



Richmond Newsletter

Letter from our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families:

Over the last few weeks I've had many conversations with parents that begin something like this: "What's happening with...." Fortunately, I've been able to answer these questions with factual information about our work to date. This issue of the family newsletter contains updates on several key initiatives that Richmond staff members have been busy with and parents have been asking about. These include:

- Completion of Richmond's School Improvement Plan;
- Grant writing for the Cultural Center, strategic planning and playground;
- Addition of a Japanese immersion pre-school program at Richmond for 2006-07;
- Creation of a new, highly professional parent packet for prospective parents;
- Selection and scheduling of art experiences (i.e. assemblies, artists-in-residence, field trips, author visits,

etc.) for our students using funds from Richmond's Run for the Arts;

- Development of a Richmond traffic plan with specialists from the City of Portland's traffic division. Dakota Inyo-Swan is the City staff person who will work with us at Richmond; and
- Coordination of professional development for staff to help us refine our instructional program.

As you can see, Richmond staff, and teachers in particular, are busy folks. This newsletter will be the primary means for updates about each initiative. Please be patient with us as we work through the details surrounding each initiative and seek your input at key points with initiatives that impact you directly.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal

Had Trouble Reaching Us By Phone?

Richmond's phone system has been suffering several problems over the last week and a half. Parents have reported being unable to reach us by phone during times we know staff have been readily available to answer the office phones. We've had problems with phone conversations being abruptly disconnected. This situation has increased in frequency during the last few days.

We've placed an emergency request for phone system maintenance with our district, but the problem has not been corrected yet. If you need to reach us for an emergency and are unable to do so, please contact our Area Director's office at 503-916-3487 and explain your needs.

Portland Public Schools

Volume 1, Issue 4

September 30, 2005

Special points of interest:

- ☺ New Site Council ballot inside for parent rep
- ☺ Important 5th Grade Trip information inside
- ☺ Grant writing is keepin' us busy for Richmond
- ☺ School improvement planning almost complete and ready for parent feedback

Inside this issue:

PTA Updates	2
Art at Richmond	2
Gift Wrap	3
Volunteer Training	3
Pre-School Planning	4
Thanks Dr. Phillips	5
Oya No Kai	6

PTA UPDATE

The Richmond PTA is working toward adding fun new playground equipment. Two kindergarten parents have stepped forward to do the grant writing, but we need a few more parents to round out the committee. Gary Kuney has agreed to work with us. This project is going to be a lot of fun. We already have a sizable amount to start us out with, so please contact any PTA member to join the fun and games.

PTA met with the teachers this week and last to find out what we can do to assist them. Overwhelmingly, the teachers said they would like to have art education in the classrooms. To have art teachers come once a week throughout the year would be our pie in the sky goal, and there is no reason why this is not attainable. Parents interested in seeing this happen are encouraged to con-

tact the PTA.

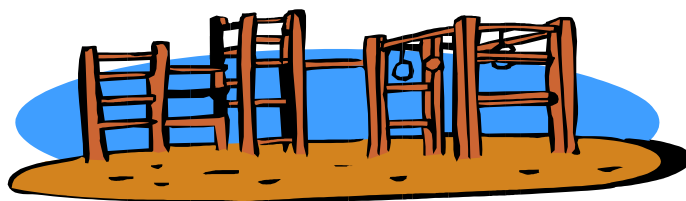
Together for our children we can accomplish anything!

Your co-PTA Presidents,

Katy Wolk-Stanley (dalekaty@spiritone.com)

Kristina Kallen (kmk456@comcast.net)

Pam Cameron (joe_cameron@beavton.k12.or.us)



**We're working to improve Richmond's
playground!**

CHANGES TO RAINY DAY RECESS PLANS

On these rainy days, Richmond students will no longer move from cafeteria to gym to watch a video. Instead, classrooms will be divided into two groups on a rotating basis to give every class a variety of rainy day experiences. The first group will go to the cafeteria to play games with assorted balls, jump ropes and other PE equipment. Mr. Kuney and Ms. Cummings are on duty in the gym.

