

December 7, 2006

www.richmondjmp.org



JAPANESE IMMERSION AT RICHMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Richmond Shinbun

Helping Oya No Kai

Dear Richmond Families,

Oya No Kai is a long-serving parent group dedicated to the support of the Japanese Magnet Program (JMP) from PreK to 12. This summer, Oya No Kai's access to students and families at Richmond, Mt. Tabor and Grant High School was limited by a new policy enacted by Portland Public Schools' board of education in June 2006. This policy (#3.30.038) requires all "outside" groups to request and receive district permission before sharing information with students and families or hosting events. As a separate 501(c)(3) organization, Oya No Kai must comply with the new district policy. The only groups with greater access to students and families are school PTA groups, school foundations and booster clubs.

For the last four months, I've been working with Oya No Kai's board of directors to help them navigate the transition to approved booster club status. Our conversations have centered around these legal priorities:

1. Compliance with Portland Public Schools' policies for community groups
2. Compliance with the legal requirements for 501(c)(3) status (e.g. financial reporting, Board policies and structure, etc.)
3. Equal opportunities for meaningful involvement and access to information in Oya No Kai by all stakeholders

Over the last four months, the entire Richmond community has reached out to lend a hand to Oya No Kai as their board of directors examined the transition to a booster club. Richmond's PTA has donated hundreds of hours of time to help Oya No Kai with fundraisers this fall. Our Site Council has provided support and served as a sounding board for ideas. Richmond's strategic fund-raising committee developed an ambitious fund-raising plan and a parent worked with me to write two grants totaling almost \$60,000 to fund collaborative endeavors (i.e. tea house, revision of the Japanese curriculum and completion of the Japanese garden). I facilitated a temporary waiver from Oya No Kai's status as an "outside" group under the new PPS policy, to give Oya No Kai the time it needs to make sound restructuring decisions. I invited members of Oya No Kai's board of directors to our November staff meeting to listen to teachers' feedback and gave them detailed information from Richmond parent surveys to guide restructuring efforts. On a weekly basis, I have helped Oya No Kai committees with articles for Richmond's newsletter and website to expand their communication ability. Finally, I've been at Oya No Kai's disposal to listen and answer questions, brainstorm possibilities, and research options.

The Richmond community has helped Oya No Kai identify several strong possibilities for booster club collaboration:

- Expand/enhance partnerships within Portland's Japanese community
- Write grants for cultural enrichment
- Expand/enhance public relations and marketing to facilitate expansion of the JMP
- Expand extended day/year enrichment opportunities to meet the needs of more families
- Refine cultural exchanges and move coordination of the 5th grade Japan trip to PPS with the addition of a Japanese immersion specialist.

As we discussed at the October 24th meeting of Oya No Kai's board of directors, each possibility has the potential to benefit the entire Japanese Magnet Program PreK to 12, something that has always been a high priority for Oya No Kai. (continued on page 8)

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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

An Annual Favorite, the Craft Fair is scheduled for Thurs., Dec. 7th at 6:00-8:00 PM in the cafeteria. **Noho's Hawaiian Grill will sell dinners from 5:30-7:00 PM, so you don't need to cook!**

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 bookmarks, mini-photo frames, and window charms are the kinds of items that children can proudly accomplish. *Please contact Suzanne Munro at suzannelmunro@msn.com.*



PTA News

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: It's holiday shopping time at our semiannual Scholastic book fair!! This PTA-sponsored event is a fund raiser for our Richmond Library so give your children the gift of reading this holiday season, show your appreciation for our terrific teachers by purchasing one of their Scholastic books for their classroom, or send your loved ones a fun 2007 calendar.

- **WHEN:** Monday through Thursday next week (12/4 through 12/7) no school Friday)
- **TIME:** 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Volunteer Room
- **SPECIAL NIGHT:** Thursday 12/7 is our PTA craft fair in the cafeteria so while your children make crafts for their friends and family come and shop our special holiday hours from 6 to 8 p.m.

