

December 14, 2007

www.richmondjmp.org



RICHMOND JAPANESE IMMERSION

Richmond Shinbun

Letter from Carole Smith,

Superintendent of Portland Public Schools

Dear Kindergarten Families,

As you may have read or seen in the news, State government lawyers have raised legal questions about the ability of Portland Public Schools and 28 other Oregon districts to charge tuition for full-day kindergarten programs.

The Oregon Department of Education has promoted tuition-paid full-day kindergarten, because the State only pays for half-day classes. Now a draft opinion from the Attorney General's Office and an interpretation by the Legislative Counsel's Office both advise that the law does not allow school districts to charge tuition.

The State is now wrangling with the legal issues, and leaders are pursuing a potential solution in the supplemental session of the Oregon Legislature in February that would protect full-day kindergarten programs statewide. Portland Public Schools will be following guidance from the State department and the Legislature on this important issue. In the meantime:

- Portland Public Schools will continue our full-day-paid kindergarten program.
- Your kindergarten child will continue to benefit from the full-day kindergarten schedule.
- You will continue to pay for the full-day program under the tuition contract you signed in the spring.

Leaders of the Oregon Department of Education have reassured districts that they have no plans to disrupt full-day kindergarten and parent tuition agreements in Portland or elsewhere. We are following development in Salem closely and will work with the State to ensure continuity to students, staff and families.

If you have questions that your child's teacher or principal can't answer, feel free to call our Communications Office at 503-916-3304. Keep in mind that the situation is changing; we will update you as we hear more from Salem.

I hope that these new developments from the State capital don't disturb what I hope has been a wonderful start to your child's education in Portland Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Carole Smith
Superintendent

Looking Ahead in Your Child's Classroom

PreK— We continue to learn about shapes in both English and Japanese. We created glass ornaments, made potato latkes, and continue to learn about holiday traditions of other cultures. We have been learning and practicing some new songs and the Storm Dance. We will be having a winter solstice party on Dec. 21.

Jaina-sensei, Karin-sensei, Kamata-sensei & Karou-sensei

Kindergarten— In the English classes, the students had several activities around the Gingerbread Man. One day they decorated their own cookies and asked the cook, Cindy, to bake them. Later the teachers informed them that the Gingerbread Men fled from the oven and they were gone. The students searched in the gym where they found a clue that said the Gingerbread Men were in the library. The students hurried to the library where they found another clue that said that the Gingerbread Men moved to the office. The children asked at the office where the Gingerbread Men were. The secretary, Patsy, answered that they should search in their own classroom, where they finally found the cookies!

In the Japanese classes, the students continued to learn about water. One activity was to examine volume of water that different types of containers could hold. The students had fun estimating how many small cups of water can go in each container and taking turns measuring the water.

The children also had a small group project of making a big snowman with paper snowflakes. They will be posted up soon. Now they are ready to make a snowman with real snow!

Jill, Amy, Kelly & Reiko-sensei

2nd Grade— In the Japanese class, 2nd graders have just started Katakana this week. Ask your child what words are written in Katakana letters. As a calendar activity, students have been enjoying a number guessing game in Japanese. For our weekly homework, your child is reading the last part of the Nontan story to you. Please sign only when your child completes reading the story with the explanation. For the writing part in the homework, please encourage him/her to write neatly and check that every part is filled in.

Water evaporation is the current theme for our science weather unit in second grade English. We are tracking the evaporation process and recording change in water level in our My Puddle Books. When completed this booklet will become part of our bigger individual weather book. We are also composing poems about weather as part of our daily writing activities.

Mrs. Naylor & Mogi-sensei

5th Grade— Fifth graders have started working with fractions, decimals and percents in our new math unit, Name That Portion. Congratulations to both classes. They reached their math homework goal this week. In reading and social studies, each student has been assigned a character that is part of a production entitled Who Discovered America? The production will be in Mr. Zeller's class on January 15th. Parents and/or guardians are invited and the time of your student's performance will be sent home with next week's homework.

Mr. Zeller and Fukushima-sensei

1st Grade— We have reviewed Japanese animal names this week. We chose one of our favorite animals to create a paper puppet with imaginary color and each group played a Japanese story called "IRO" with it.

