

October 6, 2006

www.richmondjmp.org



JAPANESE IMMERSION AT RICHMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Richmond Shinbun

Enrollment at Richmond Up By 16.5%

Enrollment is booming at Richmond! Our total number of students served in our school has now reached 384 with 361 in Japanese Immersion and 24 in Indian Education's Montessori Program. Last year at this time we were serving 306 students in Japanese Immersion. This enrollment increase for Richmond is in contrast to Portland Public Schools' enrollment decline for 2006-07.

As expected, the number of students enrolled in Portland Public Schools declined slightly this year. As of the preliminary October 2 enrollment snapshot, 46,378 students are enrolled, pre-kindergarten through high school, a drop of 1.3 percent from October 2005's enrollment of 47,008. That is the smallest enrollment decline in five years.

At the district level, this year's students include:

- 22,176 in pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade (down 130 from 2005)
- 9,970 in 6th through 8th grades (down 141)
- 14,216 in high school, grades 9 through 12 (down 375), and
- 16 students who are not in graded programs (up 16 from 2005).

The count includes all students served by Portland Public Schools, in regular, focus option and alternative schools, in special services programs, community-based education programs and in public charter schools.

The school district contracts with Portland State University's Population Research Center for long-term enrollment projections for Portland's K-12 student population. The demographers project that Portland Public Schools' enrollment will stabilize at roughly 43,000 to 44,000 students after years of decline due to dropping birthrates and the lack of affordable family housing in the city.

Who to call when the bus is late!

Many parents have been concerned about the fact that Portland Public Schools' buses are not running on time. As a result, you've asked us to share the phone number for the PPS transportation department so you can check on the status of a late bus. Here's the number to call when the bus is late:

503-916-6901 ext. 404

Make sure you know the number of the late bus:

- #62—North Portland
- #221— Southwest Portland
- #222— Northeast Portland
- #223- Southeast Portland

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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

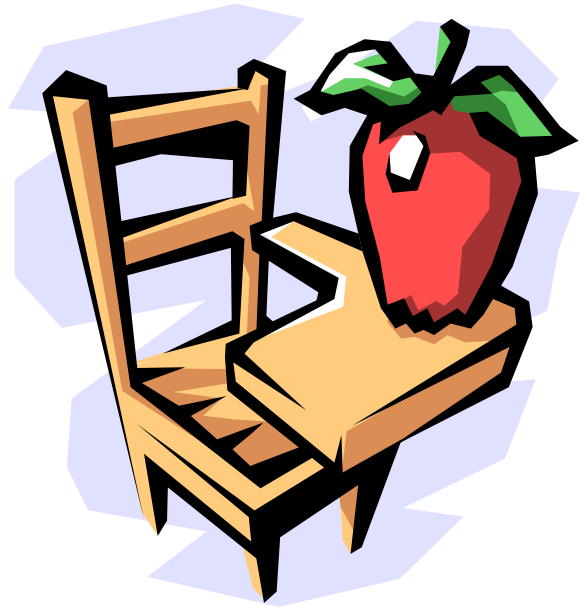
PTA News

Phone banking volunteers needed! Sunday, October 15 from 2:30 to 5:30 is our next opportunity to make calls regarding the local option campaign. Please email me at kmk456@comcast.net if you can come down to the headquarters at 1024 NE Davis (across from Franz Bakery) and make some calls. We would really appreciate it! This past Monday we had 5 dedicated parents come down and work with Rose City Park Elementary School calling previous voters. If you have a chance please give a big thank you to Sally Mays, Paula Smith, Chris Hogness, and grandparent, Dorothy Fisher for donating their time and energy.

Grandparents Brigade News: The grandparent's brigade is getting up and running and will be in full swing by October 1. However, we need more grandparents!!! If you have a parent or grandparent who is interested in coming to volunteer for lunchtime duty, reading with children, making copies for teachers, assisting in the library, socializing with other high-energy mature citizens, etc., please call Dorothy Fisher at 503-255-9656 to sign up. All mobility levels are welcome because there is a job for everyone!!!

Playground Update: Thanks to our marvelous, hard-working PTA playground committee the new south playstructure has been ordered! We met our goal of \$16,684.31 through the generous support of community partners, the Richmond neighborhood association, parents, teachers, and even our own students. The students themselves collected \$120.51 in one week during the dime drive! Please congratulate the 2nd-grade class because they collected the most money by bringing in \$52.90!!! Great job to you all!

PTA Clothes Closet: It is Richmond's turn to volunteer at the PTA Clothes Closet on Monday, October 16 from 9:30 to 1:30. We need 5 volunteers. The PTA Clothes Closet is a charitable activity located at Marshall High School that provides children ages 4 to 18 with everything from underwear to coats. These are students who would otherwise go without. If you can volunteer even a few hours of your time, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kristina Kallen at kmk456@comcast.net to sign up.



