

November 17, 2006

[www.richmondjmp.org](http://www.richmondjmp.org)



JAPANESE IMMERSION AT RICHMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Richmond Shinbun

## Thanks to Portland Schools Foundation for Writing Grant!

Dear Richmond Families,

We just received the official word from the Portland Schools Foundation about a New Visions grant award to help us expand our improvements to writing instruction at Richmond. Our school joined a small group of schools in the Cleveland/Franklin region to write a New Visions grant together to address our common need to improve the way we teach writing. Specifically, this grant will:

- Provide a protocol for teachers to use to examine student writing and the learning behaviors of students during classroom writing lessons.
- Provide more time for teachers to examine student writing in grade level and/or language teams to determine the implications for improving instruction.
- Provide opportunities for teachers to visit colleagues classrooms during writing lessons to examine the impact of new instructional strategies and materials on the quality of student writing.

The work of this New Vision grant gives us the resources to carefully apply the information Richmond teachers have gleaned from teacher training sessions at the district level. For example, over the last year our PreK-2 teachers have been involved with professional training to improve reading and writing instruction. Walk into any Richmond classroom (both English and Japanese) and you should see evidence of the impact of teachers' training with writing instruction:

- Lots of current student writing on display around the classroom and in the halls.
- Children writing for many purposes throughout the school day.
- Children writing together with the whole class, in pairs, in small groups with the teacher, together with a parent volunteer or intern, and independently.
- Teachers leading mini-lessons about writing skills to the whole class based on needs taken from the teachers' examination of student writing.
- Child authors sharing their writing with partners, table groups or the entire class on a daily basis.
- Writing folders filled with writing in different stages of the writing process (i.e. planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing).

Grant writing at Richmond is going strong for other school needs as well. I've shared a massive grant calendar with our faculty, Site Council and parent fundraising committee that I developed to target the goals and objectives in Richmond's school improvement plan. We've set a goal to write two grants a month to fund our school priorities, so look for updates about this work in the months ahead. In the meantime, I hope your family has a wonderful, restful Thanksgiving holiday!

Fondly,

Kathryn Anderson  
Richmond Principal

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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*

# Don't Miss the Richmond P.T.A. Craft Fair –Dec. 7th

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An Annual Favorite, the Craft Fair is scheduled for Thurs., Dec. 7th at 6:00-8:00 PM in the cafeteria. The spirit of giving thrives on this night as our children busily create memorable gifts for grandparents, friends, and other special people. **We're looking for 10-12 people to each organize a craft table.** You don't have to be a Martha Stewart to do it. Simple gifts such as bookmarkers, mini-photo frames, and window charms are the kinds of items that children can proudly accomplish. *Please contact Suzanne Munro at [suzannemunro@msn.com](mailto:suzannemunro@msn.com).*



## PTA News

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**APPLE SALE RAISES OVER \$2500.00!!!** Thank you to all who participated in our annual apple sale with Kiyokawa Family Orchard. It was such a success on so many levels and I thought I would share with you how your purchase of apples touched the lives of so many people. Randy Kiyokawa of Kiyokawa Family Orchards was so pleased when I told him we were ordering 273 boxes of fruit to be shipped the last week of October. While other farmers were laying off their employees for the season, Randy was able to keep his crew on for another week to pick our fruit. We received crunchy, crisp, healthy goodness, and hard-working people kept their jobs! He was also happy that we were supporting Oregon farmers and keeping our local economy strong. We also surpassed our goal of \$1000 and raised approximately \$2600. Great job!

I also want to send out a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped us unload the apples from FedEx (who delivered the apples to us for free saving us over \$200 in shipping charges!) in such a short period of time. We had only 45 minutes to unload and categorize 6500 pounds of fruit and the volunteers met the challenge! You are amazing, and I cannot thank you enough!!! Now go and make some apple pie....!

**PTA--WE WORK FOR YOU!** Did you know that the PTA is a 100-year-old organization that cannot spend a dime of your money without your vote? It's true! If you are a PTA member, you can vote on how all the money raised at Richmond through our fund raisers can be spent, how much, when, etc. How many other groups can offer you all that for only \$10/person? We need to hear your voice and tap into your talents so join the Richmond PTA today!