We also have started going to the computer lab to explore a drawing program called "Kid Pix". Our final goal is to create a New Year card with the skills we have been working on.

Uchida-sensei & Karen Meier

3rd Grade- Third graders enjoyed taking the NOELLA (pilot) test this week. It was their first experience taking an online Japanese assessment. It was fun for them to test the test. During a short speaking section, students could vocally record their answers.

During the math lessons about area, students worked together in small groups and came up with very clever designs using 4-square units (grid paper). Some made rockets, animals, houses, faces, etc. Please take a look at their creative math/art work in the hallway.

Ms. Martin & Hirahara-sensei

4th Grade— We started WEEKLY KANJI TEST and KAKITORI TEST this Monday, December 10th. Some students were well prepared, but others still need to work harder. I sent the Kanji and Kakitori list yesterday for the test on Friday Dec 21st. Memorizing a small chunk of kanji every week is the best way to store a number of kanji in one's long-term memory. Please take full advantage of this opportunity. Every week students are given a list of 10 Kanji and 10 kakitori words/sentences together with regular homework to practice over week. I will give the next week's test on Friday, Dec 21st.

In math, we are learning attributes of quadrilaterals. The students learned a great deal about them through reading homework last week. We participated in the pilot program for NOELLA Japanese language proficiency computerized assessment this Tuesday. Everybody did a great job! Thank you for your participation.

In English, fourth graders are finishing their magnet unit. They will have a test over the information next week. Students are finishing their imaginative story about an animal they have created. Fourth graders continue to work on fractions. Next Wednesday, fourth graders will be involved in trading and bartering activities similar to exchanges that took place between early settlers and Native Americans. A long term book assignment was given that involves reading a mystery book. It's due January 9, 2008.

Ando-sensei & Mrs. Jacobson

12TH ANNUAL JAPANESE AMERICAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

MOCHITSUKI 2008

Sunday, January 27, 2008 at Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Avenue, Portland, OR

"Mochitsuki with Aloha" performances at 1:00 PM and 3:15 PM in the Performing Arts Center Cultural Fair with hands-on activities from Noon to 4:00 PM in the College Center. Don't forget to stop by Richmond Elementary and Oya No Kai's booths! There will also be artwork throughout the Cultural Fair and a Community Stage performance by Richmond students. Richmond, Mt. Tabor and Grant High School families and friends can purchase tickets to the "Mochitsuki with Aloha" performance without any service charges. Purchase your tickets early. Seating is limited. Please contact Kim Tanada at (503) 804-9991 or email info@mochitsuki.org.

Bringing the welcoming spirit of aloha to the Oregon winter, hundreds of volunteers from the Japanese American community will gather on Sunday, January 27, to celebrate mochitsuki, the making of sticky rice cakes that are a traditional food of the New Year celebration. Steamed rice is pounded into a soft dough and shaped into small round cakes, mochi, to resemble a mirror, one of the three ancient imperial treasures, representing wealth. All around the world, Japanese families and communities gather to pound mochi using a heavy wooden mallet and pestle, or in more recent times, an electric appliance similar to a bread machine. Making mochi is not a solitary activity. Many hands are necessary to steam the rice, pound and shape it, so the making of mochi is emblematic of bringing the community together to start the new year, bonded by sticky rice, and sharing the wealth of their labors in hopes of a prosperous future.

The public is invited to a cultural fair at Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus to try pounding mochi the traditional way using wooden mallets, or sample mochi made in modern machines. There will be hands-on activities for all ages: origami, calligraphy and ikebana (Japanese flower arranging). Local church and community groups will offer crafts, games, displays and demonstrations. Sushi, bento, Japanese and Hawaiian food will be served. A full afternoon of performances will enliven the Community Stage featuring Okinawan dance, martial arts, music and more. This year's celebration emphasizes the adaptability of the Japanese community to its immigrant locations. Many Japanese immigrated to Hawaii in the early part of the 20th century, drawn to work in the pineapple and sugar cane plantations. Hawaii still has a large population of Japanese ancestry, and surprisingly, many Asian American Hawaiian students come to study in Oregon. The Pacific current connecting Japan, Hawaii and Oregon gives the celebration its Hawaiian theme. "Mochitsuki with Aloha", the stage show in the Performing Arts Center, will feature the hula group, He Makana O Aloha. The stirring rhythms and exuberant energy of Portland Taiko, an Asian American drum performance group, Tanuki Taiko, renowned storyteller Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo, and Japanese dance troupes Fujinami-kai and Tachibana Studio will grace the stage. Alton Chung, storyteller from Hawaii will be the program's host. Show times are 1 PM and 3:15 PM in the Performing Arts Center. Tickets to "Mochitsuki with Aloha" are \$12 for adults, \$9 for students and seniors (62 years or older), and \$5 for children (12 and under).