Back by popular demand! The Kiyokawa Family Orchard apple sale is back! Last year in response to the National PTA supporting a more family-friendly healthy lifestyle, all PTAs were encouraged to replace their unhealthy fundraisers (like cookie dough or candy bars) with something more healthy. Meg Matsu-shima had the terrific idea of inviting Kiyokawa Family Orchards to participate in an apple sale fundraiser with us, and it was remarkable! Not only did we support a third-generation Japanese farming family in our own local Hood River Valley, but we also provided our families with boxes of healthy fresh-picked fruit (literally picked the day before it was delivered to us). Kiyokawa Family Orchards even included recipes with our boxes of apples! We will be sending home the materials for the apple sale with the price list and varieties in your child's backpack on Monday. The apple delivery will be Friday afternoon, October 27, and as always we can use volunteers to help us get the boxes ready for pickup by parents immediately following dismissal (we need some good muscle power). Please contact Kristina Kallen at kmk456@comcast.net for information or to volunteer.

Oya No Kai Status in Portland Public Schools

Greetings Richmond Parents,

You've probably noticed the absence of Oya No Kai information and backpack flyers this school year. The reason for this absence is a new policy that was initiated by PPS concerning which non-PPS groups would be allowed access to students. Groups that were automatically given approved status are PTA, Foundation and Booster clubs. Unfortunately Oya No Kai Inc. did not neatly fit into any of those categories and we were prohibited from fundraising and distributing materials at school. Oya No Kai has been in contact with the folks responsible for making the status determinations. PPS currently does not have a definition of what a "booster club" is. They are doing research into this matter. In the meantime due to Kathryn Anderson's efforts on our behalf we were given temporary approved status until January.

So between now and January we need to morph Oya No Kai into a club that fits PPS's idea of a booster club. Repre-

sentatives from the Strategic Fundraising Committee, Oya No Kai, PTA and Kathryn Anderson will be getting together October 9th at 6:30pm in the Richmond staff lounge to start planning the next steps.

If you have ideas you would like to share please feel free to email me at monica_mueller@hotmail.com

Directory Information Needed ASAP!

If you did not get your Oya No Kai directory information turned in, it's not too late to send it by email to Erin Fisher at vanfish5@msn.com The Oya No Kai directory is the only source of information you will be able to access to connect with other jmp students and families. The Richmond office is not able to share this private information with parents.

Auction News

Last week I had the honor of meeting with Richmond's volunteer Auction Room Representatives. These are individuals who have agreed to help organize class projects for the upcoming auction, and encourage procurement from all families in their class.

I would like to recognize and thank these room representatives for their willingness to take on this role:

Sonciray Bonnell (Kindergarten)
Leslie Mathies (Kindergarten)
Sarah Stephens (Kindergarten and 2nd Grade)
Jill Tuleya (1st Grade)
Dana Frison (1st Grade)
Karen Alexander (2nd Grade)
Aimee Virnig (3rd Grade)
Kelly Kaylor (3rd Grade)
Jennifer Lootens (5th Grade)
Nancy Youngs (5th Grade)

Auction Reps are still needed for preschool, 4th grade and ideally one more from Kindergarten.

Your auction reps will be communicating soon with your class to discuss possible project ideas. In the meantime, if you have a great idea for a kid-made project or a service project that your class could do, please notify your auction room representative right away!

That leads me to an exciting, first-time ever announcement! This year there will be a class procurement chal-

lenge. Here is how it will work:

We are asking each family to procure a minimum of two items/services for the auction. When you turn in your donation with procurement form to the auction bin in the office, be sure to sign your name where it states, "solicited by" on the form, AND write down your child's grade – example "Ima Donor, 5th grade".

The winning class will be the class with the most total donations (counted by procurement forms), and the winning class will receive a \$500 dollar gift from the 5th grade class auction proceeds. This gift will be transferred to your class account to be used for future cultural exchanges.

Please feel free to ask your questions, share your concerns, or volunteer to help with auction at any time.

Volunteering like you,

Jody Little littlej@qwest.net and Melanie Scheuermann
wmdrj@quik.com



Save Our Elms Update

For parents new to Richmond, our school grounds are home to 18 mature Elm trees – about half of the Elms in the Richmond neighborhood are at our school. These trees are not only beautiful, but cool our grounds, provide habitat to urban wildlife and help absorb carbon monoxide emissions. Elms are susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and many communities - including Portland - have lost the Elms trees lining their streets to this disease. DED is a fungus that is spread by a beetle who eats dead Elm wood. Once infected, an Elm will die within weeks and can spread quickly to neighboring trees.

The Richmond chapter of Save Our Elms currently has \$1274 in the bank to use to inoculate the trees once every three years with a fungicide to protect them from Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Our trees were inoculated in 2001 and 2004 and are due for inoculation this summer. Our chapter has also helped PPS pay a portion of tree pruning costs and waters three DED-resistant Elms planted with the help of Richmond Neighborhood's Debbie Stoller and Friends of Trees in 2005. Sadly, one of these new Elms was cut down in early September, 2006.