**PARENT PLEDGE DRIVE:** The Portland Schools Foundation and Richmond PTA are partnering to raise money through an annual parent pledge drive. This plan would enable us to hire a reading specialist for next year, keep our librarian, and hire a Japanese Immersion Specialist who would be responsible for: 1) Partnerships with local, national and international organizations that support Japanese culture and language immersion; 2) Grants; 3) Curriculum refinement; and 4) Extended day/year enrichment activities. **Parent Pledge letter and form appear on pages 6-7 of this newsletter.**

**BOOK FAIR TIME!** Our semiannual Scholastic book fair is coming up the week of December 4th just in time for holiday shopping! The book fair is our only fund raiser for our Richmond library and it allows us to purchase new books and keeps us up to date with the Dynex System. As always, volunteers are appreciated and necessary to make this fair a success. Volunteer hours are from 7:45 to 8:30 and from 2:00 to 2:45. If you are interested in signing up to help, please contact Kristina Kallen at [kmk456@comcast.net](mailto:kmk456@comcast.net) or call 503-282-4435. We will have our semiannual volunteer \$20 drawing as well. Each time you volunteer your name is entered to win \$20 in free books at the fair. Thursday of the fair the names of 2 lucky winners will be drawn so the more times you volunteer the greater your chances of winning. We will also be hosting a student's contest so watch the newsletter for more details!

**CHRISTMAS TREE/BAKE SALE!** Michael and Ann Reid are opening up their very own Figgy Pudding Farm to us again this year for our annual Christmas tree/bake sale. This family event is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th so put it on your calendar and join the fun! For anyone who is interested in baking items for the sale or if you are interesting helping people who need assistance in cutting down their tree or getting it secured to their vehicle, please email Kristina Kallen at [kmk456@comcast.net](mailto:kmk456@comcast.net) or call 503-282-4435 to volunteer.

**CONFERENCE WEEK POTLUCK FOR STAFF!!** Our Richmond staff works so hard every year and conference time can be particularly taxing with double the work since there are two classes per teacher. Please join us in appreciating our teachers and staff by providing them with a healthy meal during their lunch and dinner breaks on Monday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 21. Please email Kristina Kallen at [kmk456@comcast.net](mailto:kmk456@comcast.net) with what you would like to bring for the staff so we ensure they have a balanced menu. The teachers do not fall under the district policy of nutritional guidelines so chocolate and desserts are definitely an option!!! Thank you for your generosity and gastronomic delights!!!

# Auction Procurement Questions and Answers

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## ***Where do I bring my donation?***

All donations must be brought to Richmond School and placed in the "drop off" bin in the office, so they can be entered in the data base and given a "number." Please attach your donor form to your item or include in an envelope with a gift certificate.

## ***What if my donated item is too large or too fragile to bring to Richmond?***

If your item is too large to bring to Richmond, please bring only the completed donor form to Richmond and check the box on the form labeled "Oya No Kai will pick up." THEN, please contact Jody Little (503) 232-4782 [littlej@qwest.net](mailto:littlej@qwest.net) to arrange for item pick up.

## ***If four Moms put together a package of a dessert a month, do they all get a tax deduction? If so, how do they fill out the form for that?***

The four of them need to have an estimated value for their donation. I believe each individual could get a tax deduction on 1/4 of that estimated value. Each mom needs to have a copy of the procurement form, although we only want ONE copy for our data base which includes all their names. Please consult your personal tax advisor for details.

Trader Joe's is willing to donate \$25 of non-perishable snack items in a canvas bag, but they won't give a gift certificate...on the form, what does one check regarding the Merchandise: Donor will deliver, ONK will pick up or already picked up?

Ideally, whoever approached Trader Joe's should pick up the donated item and bring to Richmond. If this is not possible, they should contact Jody (see above information) to arrange an alternative.

## ***A woman has a home business and wants to donate a service, does she need to make up her own gift certificate?***

If the donor wants a certificate with a particular logo, picture, etc, than yes, she should make her own. Otherwise, it is my understanding that the auction archetype software can make certificates to use.

