



Richmond Newsletter

A Note From Our Interim Principal

Dear Richmond Families,

It's been wonderful to watch the smiles and excitement on your faces and the faces of your children as you have started the school year with us. I have enjoyed meeting many of you over the last two days and hope to be able to correctly greet you by name very soon.

I'm very happy to be at Richmond this year to work with such a committed and talented school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can do anything to ensure your tenure at Richmond is a wonderful experience.

Dr. Vicki Phillips recently outlined her expectations for building administrators in the coming school year. I am well aware

that I am the fourth principal in four years at Richmond Elementary School and want to assure you I will work very hard to make sure this is a collaborative year for us all. My goal is to end the school year with the entire community feeling pleasantly challenged by the goals and strategies we collectively set for our short-term school improvement plan and our long-term strategic plan. **I have included the expectations on pages 3 and 4 for your convenience and information.**

Sincerely,

Kathryn Anderson
Interim Principal



Newsletter Every Friday!

This first issue of Richmond's newsletter will be a standard item to come home in backpacks every Friday. We hope you will find the articles to be useful and informative about all major issues, events, and current happenings at Richmond. The newsletter is not intended to replace the most important form of communication in the school community—those daily conversations and greetings—but we hope it provides you with a second, consistent news source for our busy school. Staff and

families have been united in their quest for a consistent communication source. Hopefully this is one step in the right direction.

Plans are underway to post the newsletter on the Richmond website. Extra copies of the newsletter will also be in the office in case your original copy is misplaced. Please direct questions, comments and review ideas to the late night writer and editor—Kathryn Anderson, Interim Principal.

Portland Public Schools

Volume 1, Issue 1

Friday, September 9, 2005

Here's how to reach us!

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Inside this issue:

Students Give Back	2
PTA Reaps Rewards	2
Thanks Kurabu Staff	2
PDXposed	3
Back-to-School	4
Lunch/Recess Time	5
Strategic Planning	6

Richmond 4th, now 5th Graders Give Back to the Community!

Last October current 5th graders at Richmond wrote sympathy letters to the victims of Niigata Earthquake together with many concerned Japanese language learners in Oregon. In return, as a token of friendship, ten Koi fish were presented to city of Portland by Mr. Kataoka, Koi fish breeder who lives in Yamakoshi, Niigata Prefecture, where the earthquake hit most severely.

ough Simonoff, Anna Shida, and Helen Van Leuven led the ceremony in Japanese. The students are very honored and proud to be able to take such important roles in the ceremony. Ando Sensei who attended the ceremony was very proud of their caring volunteer spirit and Japanese proficiency.

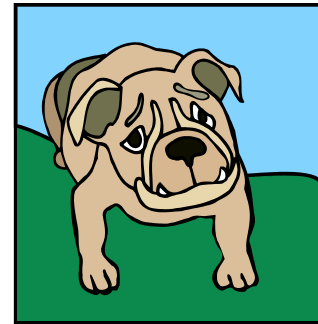


On July 9th the Koi fish releasing ceremony was conducted at the Japanese Garden. Current Richmond 5th graders were invited to participate in the ceremony. Ken Fukumoto, Kristi Fukunaga, Akiko Gorawski, James Knudsen, Quinn Christensen, Ke-



PTA Membership Reaps Big Rewards for Richmond

The Richmond PTA is looking forward to a great year. A PTA membership is \$10 and supports all the classrooms, as well as providing the library computer system. Our focus is on the kids, the teachers and our fabulous school. If you have any PTA questions our "Presidential Team" (Katy Wolk-Stanley, Kristina Kallen, or Pam Cameron) is always happy to answer any questions. We hope the school year brings joy and success for your family!



Richmond's Mascot

Thank You Kurabu Volunteers and Staff!

Thank you Pamela Jacobsen for your incredible work to coordinate Kurabu at Richmond this summer. Kurabu would not have held camp without help from these people...
Ema Ando
Elle Hashimoto
Hisae Sato
Natsuko Kori
Jennifer Kemp
Eugenia Jacobsen

Petra Jacobsen
Annie Soga
Maki Sakai
Noriaki Ishiwatari
Masako Osaka
Hiroki Fukuda
Chisato Yamamoto
Mariko Kasahara

Yu Marutani



Kurabu staff photo(L-R) : Hisae, Eugenia, Petra, Eri, Pamela, Tomoaki, Natsuko and on the floor Kyle.

Junko Kusano
Maiko Ito
Claire Parker
Harue Ninomiya
Carsten Grellmann
Jennifer Lootens
Emily Lootens
David Jacobsen

Sharon Ivey
Charley Scott
Leon Laucirica
Karen Aker
Satoko Moran
Daniel Moran
and last but not least...
the Richmond Janitorial Staff.