For those who volunteer at the book fair, there are two \$20 gift certificates available to be used for merchandise at our fair. Each time you work, your name will be entered into the drawing so the more you work, the greater your chances of winning! Please contact Kristina Kallen at kmk456@comcast.net or 282-4435 to volunteer.

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 9 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 or call 503-282-4435 to volunteer.

Directions: From 205 (north or south) take Exit 10, head south on 213 for 3.2 miles; LEFT onto Beaver creek Road (major intersection with FOUR traffic lights, get in far left lane and stay in left lane after making left turn); STAY on Beaver creek Rd for 6.6 miles (through two very sharp curves, the first curving sharp left after passing the Beaver creek Saloon on left; the next curving sharp right); pass Beaver creek United Church of Christ (green-roofed church) on right going up a steep hill; after 6.6 miles, turn LEFT onto LOWER HIGHLAND ROAD; Go 0.6 miles and turn RIGHT onto S. Schuebel School Road; Go exactly 0.5 mile up a hill, turn RIGHT into driveway immediately after a telephone pole at top of hill, Christmas trees on both sides of driveway; a red brick mailbox stand is opposite our driveway on the left side; the address for you savvy Mapquest folks is 24277 S. Schuebel School Road, Beaver creek, OR, 97004.

TEACHER/STAFF CONFERENCE POTLUCK HUGE SUCCESS: Thanks to everyone who participated in the teacher/staff conference potluck last week in the staff room. We received rave reviews from the staff and a beautiful thank you card expressing how much they appreciated all the meals. You all went above and beyond to show our terrific, hard-working staff how much they mean to you and your families. Many, many thanks for all of your delicious food!!!

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS!: We have some new committees and committee chairs at Richmond that I would like to take a moment to introduce. David Hill is the chairperson of our garden committee that is working on beautifying the garden space next to the parking lot. Shinobu Chrisman has agreed to be the chairperson of the docent program here at Richmond. Yoko Sato, Emi Avondstondt, and Etsuko Austin have started a technology recycling committee to keep our environment green while helping our school. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to our school so heartfelt gratitude!!!

LITTLE HANDS AT WORK!: Thanks to all the students who helped letter and post the posters for the upcoming book fair next week. Maddy Kinsella, Jake Hirschberger, Grant Cameron, Benjamin Kallen, Erika Moore, Lilly Peters, Juliet Kallen, Taylor Matsushima, Nicholas Kallen, Loralye Townsend, and Esme Peters all pitched in to advertise the book fair. Great job kids!!!

Kristina Kallen, PTA President

Lecture About *Wabi Sabi* at Art Museum Sun. Dec. 10th

Diane Durston, Portland Art Museum's Curator of Education and author of four books on Japan, will explore the concept of *wabi sabi* featured in her new book, *Wabi Sabi: The Art of Everyday Life*, during a lecture at the Museum on Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 PM. Using images from the Museum's permanent collection as well as her book, Durston's lecture will highlight this quintessentially Japanese concept of beauty, one that has captured the imagination of architects and designers worldwide in recent years.

The term *wabi sabi* is a pairing of two separate words, neither of which translates easily into English. *Wabi* connotes rustic simplicity, tranquility and natural austerity. *Sabi* has been interpreted as the beauty of age and of the patina that reveal the passage of time. The combined aesthetic appreciates the beauty of imperfection and impermanence.

