

February 6, 2009

www.richmondjmp.org

From the Desk of Carole Smith

Superintendent of Portland Public Schools



Dear PPS Community,

I know many of you are concerned about the deteriorating state of the economy and what the downturn means for PPS. I want to update you on our current budget outlook and let you know how you can help shape our budget.

To be straightforward, the situation is worsening. Despite past cuts and our efforts to manage resources responsibly, we face the likelihood of major budget reductions. At the same time, our schools have survived difficult times before -- we will survive these times, too. Even now, we have reasons to be hopeful.

Current budget situation

Here's what we know:

- Earlier this month, the state economist warned that state revenue for the rest of the current school year may drop by as much as \$300 million to \$600 million more than earlier estimates. This raises the possibility that PPS and other school districts may have to make cuts **this school year**.
- Many school districts are already considering shortening their school year. Portland Public Schools is awaiting more information from the governor's office -- likely to come late this month -- before we make decisions.
- Every indication we have now also points to a drop of more than \$1 billion for the next two-year state budget. (The next official state revenue forecast is due on Feb. 20.) All of these developments are bad news for our schools.

However, the federal economic recovery plan in Congress could reduce the impact of our anticipated state cuts and the number of positions we would otherwise be forced to eliminate as a result.

- The plan in Congress could provide tens of millions of dollars to PPS over the next two years for special education programs and schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families (Title I). It would also help us fund school renovations and energy efficiency improvements in our school buildings.
- Proposed legislation also includes money to help Oregon and other states stabilize their budgets, and blunt cuts to education and other programs.

But these proposals are not yet law. And although the economic recovery plan could be a lifeline, it would not solve our budget problems.

Next steps for the PPS budget

Before I present the proposed 2009-10 budget to the Board of Education in March, I want to hear your best ideas on how we should prioritize our spending. Please turn the page for dates of events where you can share your budget feedback.

Letter continued on next page

Letter from Carole Smith, continued from page 1

Here are the key dates in the process and how you can be involved:

- **Superintendent's Framework Message, Monday, Feb. 9.** I will discuss our key educational strategies and our approach to developing our budget at the Portland School Board meeting at 7 p.m. in the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N. Dixon. This meeting will be televised live on TV28 and rebroadcast later in the week.
- **Budget Listening Sessions, Feb. 12 and Feb. 26.** Hear an update on our evolving budget picture and share your ideas about how we can cut costs. These sessions will also be broadcast live on TV28.
 - Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Madison High School, 2735 N.E. 82nd Ave.
 - Thursday, Feb. 26, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Wilson High School, 1151 S.W. Vermont St.
 - **Web-based budget priority survey, available Tuesday, Feb. 10.** Share ideas about how to balance our priorities. The survey will be posted at www.budget.pps.k12.or.us and available in hard copy from the Communications Office, 503-916-3304.

Participating in the state budget process

Our budget depends on funds from the state. Sharing your voice with your representatives in Salem is another opportunity to weigh in on our budget and the funding available for schools across Oregon.

- **Presidents Day Rally, noon, Monday, Feb. 16, on the Capitol steps in Salem.** Many parents, PPS staff and members of our school board will attend the Presidents Day rally in Salem. (Learn more about transportation at www.stand.org.)
- Legislators are discussing how the state can stabilize funding and improve the outlook for schools and other services. **Tell them** what you think -- and encourage your friends and neighbors to share their views, too.

Moving forward

For more than a decade, Portland Public Schools has made cuts, saved money through operational changes and built up our reserves. We have tried to shield classrooms from the impact of budget cuts, but that has not always been possible. Now we face more budget reductions -- and potentially deeper shortfalls than we have seen before.

We're not alone. The economy is forcing public and private organizations across the nation to make painful cuts. But that's little consolation to the students and families who depend on us to deliver a great education.

In these difficult times, I will keep you informed as we move forward, whether the news is good or bad. I will also make sure you have as many opportunities as possible to inform our budget choices.

I will consider your input as I prepare our budget for next year. In this budget, I intend to prioritize choices that maintain our ability to prepare our students to read, to learn, to graduate and to get ready to succeed over the course of their lives.

Throughout these tough times, PPS will stay focused on the needs of our students no matter what uncertainties and distractions the coming months may bring. That's how our schools will emerge stronger when this crisis ends.

Carole Smith, Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

The JMP Wants You!

We are in need of families to host interns this spring.