## ***Are all tickets to the auction tax deductible, whether it is \$1000 or \$750 or \$50?***

The amount of the ticket minus the value of the dinner is tax deductible. Please consult your personal tax advisor for additional details.

## ***Can one of my family's donations be a cash donation?***

Yes, please put your cash donation in an envelope with the completed donor form and bring to Richmond school. Please note that all cash donations will be applied to the cultural exchanges unless otherwise specified.

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## **Playground Fundraiser Dec. 12th Thanks to Burgerville!**

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Burgerville Restaurant on SE 26th and Powell Blvd. (across the street from Cleveland High School) has graciously offered to host a series of fundraisers to benefit Richmond's playground project. The last date for this fundraiser is:

Tuesday **December 12th** at 5-8:00 PM

Burgerville will donate 10% of all sales during these hours to the next phase of Richmond's playground!

### **ORDERS AT THE DRIVE-THROUGH DO NOT COUNT!**

There will also be ice cream raffles and Richmond can keep all the income from those, as well. We need student volunteers to help run the raffles and greet patrons. A volunteer sheet will be posted in the cafeteria on the bulletin board.

Richmond's Playground Committee

## **Questions to Ask in Your Parent/Teacher Conference**

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*How is my child progressing toward the Oregon content standards and benchmarks for his/her grade level in all subjects?*

*What are you doing to support my child if he/she is struggling with any aspect of the curriculum?*

*What ideas do you have to help me support my child's learning at home?*

*How are you extending the curriculum for my child when he/she has mastered the content standard in any area of reading, writing, math, science, etc.?*

*How does my child successfully navigate social experiences at school? What can I do to assist my child with social growth?*

*How do you use volunteers to help meet the diverse learning needs of your students? How can I get involved to support you in the classroom?*

## Thank You Voters!

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On behalf of all of Portland Public Schools – more than 46,000 students, their families and our employees – thank you for your strong support for Portland school's local option levy.

With five years of stable funding for our operations, Portland Public Schools will keep the momentum building:

- Challenging our students of all ages to excel – in writing, reading, math, science, social studies and all academic pursuits;
- Maintaining and building back the full curriculum in our schools, including arts, music, PE and library services; and
- Increasing the rigor AND relevance of our middle and high schools – preparing kids for higher education and higher wage jobs.

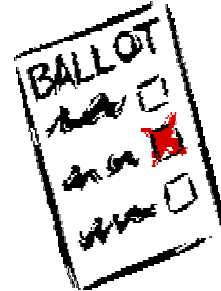
We saw our community come together in incredible

ways this fall, with businesses, community organizations, employee groups, local officials, students, parents, non-parents and seniors all pitching in. Their effort recognizes that our local public schools are a foundation of a vibrant community, livable neighborhoods and a thriving economy.

Again, on behalf of the entire PPS community, I promise we will do our best to honor the commitment you have made to our schools by constantly striving to keep improving – taking our very good school system and making it truly world class. Thank you.

Vicki Phillips

Superintendent



## Save Our Elms Update

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"Trees are just like people. They breathe and drink just like we do. They help us live. We need to help them by giving them their medicine."

These are the inspiring words of Ilyssa Otto, 2nd grader, who recently celebrated her birthday with many of her friends. Ilyssa asked her friends to make donations to Save Our Elms instead of bringing presents for her. She said, "I can get toys anytime. I have so many toys already. I don't need more stuff." Ilyssa's family and friends raised \$145 for Save Our Elms!! Ilyssa's proud mom, Heidi Otto, said, "I think all the children loved the idea that their gifts were going to help the trees stay alive and healthy. We will do it again next year!" Thank you so very much, Ilyssa, and Happy Birthday!

When we work together, we can do big things and our entire community benefits. If you are inspired by Ilyssa's generosity, please consider making a donation to Save Our Elms or buying Save Our Elms Portland Roasting coffee today. Order forms are available on the Richmond website or outside the office. Please place donations or orders in the Save Our Elms box in the office. Orders are collected every Thursday morning by 8 AM and coffee is ready for pick up in the Richmond office on Friday afternoons. There is also a small selection of coffee available to purchase from Patsy in the office. At \$10 a pound, with \$4.50 of each pound going towards our elm trees, it is an amazing opportunity for you to try some wonderful coffee and help our elm trees at the same time. Thanks to

Portland Roasting for all their support.