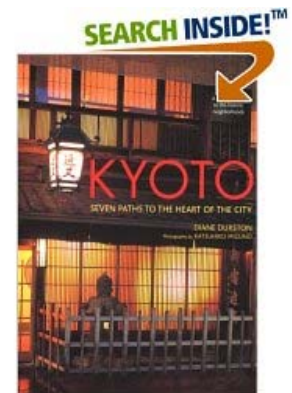
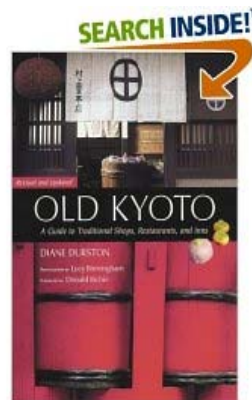
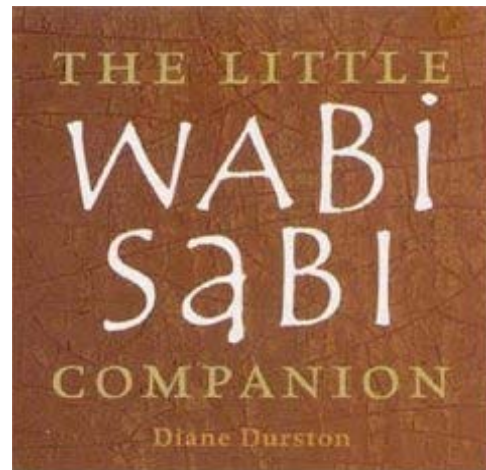
The *wabi sabi* aesthetic has influenced traditional Japanese arts, from painting and haiku poetry to flower arranging and pottery. Its influence can be attributed to its close association with Zen Buddhism, making its important spiritual as well as aesthetic. The Japanese tea ceremony is considered a manifestation of *wabi sabi*. The first English text written about the ceremony nearly 100 years ago simply describes the aesthetic as "the art of everyday life."

Inspired by that simple premise, Durston's new book includes photographs and quotes from prominent Japanese art historians, as well as from international artists and writers. It also present personal insights into *wabi sabi* gleaned from everyday life over the 18 years that she lived in Kyoto, Japan. Ms. Durston moved to Japan in 1977 and spent three years studying Japanese *sumi-e* painting with a master painter, learning the concepts of *wabi* and *sabi* first-hand. The New York Times has referred to her two previous books, *Old Kyoto* and *Kyoto: Seven Paths to the Heart of the City*, as "classics." Following her lecture, she will sign copies of her most recent books.

Date: Sunday, December 10 at 2-3:00 PM

Location: Whitsell Auditorium at the Museum

Fee: Members: \$5; Non-members: \$10. Tickets are required and are available at the Museum box offices, online, or by calling 503-226-0973. Seating is limited.



Playground Fundraiser Dec. 12th Thanks to Burgerville!

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!

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.

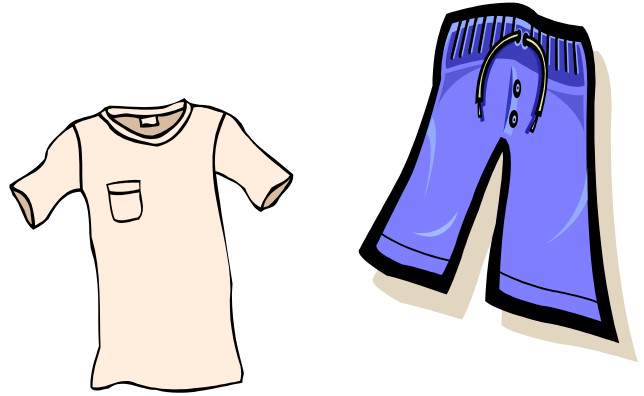
Richmond's Playground Committee

Richmond Office Needs Clothes for Accidents!

The Richmond office is in desperate need of clothing for students who have accidents (e.g. illness, bathroom, playground) and need a change of clothes. Our greatest need is for the Pre-K and Kindergarten students. All sizes up to size 10 would be greatly appreciated (pants and sweatpants especially). Please drop off any items you care to donate in the school office and we will thank you profusely!

Domo arigato!

Patsy Burke, Richmond Secretary
pburke1@pps.k12.or.us



Winter Weather Information for School Closure

Winter weather is on the way. Although rare, it is sometimes necessary to close school or delay the opening of school due to the unsafe weather conditions. In making the decision if schools should remain open or closed, first consideration is given to student and staff safety, while keeping in mind the importance of attendance and learning.