- Hosting an intern is a great way to support our schools and the JMP program.
- Your family will benefit from having a native-Japanese speaker in your home and sharing Japanese culture.
- Many host families find themselves establishing life-long friendships with their interns, some even visiting them in Japan!

For more information contact:

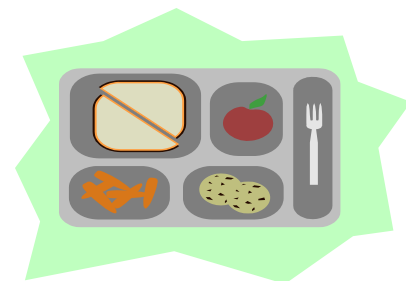
Melissa Gordon Clark, host family recruiter, at 503-539-1008
mgorgon@yahoo.com

A BIG thank you to all the current and past host families for all their generous hospitality. Host families are an absolutely critical part of making the interns' stay in Portland wonderful, memorable and possible.

Important Reminder about School Meal Applications

Has your family's income changed in recent weeks or months? If so, your child(ren) may be eligible for free or reduced priced breakfast and lunch in Richmond's cafeteria.

Lupe Stone, Richmond's cook, can give you an application to determine your eligibility. You can also pick up an application in Richmond's office or download the income guidelines and application at the Nutrition Services webpage on the PPS website: <http://www.nutrition.pps.k12.or.us/>



All information on the school meal application is kept strictly confidential.

Nutrition Services Department
Portland Public Schools
503-916-3399
www.pps.k12.or.us

Get Help Coping with the Economy

Friendly House Community Center is offering a free workshop on what's happening with the economy and how to deal with it at 6pm on Tuesday Feb. 24. Panelist will talk about what the recession means and how to lower your bills, improve your credit score, and cope with stress. The Friendly House provides social services for children, families and seniors and runs the community center at **Northwest 26th Avenue and Thurman Street**. Free child care, refreshments, a voucher for a food box and an all-day pass to the community center will be provided. For more information call (503) 228-4391, friendlyhouseinc.org

Lisa Pearlstein
Community Agent
Project Return, PPS
lpearlst@pps.k12.or.us
971-219-6678

Track the Transfer Numbers!

www.schoolchoice.pps.k12.or.us

Thank you for all your help promoting Richmond's Japanese Immersion Program to your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers! Your advocacy for our school truly makes all the difference.

The following chart shows how many *first place* applications for transfer to Richmond have been recorded in the District's online system over the first seven days of the transfer process. We have 35 days to go until the deadline for transfer applications arrives on March 13th. Look for this space in the *Richmond Shinbun* to stay updated on current transfer numbers.

	PreK	Kindergarten	Grades 1-5
# of App's Rec'd	19	21	6
% of Slots Filled	48%	28%	10%

KURABU Dates for the Summer of 2009

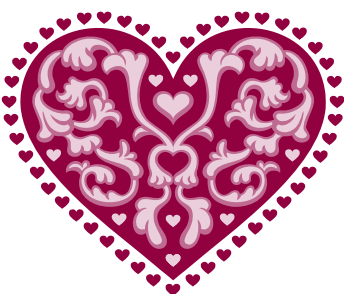
Kurabu 2009: A Japanese summer day camp for children who are entering kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2009.

For those of you who like to plan ahead, I'm pleased to announce the dates for Kurabu 2009.

- Session 1: June 29-July 2 (four days)
- Session 2: July 6-July 10
- Session 3: July 13-July 17
- Session 4: July 20-July 24

Kurabu will be held at Mt. Tabor this year. Registration forms will be sent home the first week of March. Cost is \$145 for session 1, and \$170 for sessions 2, 3 and 4.

Thank you,
Cathy Zaerr czaerr@agora.rdrop.com



Don't forget valentines on Thurs. Feb. 12th!

Richmond classrooms will celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 12th so we can include our friends from Sumaura Elementary School in Kobe, Japan, before they leave Portland the morning of Friday, February 13. Class parties are scheduled to start at 1:30 PM.



Hal Sessions, grandparent, reading to a kindergarten class.



Akiko Soehl and Sharon Plummer checking in books.



Students stretching their legs with Caroline Little.



From the Library



The Richmond Library Committee would like to thank the almost 40 volunteers who have kept the library open this year. They have been responsible for keeping track of the more than 500 books that are being checked each week, as well as providing Japanese homework assistance during recess, reading books to classes, and selecting new ones to add to the library. We would also like to thank the students who have been taking care of and bringing back their books on time. If you have questions about the library or would like to volunteer, please contact Sara Tam, saratam@juno.com.



