

Richmond Shinbun

2276 SE 41st • Portland, OR 97214 • (503) 916-6220 • www.richmondjmp.org



EXTRA! EXTRA! SHINBUN GETS MAKEOVER

Something look different? In response to requests for a simpler, more streamlined dissemination of news, Richmond is trying a new format for our weekly newsletter.

Our goal is to get families the information they need while respecting their limited time to read lengthy articles.

All newsletter submissions must be submitted to Patsy by noon on Wednesdays for Friday publication, in text format. If you have a graphic you'd like included, please submit it in jpeg.

Sorry, but we can no longer include PDF files, order forms, etc. However, we will be working toward linking readers to relevant websites, when more in-depth info is desired, or available.

As with any new endeavor there will be growing pains. We'd love to hear your positive thoughts and ideas.

GOING TO BE ABSENT?

Call the attendance hotline at **503-916-3667**. Please do



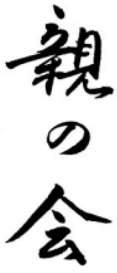
PTA GOALS SURVEY— WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The PTA wants to know your priorities and goals for Richmond. We are, after all, *your* PTA. You should have received a very short online survey in your inbox within the last few days. We really want your input and ideas, so please, take just a couple of minutes to fill it out.

Paper copies of the survey are available for those who do not wish to access it online. Thank you very much!



- March 16: PPS Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 PM
- March 17: Pizzicato Fundraiser (all day)
- March 17: Site Council Meeting- 2:30-4:30, Richmond Staff Lounge
- March 18: Last Mandatory Meeting for Prospective Parents: 1:00-2:00 PM
- **March 23 — March 27: SPRING BREAK**
- March 30: Scrip Order Day
- March 30: PPS Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 PM
- March 31: Hearing Screening Re-check Day
- April 1: Pre-K Field Trip to Children's Theatre
- April 1: Second day of Hearing Screening re-checks
- April 3: Scrip Pick-up Day
- April 15: Naylor/Mogi 2nd grade field trip to Franz Bakery
- April 24: Spring for the Arts
- April 28: MAD Science begins again



KURABU 2009

Kurabu is a Japanese summer day camp for children who are entering kindergarten through fifth grade in the fall of 2009, and will be at Mt. Tabor Middle School. Registration forms have already been sent home. Cost is \$145 for session 1, and \$170 for sessions 2, 3 and 4.

2009 Kurabu dates are:

- 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

For more information please contact Oya No Kai at info@oyanokai.org.



YOUNG READER'S CHOICE AWARD NOMINEES FOR 2009

The Pacific Northwest Library Association's Young Reader's Choice Award is the oldest children's choice award in the U.S. and Canada. The award was established in

1940 by a Seattle bookseller, the late Harry Hartman, who believed every student should have an opportunity to select a book that they thoroughly enjoy.

Here's what to do: read (or listen to) at least 2 of the nominated books in the Junior Division. All nominated books are available in the Richmond Library. Then cast your ballot in the library for your favorite book. **Voting is available for 4th and 5th graders only, between March 15 and April 15.**

For more information, including the list of nominated titles, go to www.pnla.org/yrca.



Tell everyone you know to eat at your DIVISION neighborhood Pizzicato, **Tuesday, March 17, 2009.** Richmond will receive 20% of all sales made that day.

Pizzicato is located at 6042 SE Division St. If you can't stay to eat, call for take-out at 503-546-1686.

For delivery orders of over \$50, please call the catering office with 24 hours notice at 503-274-8855. Be sure to designate the order in support of Richmond!



TRACK THE TRANSFER NUMBERS

The following chart shows how many first place applications for transfer to Richmond have been recorded in the District's system thru March 12.