Fungicide prices vary every year, but we can expect inoculant's prices to cost \$3,000 (in 2004, the scientist who developed a new fungicide gave a huge price break and it only cost \$2,000). As you can see, we are currently short of our goal.

To raise money, Save Our Elms has partnered with Portland Roasting to sell coffee. The coffee is delicious, environmentally friendly and costs \$10/lb. \$4.50/lb. of each pound goes to Save Our Elms. We accept donations as well. Much thanks to parents Paul Gilles, Mikiko Mori-Gilles, Mary Klinger and Secretary Patsy Burke for making this program happen.

Please put orders in the Save Our Elms mailbox in the school office or email Mary Klinger at dustin-mary@comcast.net. Please include payment in the order (make checks to *Save Our Elms* only – no cash please!) or arrange to get a check to Mary before picking up your coffee. For orders submitted by 8:00 AM Thursday, coffee will be available in the office by Friday afternoon.

Here's is a description of the coffees available:

All coffees for Richmond, including the decafs, are our Farm Friendly™ Direct coffees because as important to us as the quality of our coffee is our social responsibility. We strongly believe that we can make a positive difference in the coffee world through direct, socially responsible coffee sourcing. The foundation of this coffee sourcing is our Farm Friendly Direct™ Programs. These Programs involve paying growers a premium for their coffee with 100% of the premium going to farm and community projects. All of these projects are designed to give back directly to the farmers - furthering the long term sustainable infrastructure. These are extremely important issues to Portland Roasting!

Ethiopian – Kochere: This coffee is part of Project H.O.P.E., which stands for Hope and Opportunity for the People of Ethiopia. We combine Portland Roasting's efforts with our coffee broker and farming cooperative to build a much needed community center for the Ethiopian farming community of Kochere. This community hub will provide a common meeting place for educational purposes, as well as a vital medical dispensary for the people of Kochere.

French Organic – Certified organic, shade grown; dark roast

Farm Friendly Direct, SWP (Swiss Water Process) French Decaf – directly sourced, chemical free, dark roast.

Farm Friendly Direct, SWP (Swiss Water Process) Morning Decaf – directly sourced, chemical free, light roast.



Save Our Elms Coffee Order Form

Date _____

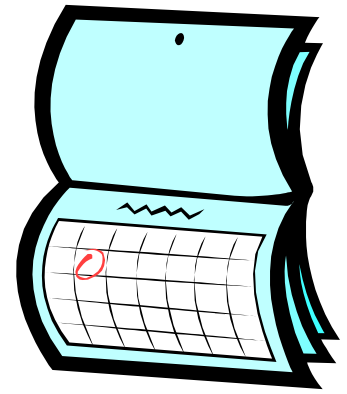
Name _____ Phone _____
email _____

| Coffee | Ground | Whole Bean | Totals at \$10/lb. |
|---------------------|--------|------------|--------------------|
| Ethiopian - Kochere | | | |
| French Organic | | | |
| SWP French Decaf | | | |
| SWP Morning Decaf | | | |
| Totals | | | |

_____ Donation amount. Save Our Elms is a non-profit 501(c) 3 corporation in the State of Oregon. EIN: 31-1581092.



Portland Public Schools



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2276 SE 41st Street
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Japanese Magnet Program

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 6- NOVEMBER 1, 2006

- Mon. Oct. 9 Scrip order day in cafeteria
Site Council Meeting at 2:30-4:30 PM
- Thurs. Oct. 12 Hearing Screening (follow-up for some Kinder, 1st and 2nd)
- Fri. Oct. 13 SCHOOL CLOSED—Oregon Teacher In-service Day
- Mon. Oct. 16 Scrip pick up day (Mon. this week due to Fri. school closure)
- Wed. Oct. 18 General Parent Meeting with PTA and Oya No Kai at 7:00-8:30 PM
- Mon. Oct. 23 Scrip order day
- Tues. Oct. 24 Katoh students arrive from Numazu, Japan!
- Fri. Oct. 27 Picture re-take day
Scrip pick up in cafeteria
- Sun. Oct. 29 Fukuno students arrive from Nanto City, Japan!
- Tues. Oct. 31 Halloween
- Wed. Nov. 1 SCHOOL CLOSED—Teacher Professional Development Day

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

Site Council Election Results

You've read in previous issues of the *Richmond Shinbun* that we have two openings on our Site Council for 2006-07 and held a parent election for these positions during the week of October 2-6. Annual elections for vacant parent and staff positions are a requirement of the Oregon Education Act for the 21st Century.

We were fortunate to have three wonderful parents who were willing to volunteer their time and expertise for our Site Council. The following two parents will begin their two-year Site Council term with our first meeting on November 13th. Please join the

Richmond staff in thanking these parents for helping our school in such a significant way.

- Ann Fyfield (parent of 5th grader)
- Dawn Uchiyama (parent of pre-schooler and 3rd grader)

Site Council meetings are always open to any Richmond parent or staff member. We hold them on the second Monday of every month from 2:30-4:30 PM in the library. Please join us!