CHANGE NOTICE—BUS #218

The following schedule change for bus #218 with *afternoon* service to Woodstock, Laurelhurst, Alameda, Faubion and Rigler schools will be **effective Wednesday, December 12, 2007:**



2:10 PM	Depart Richmond
2:30 PM	Woodstock Elementary School
2:50 PM	Laurelhurst Elementary School (840 NE 41st. Ave.)
2:57 PM	Alameda Elementary School (2732 NE Fremont St.)
3:17 PM	Faubion Elementary School (3309 NE Portland Blvd. and Dekum)
3:25 PM	Rigler Elementary School

News from Richmond's Parent Teacher Association

Kristina Kallen

Kim Tanada

Mika Obara

Sonciray Bonnell

Yoko Sato

PTA Clothes Closet/Oregon Food Bank: The Richmond community donated approximately 10 large bags of clothes for the PTA clothes closet drive at the Craft Fair. We have collected \$114 so far (not counting what is in the jar in the office right now) for the Oregon Food Bank. That translates to 684 pounds of food! Lastly, at the Craft Fair, we collected an entire trunk full of non-perishable food items--I would estimate 12-15 grocery bags.

I will try to get in tomorrow (Thursday) to count the money in the jar to add it to the tally--and send it in! By the way, although I sent the money with a note that it was part of a food drive from Richmond Elementary, the Food Bank sent out thank yous to the check writers, instead of to the school. Oh well! Angela Zehava

Winter Break Holiday Wish for You: We began the school year with many activities, accomplishments, and goals and we quickly realized many of these goals. The progress we have made as a community is remarkable. Our fundraisers continue to exceed last year's goals, the Grandparents' Brigade is actively assisting the staff, and our wonderful interns are helping the classroom teachers. Through all these activities a more important goal has been reached; we have continued to grow a community of involved adults. The heart of all this work and effort ultimately is focused on providing each of our children the best learning experience we can offer. With the time off from school your Richmond PTA has a holiday wish for you and your family--the gift of time shared together. Take this time and spend it with your family; read that book to your son or daughter, watch the movie you have been meaning to see, and maybe even bake some cookies together. Your Richmond PTA will be observing the holidays and will not responding to E-mails and inquiries, so hold onto those questions, thoughts and ideas because we will be back after the New Year refreshed and ready to take on the next project. Good health, good fortune, and good times to you all during this magical season!

Scholastic Book Fair Successful! Thanks to everyone who helped us with the Scholastic Book Fair. We grossed \$4238 which means we earned a cash profit of \$1060 and a book profit of \$422. Thank you for all of your hard work and for your contributions for our library!!!

Christmas Tree/Bake Sale! What a wonderful, fun day we had on Saturday, December 8th at Figgy Pudding Farms cutting Christmas trees and selling the homemade goodies everyone made! It was such a terrific day and the gorgeous weather made it even better! Thank you Reid family for opening up your farm for us, thank you to all the gifted bakers who made delicious treats for us to sell (we made \$103 just in goodies), and thanks to all the people who volunteered. It will always be a wonderful Christmas memory for our family...even chain saw guy (Matt).

Craft Fair!: This year's craft fair was the most wonderful craft fair ever! Everyone had a great time, and our volunteers were absolutely fabulous with the children. Thank you to everyone who helped from the shrinky dinks to the "telephone" cups! Special thanks to cochairs Suzanne Munro and Yoko Sato for their ceaseless energy and hard work...it was terrific!!!