The second group will remain in the cafeteria for a variety of table activities: origami, board games, puzzles, water-color painting, drawing, and books.

While we've only had two rainy day recesses so far, the change has been a hit with kids and adults. This change *does* benefit from more volunteers to help in the cafeteria, however, so feel free to drop in and lend a hand. It's a younger sibling-friendly volunteer activity, so feel free to bring little ones.

RUN FOR THE ARTS FUND BRINGS ART TO RICHMOND

Last year, Richmond students, families and staff earned over \$13,000 for arts enrichment in the 2005-06 school year. A committee of Richmond teachers will meet on Monday, October 10th to select a menu of assemblies, field trips, and artists-in-residence with this fund.

Our arts committee won't have to look far to find outstanding art experiences for our children, either. In addition to the support from PTA with artistic parents to provide classroom experiences, we have access to resources from Young Audiences, the non-profit organization that

coordinates the annual Run for the Arts. Young Audiences puts together a comprehensive catalogue of artists and artistic groups for schools to select from across each broad artistic category: dance, drama, music, and visual arts.

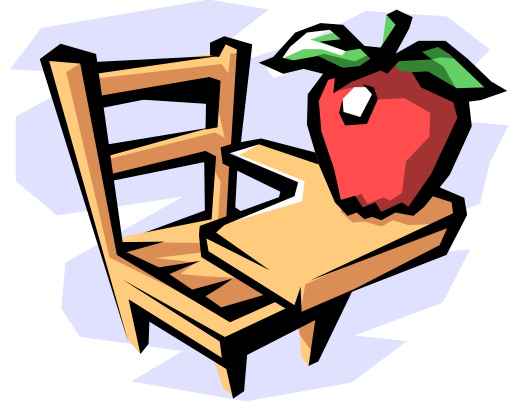
The staff arts committee includes Yoshiko Kamata (JMP Resource Teacher), Joshua Zeller (Gr. 5), Amy Grover (K), and Jill Iverson (K). Look for a newsletter article in the coming weeks from this committee with updates about committee choices and a schedule of events.

APPLE FUNDRAISER FOR PTA

Don't you just love the smell of fresh-baked apple pie? How about homemade applesauce...delicious! This October PTA is sponsoring a healthy fundraiser that supports our local economy and promotes a third-generation Japanese family orchard in the Hood River Valley called Kiyokawa Farms. All boxes of apples weigh between 22 and 24 pounds and are offered at a price well below retail. Many varieties of apples will be offered as well from your basic red and golden delicious to Braeburn, Gala, and Fuji. We will begin taking orders the week of **October 12** so look for the order forms in your child's backpack.

To make the event even more fun, any interested adventurers will be caravanning to the scenic Hood River Valley on **Friday, October 28** to pick up the apples, and we will stop in Hood River to have lunch before returning to Rich-

mond that afternoon to deliver the apples. We may be in need of a 3/4-ton pickup depending on how many adventurers we have. This will be a great community-building fall activity, and we really hope you can join us!



GIFT WRAP ORDERS DUE—Monday, October 3rd

Gift Wrap orders are due back to school Monday Oct 3rd. Each classroom has a gift wrap box that your child can use to return their order or the office has a gift wrap box. Extra order forms are available in the office next to the gift wrap box.

Remember to fill out the form to enter your child into the drawing to win a \$40 gift certificate to Toys R Us, Barnes and Noble or a Washington Mutual Savings Bond. The drawing will be Monday and the winners will be announced in next Friday's newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your support and participation in this important fundraiser for Oya No Kai. Your purchases directly help Oya No Kai achieve our mission.

Oya No Kai's purpose is to contribute to the successful development of the Japanese Magnet Program (JMP) and to develop a network of mutual support among program participants.

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 fabu-

lous volunteers, and we hope to see you there!

