

September 8, 2006

www.richmondjmp.org



JAPANESE IMMERSION AT RICHMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Richmond Shinbun

Welcome to Richmond

Dear Richmond Families,

It's been a wonderful start to the school year for Richmond students, teachers and parents. Many parents and students have told me how nice it is to be back at school and I couldn't agree more. We have 113 new families, a new strategic plan and talented new teachers to add to our team. It's clearly going to be a great year of learning, if the smiles on the faces of students, teachers and parents are any indication of community confidence and satisfaction in our school.

Many of you have already welcomed our new teachers and have been full of compliments about their work so far. Here's the list of our new teachers in case you haven't had a chance to greet them yet.

- Jaina Kapranos, preschool
- Kelly Marsh, kindergarten
- Maki Hagglund, 3rd grade
- Beth Martin, 3rd grade

I'm very happy to be back at Richmond as your building principal and honored to work with such a committed and talented school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can do anything more to make sure your tenure at Richmond is a wonderful experience. Your feedback helps us improve our service to you and your family.

Fondly,

Kathryn Anderson, Principal
keanders@pps.k12.or.us



Mark Your Calendar!

Back-to-School Night & PTA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 19th
6:00-8:00 PM

- Classroom visits
- Updates from Richmond's Foundation and community partners
- PTA Playground Plan

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Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. All individuals and groups shall be treated with fairness in all activities, programs and operations, without regard to age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

Board of Education Policy 1.80.020-P

Richmond's Enrollment Grows!

This week, Richmond's staff officially welcomed 113 new students and their families to our Japanese immersion program! Please join us in welcoming these new folks to our wonderful school. Here are the levels of enrolled students by class for this first week of school:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Pre-school | 27 total (17 full-day, 10 half-day) |
| Kindergarten | 84 total (21 students in each of 4 classes) |
| 1st Grade | 56 total (28 students in each of 2 classes) |
| 2nd Grade | 55 total (27-28 in each of 2 classes) |
| 3rd Grade | 46 total (23 in each of 2 classes) |
| 4th Grade | 45 total (22-23 in each of 2 classes) |
| 5th Grade | 50 total (25 in each of 2 classes) |

363 enrolled for 2006-07

306 enrolled in 2005-06

Richmond will ultimately serve 387 students this year, once Indian Education's Montessori pre-school is up and running in their room next to the YMCA space.



New Calligraphy Teacher Needed

Do you know anyone who is passionate about Japanese calligraphy and has the time and willingness to work 1-2 days per week with Richmond students in preschool to 5th grade? We just learned this week that Yoko Bronstein, Richmond's calligraphy teacher last year, has accepted a full-time teaching position at Milwaukie High School. We wish Mrs. Bronstein a very successful year with her students in Milwaukie and know her students are very fortunate to have such a wonderful teacher. We are certainly going to miss Mrs. Bronstein very much.

"I really enjoyed working with students at Richmond. They are wonderful!"

Yoko Bronstein

Richmond calligraphy teacher in 2005-06

Please let Kathryn know if you are interested in teaching calligraphy or know someone who would be a great teacher! You can call Kathryn at 503-916-6220 or email her at keanders@pps.k12.or.us.



Start the Morning with Breakfast Served in Richmond's Cafeteria

Cynthia Taylor, Richmond's dedicated cook, serves a nutritious breakfast for students every morning in the Richmond cafeteria. Breakfast includes a warm entrée, fruit or 100% juice and 1% or nonfat milk. The cost is 75 cents for children and \$1.50 for adults. Families eligible for reduced priced meals pay 30 cents for a child's breakfast. Parents are always welcome to join their child(ren) for breakfast.

Children are supervised by Richmond's principal, Kathryn Anderson and Kaoru Bironstadt, preschool/kindergarten aide. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria at:

7:30 AM for children in the YMCA morning program

7:40 AM for children who arrive at school via car, bike, etc.