Next Steps with Talented & Gifted Nominations

January	Student testing at Richmond to determine TAG eligibility in nominated areas
March/April	Parent notification about test results and TAG eligibility from Talented & Gifted Office, Portland Public Schools
April/May	TAG plan developed jointly with parents and classroom teachers for immediate implementation

For questions and additional information:

- Mary Ann Jacobson, Richmond TAG Coordinator (mjacobson@pps.k12.or.us)
- Roxanne Coleman, TAG specialist in Talented & Gifted Office, Portland Public Schools (

Entertainment Book or Check?



Please take a minute to return the Entertainment Book or a check for \$20 made payable to the Richmond PTA if you wish to keep the book. We have several families and friends that would like to purchase your unwanted Entertainment Book. Thanks in advance for helping us with this simple fundraiser!



Art Card Sale a BIG Success!

Our art card sale was a big success - thanks to your orders we raised about \$2000! We can multiply that amount if everyone in the Richmond family remembers to send out the two art cards that you received along with a year-end request to support the Richmond School Foundation.

As you know, Foundation supports staffing at Richmond to keep class sizes small and provide extra support for students. Even \$25.00 from friends or family makes a big difference in providing the low student:faculty ratios our rigorous language immersion curriculum requires. And the earlier we can count on support, the more stable the staffing for our program is.

It isn't too late to dig out those cards from under the pile of drawings and homework that's come in since the end of November and get them in the mail. Education is a gift!

Katie Whitney Luers



Friends Walking in the Rain to a Friend's House
by Eleanor

Buy Coffee to Support Richmond's Elm Trees – all year long!

For parents new to Richmond, 20 mature Elm trees line our school grounds – about half of the Elms in the Richmond neighborhood. These trees are not only beautiful, but they cool our surroundings, 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 beetles that eat dead Elm wood. Once infected, an Elm will die within weeks and can quickly spread the fungus to neighboring trees.

The Richmond chapter of Save Our Elms fundraises to inoculate the trees every three years with a fungicide to protect them from Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Next inoculation will be in June of 2010. (Fungicide prices vary every year, but we are hoping to have about \$4000 in the bank by our next inoculation date.)

To raise money, Save Our Elms has partnered with Portland Roasting to sell coffee. The coffee is delicious, environmentally friendly and costs **\$9/bag for regular and \$10 for decaf**. \$4.60 from each bag of regular and \$5.05 from each bag of decaf goes to Save Our Elms. We accept donations as well.

Portland Roasting descriptions:

All coffees for Richmond 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. We pay 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.

Ethiopian – Kochere: This coffee is part of Project H.O.P.E., which stands for Hope and Opportunity for the People of Ethiopia. We are helping build a much needed community center for the Ethiopian farming community of Kochere to provide a common meeting place for educational purposes, as well as a vital medical dispensary for the people of Kochere.

French Organic – Certified organic; dark roast

(new) Tanager's Song – an organic blend (Central American and Indonesian certified shade grown coffees), silky-rich and full-bodied with a caramel-like finish.

(new) Papua New Guinea - a single varietal that is passive organic.

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.

A limited selection of ground coffee will be for sale on hand in the school office. Look on the counter for available selection or ask Patsy Burke. She will collect your \$9/bag or you can place your money in the Save Our Elms box. Patsy will not be able to give change. For your best selection (and essential ground or whole bean preference), I will fill weekly orders. Please put orders with your checks (made out to SAVE OUR ELMS) in the Save Our Elms mailbox in the school office or contact Mary Klinger at (503) 234-5147 or dustin-mary@comcast.net. For orders submitted by 8:00 AM Thursday, coffee will be available in the office by Friday afternoon. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!**

Save Our Elms Coffee Order Form

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____ or email _____

Coffee	Ground	Whole Bean	Totals
Ethiopian - Kochere			\$9/bag x bags = \$
French Organic			\$9/bag x bags = \$
Tanager's Song			\$9/bag x bags = \$
Paupau New Guinea			\$9/bag x bags = \$
SWP French Decaf			\$10/bag x bags = \$
SWP Morning Decaf			\$10/bag x bags = \$
Totals			

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

Revised 11-07

RICHMOND PARENT PLEDGE DRIVE – THANK YOU DONORS!