Richmond PTA Volunteer Brigade

PRE-SCHOOL PLANNING IS UNDERWAY!

Do you have a child that will be aged 3-4 in September 2006? If so, you may be eligible to enroll your child in a new Japanese immersion pre-school that is being put together by Richmond staff. A Richmond pre-school was the brainchild of principal, Abby Myers. The idea is intended to meet the growing needs of our wonderful magnet program.

The Indian Education Montessori pre-school program in our old music room has federal grant funding through this school year. They are in the process of writing a new grant to continue funding for their program for the next three years. If funding for the Montessori program is not renewed, we would be able to use this newly renovated space for a JMP pre-school.

Here's the current status of planning to date:

- Don Huld, district facilities planner visited Richmond on Monday, September 27th to look at potential classroom space for a pre-school program. He identified two potential classrooms that would need minor construction to meet current codes for pre-school space. He is working on a construction estimate for us and should have it complete by mid-October.
- We've asked the district enrollment and transfer office to prepare a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for pre-school providers who would be interested in developing a program to meet JMP needs. This draft RFP is under review by Richmond's JMP Resource Teachers and Interim Principal.

GRANT WRITING IS KEEPIN' US BUSY

Two grants from the Portland Schools Foundation are almost finished and ready for submission. One grant is a "New Vision" proposal to provide funding for our strategic planning work. This grant would provide funds for Mutiu Fagbayi, the facilitator who has been helping us complete our school improvement plan, extended hours pay for teachers to be able to work above and beyond their contractual hours on research and writing, meeting costs, babysitting for parent gatherings, etc.

The second grant is a "Parent, Family & Community In-

volvement" proposal to help us involve parents, family members and community partners in the development of an on-site Japanese cultural center. This grant would fund the development of three plans that are essential to the realization of a cultural center: a fundraising plan (grants, major donors), a design plan (architects, designers), and a construction plan.

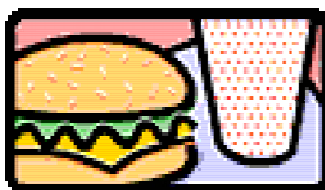
Look for updates about our grant progress in upcoming issues of the newsletter and in the meantime, please keep your fingers crossed!

FREE & REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 4TH

Every parent with a child who received free or reduced priced breakfast and lunch last year must fill out a new application to continue this benefit in 2005-06. Students will be required to pay full lunch prices after October 4th unless they have a new application on file with Richmond's head cook, Cynthia Taylor.

Extra applications for free and reduced priced meals are available in Richmond's office or in the cafeteria. We have also placed ap-

plications on the blue information table in the main hallway for your convenience.



Meal applications available in the office, cafeteria

Please do not hesitate to let cafeteria or office staff know how we can help you and your family get these important benefits. **ALL information is kept strictly confidential and not accessible by volunteers or school staff.**

BANK DAY GOING STRONG!

Bank day is up and running. We are still making up new registers for the kids who are returning from past year. If you are depositing for the first time this year, please let the teller know if you have a new account or are returning. We look in different places for the information and this will help us get you on your way.

Washington Mutual has a program called "WaMoola for Schools." If you have a Washington Mutual bank account you can earn money for Richmond. It is as simple as declaring Richmond Elementary School as your designated school; every time you use

your Check Card you earn points. To enroll, go to wamoolaforschools.com, call 1-866-WAMOOOLA or go into your local Washington Mutual branch. If you have moved and do not confirm Richmond as your designated school, the bank automatically will switch your school to the one in your new neighborhood. Tell you family and friends to declare Richmond! (They don't even have to live in Oregon to participate!)



THANK YOU, 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 per 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!



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN IN DRAFT FORM

Richmond's school improvement plan (SIP) for 2005-06 will be completed in draft form on October 3 when a team of classroom teachers, specialists and interim principal get together to write. Here's what happens to our school improvement plan once our staff committee completes the first draft:

- Full staff review the draft docu-

ment during our staff meeting on October 3rd and make recommendations about additions or deletions, as needed.