A Note From Our Interim Principal, continued from page 1

Expectations of School Leaders

The following expectations for building principals and school leaders have been crafted by our district's superintendent to help us all stay on track with school and district improvement efforts.

An evidence-based School Improvement Plan:

- Collaboratively developed, aligned with the district strategic plan and reflecting high leverage practices
- Plan guides the work and actions of the school.

Implementation of those things we hold in "common":

- PreK-12: Core curriculum and instructional practices and assessments in literacy and mathematics
- Knowledge of the "Big Bucket" concepts and the "Look For's" in literacy and mathematics (see related article on page 6 about opportunities to learn more about these "big buckets" of work district-wide).
- Alignment of staff meetings/time/workload with the need for scoring and for discussing student work, resulting data, and the implications for practice
- Materials adequate to the task
- Ongoing feedback loops with students, parents, and involved partners

Richmond Featured on PDXposed

Watch Richmond on the cable program PDXposed! The segment will air Friday, September 23 on channel 14 at 7:00 pm. We will also tape the show for our marketing needs. Their website www.pdxposed.com will have the information, too. After the Richmond segment airs, you can also view it "On Demand" if you have digital cable.

Many thanks to a great cast of past and present Richmond students who gave the show's host some marvelous lessons about Japanese language, culture and sights! Masako Wieber (parent of Aurelia and Koji) worked very hard to coordinate

the taping at Richmond on August 29th. The Richmond "stars" of the show are:

- Jack Fitzpatrick-Blackmun (6th Grade)
- Andy Gritzmacher (6th Grade)
- Sam Kowash (6th Grade)
- Kianna Green (6th Grade)
- Stephanie Nakamine (6th Grade)
- Aurelia Wieber (6th Grade)
- Salem Carrico-Rogers (3rd Grade)
- Koji Wieber (3rd Grade)

Bank Day Every Wednesday!

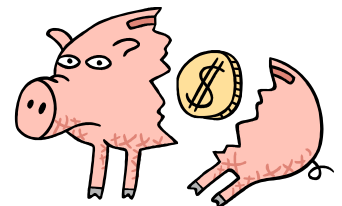
Bank Day begins on September 14! Students can open new accounts and verify existing accounts. We prepare the bank registers for you on this day. The first day to make deposits is September 21. We will be in room 17, next to the cafeteria.

To open a new account, you need to bring your social security number, know where and when you were born and your mother's maiden name. Parents, this is your child's account and they will sign the application. At school, we are able to make deposits only. If you want to make a withdrawal you will need to go to a Washington Mutual Bank with your child's ac-

count number/SS#.

Fifth graders can volunteer to help with Bank Day. They must be able to come at 8:10 to help set up. Permission slips will be sent home for parents to sign as well as the morning teacher.

Questions, please call Wendy Sakai at 503-246-5298 or email at tombotombo@comcast.net.



First banking day is Wed. Sept. 14th in room 17 by the cafeteria!

A Note From Our Interim Principal, continued from page 3

- At elementary: Kindergarten standards and assessments

Significant time in classrooms and in dialogue with teachers and students:

- Knowledge of every teacher as a learner;
- Clear expectations for growth/practice; brokering of support.

Increase parent/community involvement and/or strategic partnerships focused on advancing learning.

More information about the district strategic planning process appears on page 6.

The official school calendar is a work in progress and should be out by the end of September in a Family Handbook, prepared jointly by parent Catherine Malone, Tracy Christensen and me. In the meantime, here's a list of important dates to note:

- Sept. 12 Site Council Mtg. 3:15 PM
- Sept.. 14 Parent Organization Roundtable for Reps. 7:00 PM
- Sept. 16 Kindergarten Coffee in Volunteer Room at 8:45 AM

- Sept.. 20 Back-to-School Night at 6:00—8:00 PM
- Sept. 28 Parent meeting for 5th grade trip planning at 7:00 PM
- Oct. 6 Curriculum Night at 6:00 PM to give parents a chance to get to know our wonderful teachers and their programs.

Back-to-School Night on September 20th

Richmond will host our Back-to-School Night for families 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.

Upcoming Community Meetings on Strategic Planning

Everyone who cares about Portland students and schools is invited to help Portland Public Schools craft a strategic plan for the next five years. Two strategic planning processes are underway:

1. District Strategic Plan will define the goals and outcomes for students across the district and the

measures to hold everyone accountable for progress. This document is almost complete.

2. Richmond Strategic Plan will be aligned to the district's plan and tailored to the unique needs of our students, staff and families. Staff and parent leaders (officers of Oya No Kai, PTA, Site Council and Foundation) will

have an opportunity to begin planning on November 1st with a full day of work with a facilitator who has started working with the staff.