As the last of the leaves fall from our elm trees this season, think of how you can help your community take care of the trees and raise the money necessary to inoculate them against Dutch Elm disease this summer. Ilyssa also asks, "Please don't break the limbs off of the trees." If you have any questions or want to share your thoughts about our elm trees, please contact Mary Klinger ([dustin-mary@comcast.net](mailto:dustin-mary@comcast.net).)



**RICHMOND PARENT PLEDGE DRIVE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR**  
**FOR SUPPORT OF STAFF AT RICHMOND**

*“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” Benjamin Franklin*

Dear Richmond Parent,

This year, for the first time in Richmond School’s history, we were rated ‘exceptional’ by Oregon’s Department of Education. This is the highest of the five possible academic scores for a public school. One of the major reasons our school is so successful is the high level of parent involvement in our program. The parents at Richmond are extra special and extra dedicated to making and keeping Richmond JMP the best. Your help is essential to the success of our program.

Like last year, the school needs your help to maintain the high quality of teaching at Richmond. **Without donations from parents, we would not have all the key staff at Richmond our children need to be exceptional students and motivated learners.** Last year (2005-2006 school year) through parent pledges, we raised more than \$20,000. Other funding sources for staff included the school auction, grants, a business pledge drive and other sources. The fundraising for staff for 2005-2006 school year totaled \$74,000; it was used to save our librarian and acquire a reading specialist. Hooray Richmond parents!

**These are the fundraising goals this year for the annual Richmond Parent Pledge Drive:**

- \* **Raise funds to keep our librarian**
- \* **Raise funds to keep our reading specialist**
- \* **Raise funds to hire a Richmond Japanese immersion specialist**

**How does the Parent Pledge Drive work?**

- Like last year, we are asking each family in grades 1-5 to make a voluntary donation equal to one month of kindergarten tuition (\$265) each semester...once in the fall and once in the spring. If our kindergarten families can pay this each month, it seems a small thing to ask families in grades 1-5 to pay this amount just twice.
- If every family donates the full amount, we will raise more than \$150,000! Wow! Together we can do it... there is power in everyone playing a part. As they say, stone by stone an arch is built. How’s that for ‘power to the people’ and working together?

**Why are the Richmond PTA and Richmond School Foundation working on this pledge drive together?**

- One of PTA’s continual objectives is to promote student achievement, and by partnering with the foundation to maintain and hopefully add essential staff, we are working together for student achievement.
- This summer, the Richmond PTA and Foundation partnered to help raise money for our reading specialist. Many families donated to help and we were successful in attaining this staff position. For the summer pledge drive, we were able to keep 100% of the funds we raised at Richmond. As of this fall, however, the only way to raise funds for staff is directly through your local school foundation.

**What is the Equity Fund? How do all schools benefit from it? Has Richmond benefited from it?**

- As many of you also know, when funds are raised for staff through local school foundations, the Portland School Board requires that 1/3 of the money raised be donated to the general Portland Schools Foundation’s Equity Fund...and 2/3 of the money stays right at your own school. (This ‘kicks in’ after the first \$5000 we raise...you keep 100% of the first \$5000 you raise.)
- The Equity Fund is used to help less fortunate schools that are unable to raise money themselves and/or to fund innovative programs throughout the district. Based on competitive grant process, all the money in the Equity Fund is donated back to schools across the entire district each year.
- Richmond itself has benefited from grants awarded to us from the Equity Fund in the past. Since 1999, we received 12 different grants totaling \$47,000. We also just received news that we were awarded \$6,000 this year as part of multi-school writing instruction grant!