7:50 AM for children riding the school bus

Portland Public Schools Pulls Soft Drinks, Low-Nutrient Snacks From Campuses

At the advice of its wellness advisory committee and in conjunction with its new student wellness policy, Portland Public Schools is replacing soft drinks with water, milk and juice, and sugary and fried snack foods with healthier alternatives, in school vending machines.

The new guidelines go in effect on the first day of school Sept. 6, and vending company employees have begun changing products in machines. The changes affect high schools; since soda has never been offered in middle schools and snacks were eliminated from middle schools last fall.

Permitted beverages are water, milk and 100 percent juice. Because Portland Public Schools has a contract with Coca Cola through 2009, the water and juices will be Coke products.

Snacks must meet restrictions on fat, saturated fat, sugar and caloric content, and can include an array of items such as baked potato chips, nuts, yogurt and energy bars.

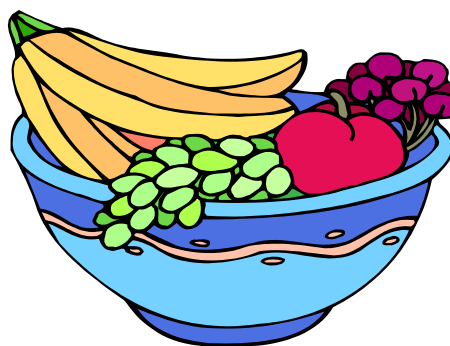
Student stores must also adhere to the district policy; fundraisers during the school day must follow the policy, but there are no restrictions 30 minutes or more after the school day has ended.

The purpose of the changes is to combat childhood obesity and other eating disorders by "making the healthy choice the easy choice on school campuses," according to the new student wellness policy, which the PPS Board of Education

approved in June.

The policy, which also focuses on the importance of physical activity, is in keeping with the requirements of the federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. Following its passage, Superintendent Vicki Phillips appointed a wellness advisory committee, which submitted six recommendations in late July.

Although the student wellness policy is new, the district's focus on nutrition is not. Kristy Obbink, director of Nutrition Services, says: "For more than 20 years, PPS has been the leader in meeting the goals of the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans by increasing fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and by reducing the fat and refined carbohydrate content of our meals."



Healthy snacks available in school vending machines across PPS!

Student Drop Off & Pick Up Moves to the Classroom Door

Richmond's growing enrollment means we're not able to fit everyone into the cafeteria at the beginning and end of the school day as we've done in years past. Parents and children will say goodbye in the morning and meet at day's end outside the classroom door. Our interns will be out in the hallway every morning at 7:50 AM to help children store their belongings in lockers and get settled into line outside the classroom door. We hope this new arrangement meets the following needs identified by parents and staff last year:

- Improves security for children and families with teachers and interns on hand to monitor child pick up and drop off outside the classroom door rather than in the crush of a crowded cafeteria.
- Provides a calm, peaceful start and end to the school day away from the noise and crowds of the cafeteria.

- Gives parents a chance to get to know each other as they wait briefly for the school day to start or end. We hope this gives you a consistent place to visit, make arrangements for play dates, sleep overs, etc.



Parents can help make sure this new arrangement works by supervising child(ren) waiting with you and using soft voices to minimize interruptions to the end of our teaching day. Please remember the period before and after the school day is the time teachers count on to make final preparations for the day ahead. It's best to make an appointment with the teacher if you need to discuss important issues.

Richmond's Newsletter Turns Green

Our weekly newsletter is currently available online thanks to the expertise of our web designer, Jean Mittelstadt, who's also the parent of a Richmond second grader. Jean has designed our website to give visitors easy access to weekly newsletters with just a couple mouse clicks at www.richmondjmp.org. Many parents tell us they love the convenience of reading our newsletter online and have urged us to "go green" and publish in electronic format only.

We know online publishing saves countless numbers of trees from ending up as copy paper. We also know the electronic format limits the amount of toner used for printing, thereby restricting the use of petrochemicals used to make toner and the toner cartridges.

How much money would we save if we published the newsletter online only? The idea intrigued us so we got out our pencils and did the math to determine the economic benefits of publishing our newsletter online. We've assembled a few story problems for you and your child(ren) to help illustrate the economic benefits of online publishing. The answers appear below.