- Site Council reviews the revised draft on October 10th and provides additional feedback.
- Parents attending the General Parent meeting on Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00 PM will

have a chance to walkthrough the draft SIP and provide feedback.

- Richmond staff will get feedback about the plan from Site Council and parents before making final revisions on October 17.
- Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal, shares final plan with Area Director, Barbara Adams, on October 19th.

Oya No Kai, Inc.

Supporting the Portland Public Schools' Japanese Magnet Program

Dear Richmond Families:

If you were unable to attend last week's Back to School night you did not receive the new and improved Oya No Kai membership form. The form can be found on the table in front of the Office. Money donated towards membership goes to the general fund. New this year is incentives for different tiers of donations. But as always, membership in Oya No Kai is free and only members with children in the program can vote. We have opened membership to folks without children in the program this year i.e. Grandparents, Corporations, Japanese companies, Japanese organizations etc.

Remember to do something nice for an intern. They would love to be invited for dinner, go to family outings to the Zoo, OMSI, hiking, shopping, and sightseeing. This is the first visit to Portland for the majority of our interns. The interns will be attending an all day workshop today sponsored by Oya No Kai and PPS. They will be learning how to be effective helpers in the classrooms, how to best get along with their host families, rules and regulations from PPS on student management. They are working longer hours this year and not getting a stipend from PPS or paid for hours like last year's interns. Please be generous in asking interns to join in family activities.

At this month's Oya No Kai board meeting we voted to pay the interns who were willing to work at Homework Club. The details are still being worked on but we will be offering after school help from 3:15 to 4:00pm probably 4 days a week in Japanese and/or English. We will also be utilizing Grant JMP students as tutors and would love parents or grandparents to volunteer. Teachers will be recommending students who need extra help and parent's will also be able to self-refer their student. We do not have a start date yet, but we will keep you posted.

Oya No Kai is looking for a volunteer who would like to start an after school Japanese performance club. The purpose of this club would be to teach a group of motivated, multi-grade students Japanese dance and songs which could be performed at various venues throughout the year. Deanne Balzer gets quite a few requests from organizations all over the city for JMP performances. This is a great opportunity to advertise our wonderful program. A group of current JMP 6th graders did a stellar job at Japanfest singing the songs they learned for their 5th grade trip.

Do you love to make greeting cards? Are you creative and have time to volunteer in the classroom? Are you sad that we don't have an art teacher? If so, we are looking for someone who would like to head up a project to have each classroom make thank you cards. Andy Felcher with the Richmond Foundation would like to be able to send a hand made thank you card to businesses, parents, friends, or corporations that donate to the Richmond Foundation this year. What better way than with a card made by the children their donation will be supporting.

Monica Mueller, ONK president

Richmond Site Council Position Statement

Dear Richmond parents and community,

My name is Tim Smith, and I have two daughters at Richmond, Iris, who is in third grade, and Sierra, who is in first grade. I would like to request the honor of representing the parents of Richmond students on the Site Council.

When I walked into the Kindergarten Round-Up at Benson High School almost four years ago with Iris, Richmond was not our first school choice. After meeting with Deanne Balzer and hearing about the program, though, Iris was enchanted with the prospect of learning another very different language and I was impressed and intrigued. The more my wife Paula and I thought about it, the more we realized that Richmond might offer the kind of public school experience we wanted our children to have. We wanted our girls to have a deep and respectful understanding of other cultures, to experience diversity and to be a part of a tightly knit community. In spite of the difficulties Richmond, PPS and Oregon public education generally have faced since we made the commitment to attend, I believe that we made the right decision.

