

February 27, 2009

www.richmondjmp.org



RICHMOND JAPANESE IMMERSION

Richmond Shinbun

Portland Public Schools Intends to Preserve Current School Year for Students

Thursday night, at a school budget listening session, Portland Public Schools Superintendent Carole Smith told parents and community members that she “intends to do everything possible to preserve the student year.”

Superintendent Smith said that the state use of federal stimulus funds to help schools stay open this year has helped Portland Public Schools reduce the current year budget gap caused by a drop in state revenue. However, the school district still faces a \$4.2 million gap this year, even after the federal stimulus funds are factored into the budget.

Superintendent Smith also indicated that she plans to consult with all employee groups to help find cost savings (consistent with potential negotiation obligations, where applicable) and continue conversations with school board members about the use of school district reserves. In addition, she indicated that she expects the school district will realize some savings from belt-tightening.

Superintendent Smith said, “We simply can’t sacrifice time our students need to be in school and learning, if we can find enough in savings so that balancing our budget is within our reach.”

Portland Public Schools is grappling with mid-year cuts in state school funding. The school district started this school year with a budget that included \$346 million in state funding. In December, the deteriorating economy forced the Governor to cut school funding, including \$4.2 million from Portland Public Schools.

The School Board decided to use reserves to cover that cut. At that time, Superintendent Smith also directed school district officials to tighten spending.

The most recent state revenue forecast projected an \$855 million drop in state revenue this school year and as much as \$2.9 billion for the coming biennium. The drop in state funding for the current year would translate into reduction of approximately 6-8 school days for Portland Public Schools.

This week, legislative leaders agreed to a plan to rebalance the state budget. That plan would provide Portland Public Schools with approximately \$4 million from what legislators are calling the “School Days Restoration Fund.” This restoration would still require Portland Public Schools to make \$4.2 million in additional cuts this year.

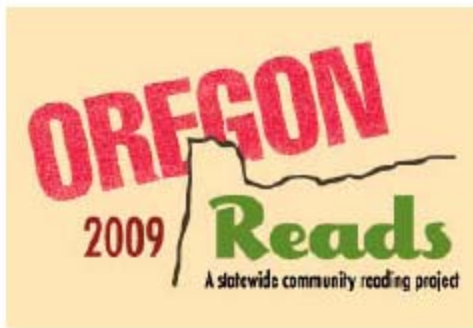
Superintendent Smith said that she may need to talk with employees about the possibility of payroll savings, but said her goal would be to ensure that no particular employee group bears the full impact of potential reductions.

Smith also said that she would continue to look at further reducing other administrative costs through limiting contracts, travel and other expenses.

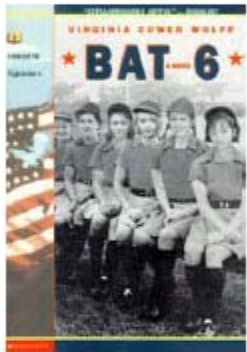
Any decisions to tap more school district reserves in the current school year require the approval of the Portland school board. At Thursday’s meeting, Smith indicated that any decisions about reserves “must take into account the fact that next year looks even worse—and we do not know when the economy will recover.”

Smith made Thursday’s announcement at a budget listening session where she asked parents and community members for input on Portland Public Schools budget for the 2009-2010 school year.

Currently, school district officials are projecting a budget gap of between \$17 million—\$41 million for the upcoming school year, depending upon the availability of federal stimulus funds and the use of state reserves to support school districts.



The Richmond Library and Multnomah County Library have joined together to bring these two special book events for you as a part of the Everybody Reads project. All events are free. (Books not included.) Please join us and have some fun with reading!

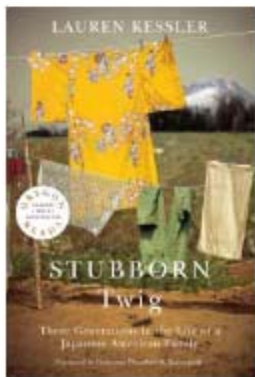


Event #1: Wednesday, March 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Belmont Library, 1038 SE 39th Avenue

2:30-3:20 Reading of *Apples to Oregon*, followed by a fun art activity. Recommended grades PreK-3. Parent attendance required.

3:30-4:30 Parent and Child book group discussion for *Bat 6*, junior book pick for Everybody Reads. Recommended ages 9-12. Mt. Tabor students welcome! E-mail Sara Tam to order your copy of *Bat 6* and receive a 15% discount. Orders must be received by 10 a.m. next Thursday, Feb. 19.



Event #2: Sunday, March 15, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Belmont Library

Come meet other parents from the JMP and discuss *Stubborn Twig* by Lauren Kessler. Books are available at all MCLs, with some bookstores offering discounts. For more information, visit www.multcolib.org/reads or www.oregonreads2009.org

Light refreshments will be served at both events. RSVP to Sara Tam, saratam@juno.com, so we can anticipate how many people will attend. Thank you!

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:

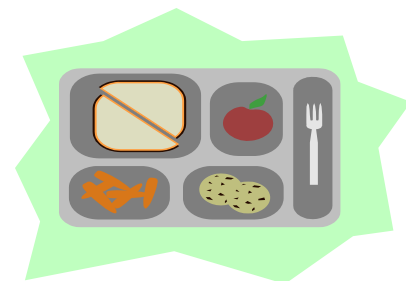
Melissa Gordon Clark, host family recruiter, at 503-539-1008
mgorgon@yahoo.com

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

Please Check the Lost & Found!

Please check the lost and found if your child can't seem to find that down-filled coat, fleece jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt you know they have. Chances are good that you'll find the missing item hanging on one of the two lost and found racks in the cafeteria. It's the end of the month and time for all items in Richmond's lost and found to be boxed up and sent to the PTA Clothes Closet at Marshall High School, hence this announcement.