	PreK	Kindergarten	Grades 1-5
1st Choice Applicants	59	83	21
No. of Spaces Available	39	78	50



RICHMOND SCHOOL FOUNDATION — WHY TO

GIVE

Hello Richmond Community! We are David and Jenn Gregor. Our son, in second grade, is part of the lead expansion class working its way through Richmond and eventually the JMP program. We have been actively involved with the Richmond School Foundation for over a year and half and support its goal of funding necessary teachers and staff positions to preserve the level of education excellence at Richmond.

When we were initially looking into school options, Richmond was always on our radar as we knew about the long term benefits of learning a second language at an early age and were seeking a unique elementary opportunity beyond the standard offering (it also helped that we live nearby). We investigated other language immersion and magnet schools within PPS with an eye towards gauging the level of parental involvement and support, especially with the backdrop of PPS school closures and realignments just a year before (2005). We decided on Richmond, based on its noted success, longevity, the depth of cultural exposure afforded a mature immersion program, and our own connections to Japan.

To this day, when we discuss our son's school with other's from outside Portland they are amazed that we have such an enriching opportunity for our kids. Personally, we haven't regretted our decision. Our son loves Richmond, and so do we!

As part of the Richmond community, we recognize and appreciate the generous time and resources parents and families have given in support: from hosting

interns, volunteering in the classroom and library, writing grant proposals, building gardens and mosaics, organizing special events, along with direct contributions. Taken together, each individual action enables our community to continue to offer a rich and rewarding educational foundation for our children.

Like most incoming parents, at the start of our son's kindergarten year, we were a bit overwhelmed by the number of fundraising and volunteer requests from the various parent support groups: gift wrapping and wreath sales, new playground equipment, book fair, auction procurement, scrip and the parent pledge drive, to name a few. Sure, we were expecting and willing to do what it takes to support Richmond and the language immersion program, but where to start and prioritize?

For us, we found the best fit with the Foundation, with Jenn spearheading the monthly restaurant fundraisers after others had paved the way. Money raised for the Foundation is applied toward supporting the teaching and staffing needs at Richmond. For us maintaining adequate staffing is a top priority for providing a quality education for all students at Richmond.

In Spring 2006 when our son was in kindergarten, PPS's budget allotment to Richmond was not sufficient to cover teaching and requirements following year and our newly expanded grade level was at risk of losing support of the dual-class immersion model (4 teachers) that has proven to be so successful. Fortunately Richmond parents came through, and by the end of the school year enough money was raised by the Foundation to keep the dual-immersion model intact.

This brought into focus that we couldn't take what we expected for granted. We joined the Foundation and got more involved. In order to maintain the educational, community and cultural opportunities that at-

tracted us to Richmond in the first place, we need to encourage all parents to participate with whatever they can offer. Richmond's destiny is in our collective hands, any contribution, monetary or sweat equity, will help even the load, especially in these uncertain economic times.

We as a community do have the ability, as we have demonstrated before, to rally locally, among ourselves and take direct action in maintaining support of the various programs and enrichments that make the Richmond experience so special.

If you are not already involved, Please consider doing what you can to participate either by: volunteering your time, donating materials or money — any amount will help. The more we come together and aggregate our input, each doing a part, and working towards a common goal — maintaining excellence at Richmond — the more we can accomplish.

This year's Foundation goal is to reach a level of 66% or higher for family participation for the 2008-2009 school year, building on the growth trend of over 50% last year. Once PPS budget numbers have been released, we will have a more precise dollar amount to aim for. While the Parent Pledge Drive's direct appeal is to match the monthly kindergarten tuition twice a year (Fall and Spring), any amount is appreciated and will help fill the expected funding gap.

Spring parent pledge forms will be distributed shortly and are also available for download on the www.richmondjimp.org site. Or you can [donate online](#) and set up [monthly payments](#) at the www.thinkschools.org site. Just make sure to select "Richmond Elementary School" before submitting the form.

Thanks to everyone for creating and sustaining such a wonderful community at Richmond, and an amazing educational opportunity for our kids! As Richmond continues to grow and evolve, let's keep the momentum moving forward, combining everyone's efforts!

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