Problem #1—There are 312 families with children at Richmond Elementary School. How many pieces of paper does it take to copy Richmond's newsletter each week for every family, if each newsletter has an average of 6 pages in each issue? How many pages are printed in a year if we publish the newsletter once per week for 35 weeks?

Problem #2—There are 500 sheets of paper per ream. How many reams of paper does Richmond use to copy the newsletter each week?

Problem #3—If there are ten reams per box of copy paper, how many weeks will it take Richmond to use an entire box of paper to print the newsletter?

Problem #4—One box of copy paper is \$30.99. How much does the paper cost per issue of the newsletter?

Problem #5—Richmond will publish 35 issues of the newsletter in 2006-07. What is the cost of paper for the newsletter over the course of the school year?

Problem #6—Richmond is charged \$.03 per copy for copy machine rental and service. What is the total copy charge for a year's worth of newsletters of average length?

Problem #7—Toner for the copy machine is \$149.99 per cartridge. Each toner cartridge prints 8,000 pages. How many toner cartridges will we need to print the newsletters this year? How much will the toner cartridges cost all together?

Problem #8—What is the total cost to publish a year's worth of newsletters at Richmond?

What could Richmond do with the savings? Here are a few examples of the things we could provide for our school if we published online only:

- 200 new hardcover books for our library
- 20% of the cost for a new playground structure
- 5-6 artists-in-residence sessions or school assemblies
- Curriculum and large classroom libraries for two new 1st grade classrooms in 2007-08
- 70 new novel sets for classroom literacy groups
- 20 teacher planning days

Richmond's newsletter will be published electronically from now on to help us show our students how a small act can have a big impact on the environment and our school quality. We will print a small number of paper copies for families who do not have access to the internet and will make these available in our office on the wall-mounted brochure displays. Please share your feedback about this change.

Answers to Newsletter Story Problems

Answer #1: Each issue takes 1,872 pages on average. At this rate, the newsletter will take 65,520 pages in 2006-07.

Answer #2: Each newsletter takes almost four reams of paper.

Answer #3: We will use one box of paper every 2 1/2 weeks.

Answer #4: Richmond spends \$12.40 on paper per issue of the newsletter.

Answer #5: Paper will cost \$434 for the 2006-07 school year.

Answer #6: Copy machine costs total \$1,965.60 for the 2006-07 school year.

Answer #7: 65,520 pages will take eight toner cartridges for a total toner cost of \$1,199.92.

Answer #8: Total cost to publish 35 newsletters in paper format is \$3,599.52.

Head Lice: Please Check Your Child

Our school office has received reports from several parents in 2nd and 5th grades about an outbreak of head lice that seems to originate from summer sports and play-dates. We recommend parents check children for the presence of lice and treat accordingly.

What is lice? A head louse is a small parasite about the size of a sesame seed, usually tan or gray in color. They are wingless and do not hop, jump or fly. Nits are commonly found behind the ears and at the nape of the neck as these sites offer warmth and protection from light. They are usually light brown to tan in color and slightly fattened.

Head lice only live, feed and breed on the human head. They do not live on animals or birds and cannot survive for more than 48 hours off the head. They are often associated with poor hygiene and poverty, but this is a false belief. They are commonly found in home with good hygiene and in upper and middle class conditions.

The life cycle of a head louse is approximately 21-30 days. The louse starts out as an egg, or nit. They are laid and glued tightly to the hair shaft.

Tips to prevent a full lice breakout in your home:

- Check all household members weekly. Make it a part of regular grooming habits.
- Warn children against sharing coats, hats, combs, hair clips, head phones and other personal items.
- Make sure your child uses his or her own sleeping bag on over-nights.
- Wash hair daily, it may dislodge or damage some lice but mainly it provides a natural opportunity to check your child's hair.
- Notify camps, schools, church groups and your child's friend's parents if your child becomes infested.
- **Most lice cases are not incurred at school**, be aware of other possible sources of re-infestation including visits to other homes, churches, or clubs.