Parent, Craig Yanase, helps with checkout.



Carla Kostek Tindall reads to a preschool class.



Dianne Barton checks in books.

Class Library Schedule 2008-2009

Monday: Martin, Hirahara, Iverson, Grover

Tuesday: Murphy-Hecht/Mishina*, Uchida, Meier

Wednesday: Schultz, Mogi/Naylor*, Fujiwara, Kapranos

Thursday: Senn, Naylor/Mogi*, Mishina/Murphy-Hecht*, Marsh, Yoshida

Friday: Zeller, Ando, Jacobson, Fukushima

*Library day for these teachers change after every Switch Day.

Notes About Returning Books

Do NOT drop books in the library mailbox.

Return books only when a library volunteer is working (not Art4Life). This will ensure your book gets checked in properly and you will not be charged for a lost book.

If you must return your book, leave the book with a note of explanation, and give to the office.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Kari Shawen at the checkout desk.



Mary Klinger helping a student.



Non-fiction section.



Students enjoying the library.

RICHMOND SCHOOL FOUNDATION (RSF)
Update upon completion of the fall parent pledge drive.

Congratulations parents, grandparents and friends of Richmond. The RSF wants to update you on your terrific participation in donating to the RSF and, in doing so, supporting smaller class sizes and our dual-immersion Japanese-English teaching model.

Your donations and participation have grown each year over the last three years. Pat yourselves on the back knowing that your donations to RSF go directly to increasing staffing at our school. You are contributing to a better education for your own children at Richmond. This year, we likely need to increase donations and participation again...especially with possible tax cuts due to the falling economy. It takes more to be above average...and Richmond has been 'exceptional' now 3 years in a row! (Oregon Department of Education Ratings.) As Benjamin Franklin said: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

AMOUNT RAISED AND PARTICIPATION TO DATE: The next page has the update on participation, total raised and what it will do.

RSF TACHOMETER: Participation...we are aiming for 66% or higher this year.

RSF SPEEDOMETER: Total amount raised...last year we raised \$67,000. We are aiming for more this year as the economy will likely lead to more cuts in public education...if we don't make up the difference, no one else will.

RSF PIE-O-METER: Extra/additional staff funded...shows exactly how much more staff we have at our school due to your donations.

PARENT PLEDGE DRIVE: SIMPLE AND CONSISTENT MESSAGE: The simple and consistent message from the RSF remains the same and simple – the main vehicle for RSF funding is the semi-annual parent pledge drive:

TWICE A YEAR PARENT PLEDGE DRIVE.

FALL: In the fall, the drive is more general as the school specific staffing needs aren't clear until the spring when PPS staff allocations come out. While some parents have a more difficult time donating for an intangible need of 'more staff' in the fall, donations in the fall are as important as the spring. They get us jump started on donations and help you spread your own donations over the year, which for many parents, is an easier way to donate -- smaller amount more often rather than a larger amount less frequently.

SPRING: In the spring, we come back to you for the second half of the parent pledge drive. By then, we know what specific staffing needs Richmond will have. Many parents have an easier time donating for a tangible, known staff position. However, we all benefit from all donations whether done in the fall, spring or both.

DONATE THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE MONTH'S OF KINDERGARTEN TUITION TWICE-A-YEAR.

SUGGESTED AMOUNT: This year $\$320 \times 2 = \640 .

WHY THIS AMOUNT: If our kindergarten parents can give this every month, we can all do it just twice-a-year. It is \$640 once, \$320 twice or \$64/month

ANY AMOUNT HELPS: And...of course any amount, no matter how large or small, makes a difference. It all adds up!

HOW TO DONATE:

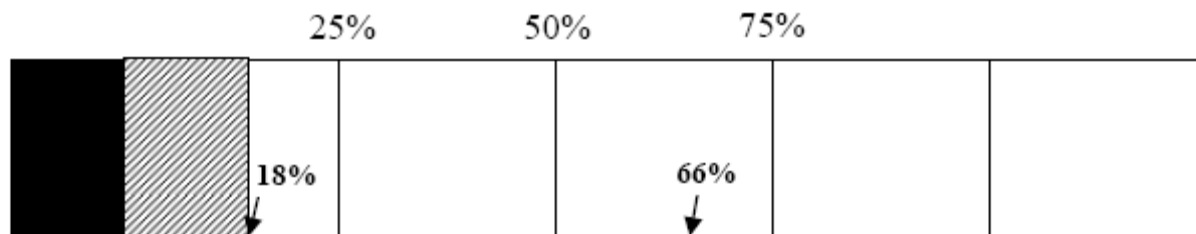
ONLINE: More and more parents are donating online at <www.thinkschools.org>. Make sure you choose RICHMOND in the 'donate to' field.