Before the school district makes the decision, local meteorologists, transportation officials, and traffic safety experts are consulted. The school district will attempt to make the decision as early as possible and communicate it quickly to the media and our website. Sometimes it will be possible to make the decision the night before, but often this decision cannot be made until early in the morning. The Student Transportation Department will be distributing the Alternate Emergency Snow Route Stops booklet to students who ride the bus. Please refer to this book when we announce through the media and our website that Portland Public Schools buses will be on snow routes.

As a general rule PPS will not close schools early. The potential negatives of children arriving home early without parental supervision or the ability to gain entry clearly offsets most foreseeable weather circumstances. All of our schools are safe and sound structures capable of providing shelter in place until the end of the school day. As always, parents have the individual choice of picking up their child prior to the end of the school day.

Local radio and television stations will broadcast closure and late opening information. You can also check for updates on the District's website at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us> or Portland Info Net at <http://pdxinfo.net>



Celebrate! Portland Public Schools at Expo Center

On Saturday, February 3, the fun returns. Celebrate! Portland Public Schools enters its fourth year with a new home, at the Portland Expo Center, expanded resource options, and parent workshops. Join parents, teachers, community members, and district staff in showcasing the quality programs Portland Public Schools has to offer. Visit your neighborhood school, or check out one of the many focus options. Discover school and community resources available to you. Listen to student performances and view a collection of student artwork. Seminars on enrollment and transfer, kindergarten readiness, and school involvement will provide families important information all in an enjoyable and upbeat atmosphere with free shuttles, interpretation services, and childcare for kids four and older.

Join in the Celebration! 10:00am – 3:00pm, Saturday, February 3, at the Portland Expo Center. For more information call 503-919-3304.



'Tis the Season...to Save Our Elms!

Do you have any coffee drinkers on your holiday gift list? (I know that some of Richmond's teachers enjoy fine coffee!) Do you need hostess gifts for the holiday parties you are attending? Please consider giving Richmond's Save Our Elms coffee from Portland Roasting. At \$10/pound with \$4.50 of every pound going to protect Richmond's elm trees from Dutch elm disease, this is a gift that you can be proud to give.



Order forms with details on the coffee varieties are available outside the Richmond office or on the Richmond website, please place your order form and check (to Save Our Elms) in the Save Our Elms cubby in the office by Thursday at 8 AM and your coffee will be ready for pick up on Friday afternoon. A small selection is available for purchase from Patsy in the office, but orders are appreciated and guarantee that you will get exactly the roast and whole bean or ground choice you prefer.

Decaf buyers, please note that the decaf price will change on January 1, 2007. Portland Roasting is excited to be offering their Farm Friendly Direct™ beans in the decaf format giving them more control in the bean buying process, but increasing their cost for these coffees. Richmond's Save Our Elms Farm Friendly Direct™, Swiss Water® Process (SWP) decaf, will be priced at \$11/pound starting January 1, 2007. (Look for revised order forms in the new year.) We have started selling these new beans already, so stock up now at the 06 price! Thank you to all who continue to support this project. Questions to Mary Klinger 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 DECEMBER 1, 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

Japanese Magnet Program

- 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
- Fri. Dec. 15 Scrip pick up day
- Sat. Dec. 16 Installation of new playground structure!!!

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

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

- Tues. Jan 2 First day of school following winter break
- Mon. Jan. 8 Scrip order day
- Fri. Jan. 12 Kindergarten 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

Principal's letter, continued from page 1

This list is certainly not an exhaustive list. Oya No Kai plans to submit a proposal to all building principals (Richmond, Mt. Tabor and Grant) in the weeks ahead. This proposal will include a plan for the area(s) of emphasis selected by Oya No Kai's board of directors for their new booster club.

As the Richmond community has shown, we are all dedicated to making sure Japanese immersion students at Richmond, Mt. Tabor and Grant have a network of strong community support to enrich their education. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have questions or wish to have more information about our work to help Oya No Kai. Making sure you have accurate, up-to-date information about this, or any other subject, is always a priority. You can reach me at 503-916-6220 or keanders@pps.k12.or.us.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Anderson, principal