Important Document Goes Home Today

Check your child's backpack carefully this afternoon! Inside you'll find an important form with this heading at the top:

Student Verification Report

This form has all the current contact information for your family and must be updated annually. Schools rely on the information on this form when your child is sick, has an emergency, or simply forgot the homework for the day. For that reason, we need you to make corrections directly on the

form and send it back to your child's homeroom teacher. We'll update the form electronically using your corrections.

Please let Patsy Burke, Richmond's wonderful secretary, know if any information changes as we proceed through the school year. You can reach Patsy by stopping by the office or via the following contacts:

Phone: 503-916-6220 Fax: 503-916-2665

Email: pburke1@pps.k12.or.us

First Scrip Order Monday, September 11!

Scrip is gift certificates or gift cards we buy at a discount & sell to you at face value, earning a profit for our program. Proceeds can be directed to your child's class trip account, ONK general fund, or Richmond Foundation. Ten percent of the proceeds go into the Oya No Kai general fund, which supports the entire program.

Scrip is available for major grocery stores: **Fred Meyer/QFC, New Seasons, Wild Oats & Safeway**; as well as bookstores, restaurants, fast food

chains, and clothing, video & music stores. We have over **80 participating merchants**. Please see our **order form** for a complete list – available at school and online at **www.oyanokai.org/fundraising/scrip.html**.

To order, simply fill out an order form & turn it in to the scrip volunteer in the Richmond Cafeteria on Monday morning by 8 am, or to Patsy, our wonderful school secretary. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Kowash at onkscrip@comcast.net or 503-235-5513. This is an easy & free way to raise money for our programs!



Portland Public Schools Japanese Magnet Program

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Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 503-916-6220
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Website: www.richmondjmp.org

**Richmond office hours
are 7:30 AM-4:00 PM**

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 8-30, 2006

- Mon. Sept. 11 1st full day for kindergarten and pre-school classes
Scrip order day—leave orders at scrip table in cafeteria
- Fri. Sept. 15 Scrip pick up in cafeteria
- Mon. Sept 18 Fall picture day
- Tues. Sept. 19 Back-to-School Night 6:00-8:00 PM (see article on front page)
- Wed. Sept. 20 Hearing screening for kindergarten and 1st grade students
- Fri. Sept. 22 to Sun. Sept. 24
Portland Taiko Fall Performances of “Ohayo Gozaimasu” at the Newmark Theatre.
Check www.portlandtaiko.org for ticket information and performance times.
- Mon. Sept. 25 Scrip order day—leave orders at scrip table in cafeteria
- Wed. Sept. 27 School bus safety drill for all grades at 9:45 and 10:00 AM
- Fri. Sept. 29 Scrip pick up in cafeteria

Teacher Welcome Breakfast on Sept. 5th a BIG Success

Richmond's staff members were so appreciative and it provided time for everyone to get to know each other a little better, laugh, eat, and fill-up on caffeine before putting the finishing touches on their classrooms and common areas.

Let's make this a tradition!!

A special Thank You to all those who made this a warm and wonderful morning:

- **Catherine Malone** for the great idea to have this breakfast, for providing the delicious oatmeal and toppings, and overall coordination of the event
- **Monica Mueller** for her flower arranging skills. Each new teacher had a colorful bouquet for their rooms that are still going strong.
- **Nina Nakagawa** for a healthy selection of fresh fruit
- **Kristina Kallen** for her homemade (from scratch

mind you) quiche and fruit tart

- **Meg Matsushima** for transporting Kristina's goodies along with her own muffins and OJ
- **Patsy Burke** for her idea to do an oatmeal bar with all the toppings
- **Ariana Wolf** for a variety of muffins (some gingerbread shaped, cute)
- **Masako Wieber** for the Famous Annie's donuts (not a single one left)
- **Mikiko and Paul Gilles** for the amazing quality and quantity of life saving Java (oh, yeah and decaf too)



Thank you for the wonderful breakfast!