TWICE-A-YEAR: Most parents donate by check or credit card twice-a-year.

MONTHLY IS EASIER FOR MANY: A growing number of parents have set up automatic monthly credit card donations. If everyone donated \$50/month from now à June, we'd have enough to fund an entire additional teacher for our children.

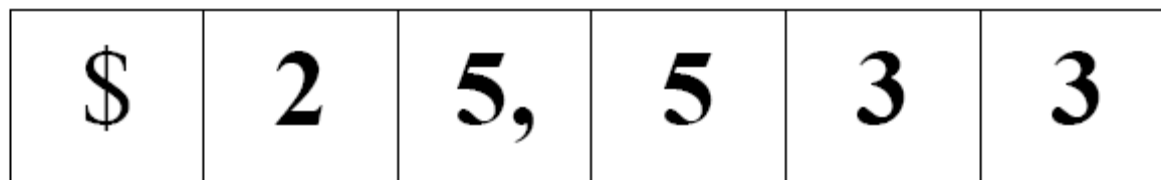
To set up monthly donation, you can do it online at <www.thinkschools.org> or contact our treasurer Tim Gooding. Online, when you click on 'donate now,' in small print under the heading 'One Time Donation' is a link for 'Monthly Donation.'

PARTICIPATION TACHOMETER



- This year so far (2008-2009) = 18%...goal is 66% or higher
- Last year total (2007-2008) = 52%
- Two years ago total (2006-2007) = 50%

TOTAL AMOUNT SPEEDOMETER



- This year so far 2008-2009 = \$25,533
- End of year 2007-2008 = \$75,247
- End of year 2006-2007 = \$65,762

WHAT-YOUR-DONATIONS-DO PIE-O-

2 YEARS AGO



FUNDED 40%
OF AN EXTRA
TEACHER

LAST YEAR



FUNDED 67%
OF AN EXTRA
TEACHER

THIS YEAR



?





Portland Public Schools

RICHMOND JAPANESE IMMERSION

2276 SE 41st Street
Portland, OR 97214

Phone: 503-916-6220
Fax: 503-916-2665
Website: www.richmondjmp.org

Japanese Magnet Program

Mark your calendar!



Events for February 6-27, 2009

- Fri. Feb. 6 Students arrive today from Sumaura Elementary in Kobe
- Mon. Feb. 9 PPS Board of Education meeting at 7:00 PM

Richmond Neighborhood Assoc. meeting at Richmond, 7 PM
- Thurs. Feb. 12 **VALENTIME PARTIES, 1:30-2:15 PM** (alternative day so we can include our guests from Sumaura before their departure Feb. 13)
- Fri. Feb. 13 Sumaura students depart this morning at 8:30 AM
- Mon. Feb. 16 **PRESIDENT'S DAY—NO SCHOOL**
- Tues. Feb. 17 Site Council meeting in staff room at 2:30-4:30 PM; meetings are open to all members of the Richmond community, so please join us!
- Wed. Feb. 18 School tour for prospective parents, 8:15-10:00 AM

Information Night for prospective parents at 7-8:30 PM in cafeteria
- Mon. Feb. 23 Scrip order day

Richmond Foundation mtg. At 6:30 PM in staff room
- Tues. Feb. 24 Information Night for prospective parents at 7-8:30 PM in cafeteria
- Wed. Feb. 25 School tour for prospective parents, 8:15-10:00 AM

Appreciation party for volunteers that worked on our mosaic at 12:30-2:00 PM in room 205

4th grade parents information meeting about 2010 Cultural Exchange; 6:30-7:30 PM in the cafeteria
- Fri. Feb. 27 Scrip pick up day

**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**



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

Need to put an article in Richmond's *Shinbun*?

Send print-ready information to: Kathryn Anderson at keanders@pps.k12.or.us. Please note in the email subject line that the email information is for the Shinbun and the date(s) of desired publication. Example:

Subject: Shinbun article for 1-30-09 and 2-6-09

Deadline to submit articles: Wednesdays by noon for Friday publication.