• **The details:**

- Below, please find a form and instructions on how to donate. Be sure to send in the form with your donation to make sure you get a receipt to use for tax purposes. (Of course your donation is 100% tax deductible.)
- Although we encourage one donation per semester, you can give a one-time gift or even monthly...whatever works for your family.
- You can go to the Richmond JMP website and go to Parent Organizations → Richmond Foundation for more information. There you will find a slideshow and information on all the details of how, why, who, what of staff funding at Richmond. We hope you find it useful. (www.richmondjmp.org)

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Andy Felcher  
President, Richmond Foundation  
felcher@comcast.net  
503-231-1641

Kristina Kallen  
President, Richmond PTA  
kmk456@comcast.net  
503-282-4435

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**HOW TO GIVE TO THE RICHMOND PARENT PLEDGE DRIVE**

**WHAT TO USE:** A check is the easiest way to give. Make your check out to ‘**Richmond Foundation**’.

**WHERE TO SEND:** **Richmond Elementary School**  
**ATTN: Richmond PTA**  
**2276 SE 41st Portland, OR 97214.**

\*Or you can drop it off in the Richmond PTA box in the school office.

**HOW TO GIVE:** You can give one time each semester (suggested option) or even monthly.

\*A full one-time donation is \$530

\*A full per-semester donation is \$265 each semester

\*A full per-month donation is \$50 per month...actually \$53, but close enough

\*\*You are free to give less, of course!

\*\*This is a voluntary pledge drive, of course!

**USE THIS FORM:** Just cut this out and enclose in an envelope with you donation:

**RICHMOND PARENT PLEDGE DRIVE**  
**CHECK DONATION FORM**



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  Check if you wish to remain anonymous

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email address needed so we can email you a ‘thank you’ in return which can be used for tax purposes.

**Amount pledged:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle one:** Donation is: 1) Monthly 2) Each semester 3) One time

**QUESTIONS:** *Please do not hesitate to contact any parent organization leader for any questions or information about this Parent Pledge Drive.* **Richmond Foundation:** Andy Felcher; **Richmond PTA:** Kristina Kallen; **Oya No Kai:** Monica Mueller; **Principal:** Kathryn Anderson; **Richmond Strategic Fundraising Committee:** Andy Felcher, Matt Kallen, Meg Matsushima, Tomoaki Miyaishi, Satoko Moran, Monica Mueller, Kimi Nam, Shannon Sweet, Alison Walcott





## CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2006 — January 15, 2007

### Portland Public Schools

#### JAPANESE IMMERSION AT RICHMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2276 SE 41st Street  
Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 503-916-6220  
Fax: 503-916-2665  
Website: [www.richmondjmp.org](http://www.richmondjmp.org)

#### *Japanese Magnet Program*

- Mon. Nov. 20 **NO SCHOOL FOR CONFERENCES at 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM**
- Tues. Nov. 21 **NO SCHOOL FOR CONFERENCES at Noon to 8:00 PM**
- Wed. Nov. 22 **NO SCHOOL FOR CONFERENCES at 8:00 AM to Noon**
- Nov. 23-26 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Mon. Nov. 27 1st switch day for English/Japanese morning class
- Scrip order day—stock up now for holiday gifts!
- Tues. Dec. 5 Wreath pick-up in cafeteria at 2:00-2:30 PM
- Thurs. Dec. 7 P.T.A. Holiday Craft Fair in cafeteria at 6:00-8:00 PM
- Fri. Dec. 8 NO SCHOOL—Teacher Planning Day
- Sat. Dec. 9 Christmas Tree & Bake Sale for PTA at the Figgy Pudding Farm
- Mon. Dec. 11 Site Council Mtg. at 2:30-4:30 PM
- Scrip order day—stock up now for holiday gifts!
- Tues. Dec. 12 Burgerville Fundraiser for Richmond Playground 5-8:00 PM at restaurant on 26th and Powell Blvd. Across from Cleveland High School—NOT VALID FOR DRIVE-THROUGH ORDERS
- Fri. Dec. 15 Scrip pick up day
- Sat. Dec. 16 Installation of new playground structure!!!
- Tues. Jan 2 First day of school following winter break
- Mon. Jan. 8 Scrip order day
- Fri. Jan. 12 Kindergarten classes to the Children's Museum 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- Scrip pick up day
- Mon. Jan. 15 NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

## Winter Break—December 16, 2006 to January 1, 2007



**Tuesday, January 2nd is the first day of school following the winter vacation.** Please make sure you mark your calendars accordingly!