Richmond's lost and found racks are located in our cafeteria just before you exit the cafeteria and head into the breezeway toward the main building.

Thanks!

Track the Transfer Numbers!

www.schoolchoice.pps.k12.or.us

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 22 days of the transfer process. We have 21 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.

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.

	PreK	Kindergarten	Grades 1-5
# of App's Rec'd	41	59	12
% of Slots Filled	102%	78%	25%

Richmond Elementary



News from Richmond's Parent Teacher Association

Jeanne Kalisweski
President

Sonciray Bonnell
Vice President

Mika Obara
Treasurer

Carol Shaw
Secretary

Yoko Sato
Special Events

PTA General Meeting next Thursday March 5th at 6:30

Please come to the next PTA General Membership Meeting next Thursday March 5th. Topics to be covered will include safety issues related to Richmond and a brief survey to help clarify your goals for our PTA. We will have a guest speaker from the Safe Routes to School Program and hope also to have our own school safety officer there as well.

A formal agenda will be sent out via the listserve in a few days and will be posted around the school. We really hope to see you there!

Immediately following our meeting will be Oya No Kai's Intern Appreciation Night complete with cake, singing, and lots of laughter and tears! Please help us bid a fond farewell to the wonderful young women who have given so much to our children and Richmond this year.

Ideas, Questions, Comments, Concerns for Jeanne?

Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00-8:45 I am at the Rich Coffee 'Café' with my two younger kids. If you have any PTA related questions, concerns, or ideas I would love to talk with you, or you can call me at 503-333-3457. Thanks!

Japanese Cultural Center Committee will be having a general meeting on Tuesday March 3rd at 6:00 pm in the teachers' lounge. Topics of discussion will include and update on the progress of the Japanese Teaching Garden (planting, naming, & maintenance), hall painting work party, establishing a tea guild, and update on cultural object school inventory. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please rsvp to Catherine Malone at catherinem@harsch.com or 503.706.7889.

Volunteer Background Checks

Please remember to keep your Volunteer Background Check current so there aren't any surprises when your child's class goes on a field trip. Background checks expire after three years, so if you applied when your child was in kindergarten, yours has probably expired by now. We have a complete list of current volunteers, so if you're in doubt, please call the office and we'll help you check it out.

If you would like to fill out a Volunteer Background Check form, please pick up a packet at the Richmond Office and turn it in with the \$5.00 fee. We will process it through the Portland Public Schools Security Office, which usually take one to two weeks.

Thank you for volunteering!



HINAMATSURI RECEPTION AND TEA SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1:30 TO 3:00PM



Photo © Toshimi Edagawa, *Hokkaido Shimban*

Join us for a Hinamatsuri (Girls' Day) reception at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center on Sunday, March 1, 2009, at 1:30pm. Visit the museum and celebrate Girls' Day, a Japanese holiday celebrating the happiness and prosperity of all the girls in the family. Girls attending the reception are encouraged to dress in kimono. \$3 suggested donation, free to Friends of the Legacy Center. Co-sponsored by Portland-Sapporo Sister City Association.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS WITH MOTOYA NAKAMURA SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2:00 TO 4:00PM

Interested in learning digital photography techniques and having fun taking photos? Join *Oregonian* staff photographer Motoya Nakamura as he leads a photo shoot at the Japanese American Historical Plaza. Cost is \$25 (\$10 for Friends of the Legacy Center). RSVP required. Meet at the Plaza (at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, just north of W. Burnside Street). Bring your camera and snacks, and dress for the weather. To sign up, call us at 503-224-1458 or email info@oregonnikkei.org



Sign up for Digital Photography Class

OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

Deadline to sign up:
Friday, March 13, 2009

Please make checks payable to:

Oregon Nikkei Endowment
121 NW 2nd Ave
Portland, OR 97209

Name(s)

_____ # attending at \$25 each

Address

_____ # attending at \$10 each
(only available for Friends of
the Legacy Center)

Phone

E-mail

Total Enclosed: _____

Method of Payment Check

Visa American Express

MasterCard Discover

Credit Card #

Exp. date

Signature



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

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

Mark your calendar!



Events for February 27-March 20, 2009

- Fri. Feb. 27 Scrip pick up day
 - Sun. Mar. 1 O-Hina-Matsuri at the OR Nikkei Legacy Ctr. 121 NW 2nd Ave. at 1:30-3:00 PM
 - Tues. Mar. 3 Cultural Center Committee meeting in staff room at 6:00 PM
 - Wed. Mar. 4 School tour for prospective parents, 8:15-10:00 AM
 - Thurs. Mar. 5 Richmond PTA General Membership Mtg. 6:30 PM in cafe
 - Fri. Mar. 6 NO SCHOOL—Teacher prep day for report cards
 - Mon. Mar. 9 Scrip order day
Richmond Neighborhood Assoc. mtg. 7:00 PM in cafeteria
 - Wed. Mar. 11 School tour for prospective parents, 8:15-10:00 AM (Last one!)
 - Thurs. Mar. 12 Mandatory meeting for prospective parents at 7:00 PM in café
 - Fri. Mar. 13 Scrip pick up day
- SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATION DEADLINE, 5 PM**
- Mon. Mar. 16 Superintendent's budget presentation to PPS Board of Ed. 7 PM at Blanchard Education Service Center 501 N. Dixon
 - Tues. Mar. 17 Foundation restaurant fundraiser at Pizzicato Dough 4 Dollars Lunch and Dinner, 60th and Division.
 - Fri. Mar. 20 Report cards from second semester go home with students

Spring Break is March 21-29!

- Mon. Mar. 30 Students and staff return from Spring Break



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.