(as of 11-13-07)

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin

The Richmond Foundation would like to gratefully acknowledge the many parents, families, friends, staff and businesses who have generously contributed their money, time, and effort to the Richmond Parent Pledge Drive. Every effort has been made to list all contributions accurately from July 1, 2007 thru the beginning of this week. We continuously update this list each week. It is up to date as of December 10, 2007. If, however, an error has been made, please accept our apologies and notify us.

Thank you Richmond Community! You are helping keep our school exceptional!

DONORS

Amano, Shigeki & Kaora
Andrew, Mike & Mueller, Jacqueline
Barber, Duane & Brackbill, Lise
Bauer, Maxine & Burt, Rich
Birke, Richard & Zehavoc, Angela
Chrisman, Charles & Shinobu
Felcher, Andrew & Wolf, Ariane
Fisher, Erin
Gefroh, Julie & Brian
Golden, Ashley
Gooding, Tim & Tam, Sara
Hagg, Daniel
Hardy, Jeff & Yuko
Heming, Karie
Hinkle, Stephanie
Hoesly, Fred & Mae (grandparents)
Hutson, Kim
Kaliszewski, Jeanne & Joe
Kott, Gregory & Bonnie Richardson
Kott, Phyllis (grandparent)
Luers, William & Katie
Mays, Sally & Head, Robert

McGee, Mikael & Jolene
Mueller, Jacqueline
Olenich, Mark & Harumi
Reents, Brad & Yoshiko
Schultz, Teresa
Shawen, Richard
Slyman, Mike & Cathy
Slyman, Jean (grandparent)
Thorp, Micah & Nicole
Tomlinson, Mark & Angie
Virnig, Dennis & Aimee
Wilkinson, Robert & Maluaka
Yanase, Craig & Lisa
Yano, Mayumi
Zaerr, Jon & Cathy

BUSINESS DONATIONS

Lauro's Kitchen
Academy Theatre
Pizzicato
Clinton St. Theatre

MATCHING DONATIONS

Pepsico



TOTAL DONATION

\$	0	1	3	5	9	3
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The Book Fair was a great place to buy presents for everyone!



Kids wrap gifts for a festive holiday season!



*Craft Night
Photography &
Picture Collage
by
Katie Beyler
5th grade*



Kids do Shrinky Dink art and make bracelets, key chains, and charms for special gifts.



CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 14– JANUARY 13, 2007

Portland Public Schools Japanese Magnet Program

RICHMOND JAPANESE IMMERSION

- Fri. Dec. 14 Scrip pick up day
- Mon. Dec. 17 **Richmond Foundation** meeting at 6:30-8:30 PM in the staff room—Everyone welcome!!!
- WINTER VACATION is Sat. December 22, 2007—Sun. January 6, 2008**
- Mon. Jan. 7 **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!** Students return to school for 2008; Catlin Gabel's students of Japanese language volunteer in our classrooms
- Tues. Jan. 8 **Mad Science starts today: Earth, Wind, Inspire** for grades K-5 at 2:25-3:25 PM in rooms 104, 105 and 206
- Wed. Jan. 9 **School tour for prospective parents** at 8:15-10:00 AM
- Thurs. Jan. 10 **Visiting teachers and principal from Miyanomori Elementary School in Sapporo, Japan arrive today!**
Vision & dental screening in room 206 for grades K, 1, 3 & 5
- Fri. Jan. 11 PreK on field trip to see the Oregon Children's Theatre production of *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* at the Keller Auditorium, 8:20 AM-12:00 PM
- Sun. Jan. 13 **O-Shogatsu at the Portland Japanese Garden** from 12:00-3:00 PM; Richmond families receive a discount on admission and our interns will be available to help with calligraphy. This is also a chance to meet the teachers and principal from Miayanomori Elementary School in Sapporo, Japan who will attend this wonderful event with Kathryn.

Richmond office hours are

7:30 AM—4:00 PM

To reach Patsy Burke, Secretary:

503-916-6220

pburke1@pps.k12.or.us

To reach Kathryn Anderson, Richmond
Principal:

503-916-6220

503-329-1681 (cell)

keanders@pps.k12.or.us

Building Bright Futures -
You and Lowe's.



- 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

Have you heard the good news about the Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant? Richmond's grant committee applied for and received this \$5,000 grant to support the building of our Japanese Garden!!! Thanks goes to Katie Luers who wrote the grant application for Richmond. **Way to go Katie!**