the Richmond School Foundation. In addition, they will accept scrip for another 10% of the sale supporting Oya No Kai. Calling orders in ahead of time is strongly suggested,

but you don't need to mention that you are a Richmond supporter; all sales count.

For those of you who don't live close, consider ordering a pre-ordered pizza and/or one of their delicious salads for pick up at school that Tuesday at 3:00 in the cafeteria. We're looking for a volunteer to drive pre-orders to

the Wilson bus stop vicinity so our west-siders can participate easily.

Pizzicato offers fresh, high-quality ingredients with a variety of pizza bases and even a "no cheese" option. Pre-ordered pizzas come par-baked so they're fresh after ten minutes in your oven.

## PDXposed Segment Featuring Richmond Airs Friday

PDXposed just returned from a whirlwind trip to Sapporo, and it was fuuuuuun! We explored our sister city, and met some amazing people along the way.

Our 'Going to Japan' show that you were on will air this Saturday, Sunday and Monday at 7:00 pm on CNW14. [www.pdxposed.com](http://www.pdxposed.com) will have info on

future air dates, and you can also watch it 'On Demand' if you have this feature on Comcast. Our 3 Sapporo shows will follow this one consecutively, please watch them and join us in enjoying Sapporo!



Thanks for your participation on PDXposed.

Julie Joachims  
Production Manager,  
PDXposed  
[juliejoachims@comcast.net](mailto:juliejoachims@comcast.net)  
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## Portland Public Schools

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Email: keanders@pps.k12.or.us

### Japanese Magnet Program

### Calendar for September 27 to October 14, 2005

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. 5	School visitations begin. Tell your friends!
Oct. 6	Curriculum Night 6:30-8:30 PM
Oct. 7	Applications for scholarships for 5th grade trip are due
	<b>SCHOOL PICTURE DAY</b>
Oct. 11	Scrip Order Day
Oct. 12	Chaperone meeting for 5th grade trip 7:00 PM
Oct. 14	Scrip Pick-Up Day

## PTA Plans and Announcements

People have been asking PTA board members "Are we doing cookie dough?" And the answer is no. National PTA is focusing on healthy eating for children, and we are following their lead.

We are also moving away from the impression of PTA as a fundraising organization and back toward PTA as an education and classroom advocacy organization. We do still need to raise money to support our activities, but are looking towards fundraisers such as [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com), which gives a percentage of online purchases back to our schools. Schoolpop has hundreds of merchants that include eBay, Netflix, LLBean, Land's End, Sears, Blockbuster.com, etc.

Better yet, scrip purchased CAN be used on the Schoolpop site. (Double dipping never felt so good!) Richmond is already registered with Schoolpop, and signing up only takes a few minutes. Let's all look towards scrip and Schoolpop as a way to raise money without having to sell

unwanted items.

PTA will be including a small column in the weekly newsletter to announce upcoming activities and opportunities. Please feel free to bring any issues or ideas to any PTA board member, we are happy to listen to you. We are a wonderful, vibrant community and are looking forward to our best year yet.

PTA Presidential Team  
Katy Wolk-Stanley  
Kristina Kallen  
Pam Cameron