I now feel deeply invested in Richmond on a number of levels. I am obviously very interested in my daughters' education, but I also want the best education possible for their friends and peers. It has been a great experience to get to know other parents who have made a similar kind of commitment and to become part of the Richmond and K-12 JMP parent community. I have a great respect and appreciation for the work and skills of the teachers and staff at Richmond, and want to do what I can to support their efforts. Also, as a public high school teacher, I deeply value a strong public education system with a variety of opportunities for students and families.

I have become increasingly involved in the schools as a parent, first by going door to door as a volunteer to support the ITAX, and more recently by joining the efforts of many other parents and teachers to bring positive leadership change to Richmond. Richmond is now at a crossroads, with many challenges and a number of opportunities ahead. I feel that I owe my children my best effort to make it work, and I feel that the Site Council might be a place where I could make a contribution. I would like to be able to share a wide range of parent thoughts and concerns, so I hope to hear from many of you. Please feel free to call me at home at 331-1339, or email me at tim.smith@vansd.org

Thanks for your support,

Tim Smith

Site Council Ballot



Each year, Richmond's Site Council must conduct a formal community vote for new Site Council members. We have one parent position open on the Site Council this school year joining parents Tracy Christensen and Jennifer Lootens. Members serve for two years.

An invitation for nomination to our Site Council was extended in the September 23, 2005 issue of this newsletter. Mr. Smith has volunteered to serve on the Site Council and sent the above position statement. **Please cut this ballot from the newsletter, make your vote and deposit your ballot in the box in the office by Thursday, October 6th.** Results will be announced in the October 7th newsletter.

_____ YES—I support Mr. Tim Smith for parent representation on the Richmond Site Council.

_____ NO—I do not support Mr. Smith for parent representation on the Richmond Site Council.

Portland Public Schools

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 October 3 - 21, 2005

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
SCHOOL PICTURE DAY	
Oct. 11	Scrip Order Day
Oct. 12	Chaperone meeting for 5th grade trip 7:00 PM
Oct. 14	NO SCHOOL-State Teachers' Inservice Day
Oct. 15	Japanese delegation from the Toyama Prefecture arrives in Portland
Oct. 19	Japanese delegation spends day at Richmond
Oct. 21	Scrip pick-up day

5th GRADE TRIP UPDATE—IMPORTANT INFO

Thank you everyone who showed up at our meeting! It was a great success; we had 96% turn out! Here's a summary of the most important information:

1. Directions on signing up for our class email group.

Everyone is responsible for keeping abreast of all information. If you do not have email at home, use public computers available at libraries and/or buddy up with someone who can keep you in the loop.

- Log onto Yahoo.com
- Enter "http:groups/yahoo.com/"
- Find a group: jmpauction_trip
- Click on group and sign in
- If you do not have a yahoo ID and password, you will need to set that up. Do not forget your Yahoo ID and password!

2. Deadlines:

- Financial Assistance Application due in office by **NOON** October 7th. Please turn in your 2004 tax return, NOT your 2001 as stated on the application.
- Chaperone Meeting - October 11th, 7PM location TBA
- First deposit due - October 21st (Students: \$100,

Chaperones: \$100) **mail** to Oya No Kai-Trip, PO Box 14392, Portland, OR 97293. Please do not mail to Sandra Green as listed on the green form.

- Registration Form, Letter of Intention and Emergency Medical Authorization Form for both student and chaperones due - October 21. **MUST BE NOTORIALIZED.** Mail to the Oya No Kai PO Box with deposit.
- 2nd Mandatory Meeting - November 16, 7PM, location TBA

3. PASSPORTS - If your child does not have his/her passport, you need to apply ASAP. Both parents and child need to turn in the passport application. Cost is approximately \$85. Passport pictures are inexpensive at Walgreens and Costco. Passport application form can be downloaded if you go to: <http://www.travisa.com>.

4. Make certain your child's immunizations are up to date. It was mentioned that hepatitis vaccines may need to be updated and that it takes about 6 weeks to complete the whole series of 3 shots.

5. Correction: Ritsuko Fujiwara's (Trip Planning Committee) email is: ohisamakaipdx@yahoo.com