3. Site Council elections for staff and parents will be held by the end of September. Look for more information about this in the next issue.

Morning Drop-Off, Assemblies and Afternoon Pick-Up

A committee of staff have been working very hard to create simple morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures to meet everyone's needs. We realize we'll need to do a bit of "tweaking" as we learn about glitches, such as the hold up in the cafeteria on the first day of school. Please be patient- we're trying to get it right!

Morning Drop-Off: Children in grades 1-5 will meet in the cafeteria and line up by morning classes. Children will be dismissed to their teachers and leave the cafeteria beginning

with older grades first in descending order to give little ones more time on the stairs. Kindergarteners will continue to be walked to class by parents and caregivers.

Staff respectfully request that parents understand how precious their uninterrupted morning planning time is to a smooth start to the school day. For this reason, our staff committee recommends that children gather in the cafeteria. This will also facilitate our committee's second recommendation about a weekly morning assembly every Wednesday. We are unable to

continue morning assemblies in the gym due to damage to our newly re-finished gym floor and concerns about the loss of instructional time with the daily schedule. Instead, each teacher will rotate the leadership of the weekly assembly to give classes a chance to showcase their work. **Assemblies will be every Wednesday at 8:45—9:05 AM. Look for the first assembly on September 14th.**

Afternoon Pick-Up: Students will continue to be picked up at the classroom door or other pre-arranged spot.

Favorite Playground Features Removed For Safety

What's happened to Richmond's volcano and playground swings? This question has been on the minds of many people in our school community since they were removed last week.

District workers demolished the volcano because it represented a significant safety risk to young children, particularly on wet, rainy days when

the surface became slippery. Portland Public Schools used records from accident reports and the feedback of Richmond staff to make the decision to demolish the volcano. The paving stones used to build the volcano were saved by workers and have been given to the City of Portland for community projects.

The swings were removed due to damage sustained over the summer. They are beyond repair and our district lacks funding to replace them at the present time.

Stones from the volcano have been given to the City of Portland for community projects.

Lunch & Noon Recess Time

Parents, are you hearing that your child's noon recess and lunch time have shrunk by 58 minutes? 30 minutes? 19 minutes and 45 seconds? We're hearing all kinds of wild estimates about reduced time for lunch and play. In fact, student eating time for lunch has decreased by 2 1/2 minutes and play time by the same amount. Lunch/recess time last year

was 40 minutes long. We've reduced it to 35 minute blocks this year to allow us to adequately supervise the playground and cafeteria with a dramatically reduced staff.

We've also noticed that it takes students a bit longer to eat their lunch on the first few days of the school year as they adjust to a new routine

and catch up with friends who have been away during the summer.

Portland Public Schools

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Japanese Magnet Program



Richmond Vision Statement*

Richmond Elementary School is a diverse community of people working together to create a child-centered experience that promotes self-confidence, respect, success and joy in learning.

Our Beliefs:

- Real learning occurs when a person sees its relevance to their life.
- Family and community work together to inspire student success.
- All children learn when surrounded with high expectations.
- Children learn in a variety of environments.
- Children learn in multi-aged settings.
- Children need an emotionally and physically safe environment.

*To be revised by school community in 2005-06 as part of strategic planning.

Upcoming Community Meetings on Strategic Planning, cont. pg. 4

EVERY parent and staff member will have the opportunity to be involved in Richmond's strategic planning process through a variety of means: committees, surveys, focus groups, and general feedback. Strategic planning updates and opportunities will be a regular feature of this newsletter and will be outlined at Back-to-School night.

Five community meetings on the *District Strategic Plan* are scheduled:

- Saturday, September 10, 8 a.m. at Benson High School, 546 NE 12th Ave.
- Tuesday, September 13, 7 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 10625 SW 35th Ave.
- Tuesday, September 13, 7 p.m. at Marshall High School, 3905 SE 91st Ave.
- Thursday, September 15, 7p.m. at Wilson High School, 1151 SW Vermont Ave.
- Thursday, September 15, 7p.m. at Lee Elementary,

2222 NE 92nd Ave.

"We want to hear from all corners of the community," said Superintendent Vicki Phillips. "Are your hopes and priorities for Portland Public Schools students reflected in the plan? Are the goals listed the proper goals? Is it clear how we will measure success? Are we measuring the right things? We hope for wide participation in this effort, because in the end, it will take all of us working together to gain the results we want for our children."

Childcare will be available. For more information, or to offer comments on the Strategic Plan, visit the Portland Public Schools website, www.pps.k12.or.us.