

Richmond Shinbun

2276 SE 41st Ave., Portland, OR 97214 (503) 916-6220

April 17, 2009

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Supporting the 5th Grade Cultural Exchange Saturday, April 18th Lloyd Center from 12:00 to 5:00 PM

Come to the children's section where your child can make origami and bookmarks and buy a few books. There will be teachers' wish-list books available for purchase. Curious George will be there at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.. Barnes & Noble will be giving us a percentage of their sales for the afternoon.

All sessions of Kurabu are now <u>full</u>

Richmond Calendar

Aprıl 18	Fundraiser for 5th Grade Cultural Exchange
April 21	Site Council Meeting 2:30-4:30 PM
April 22	Secretaries' Day
April 24	Spring for the Arts Day
	10:00 AM—K, 1, & 2
	$1:15 \text{ PM} \longrightarrow \text{PreK}, 3, 4, \& 5$
April 25	Benefit for Hana—Mississippi Pizza Pub, 9-12 PM
April 28	MAD Science begins again
April 28	PreK Field Trip to Coppelia Ballet
April 30	PTA Meeting at 6:30 PM
May 1	Kapranos/Fujiwara to Franz Bakery
May 4-8th	Staff Appreciation Week
May 16	Spring Festival at Richmond
May 21	Safety Patrol Picnic—Oaks Park
May 22	Last Day of Boys & Girls Club
May 25	No School– Memorial Day
June 8	Field Day
June 10	Last Day of School!!

An Important Message From Cynthia Gilliam, Area Director:

Dear Richmond Families,

First, let me thank you for your flexibility and understanding over the past month as you have worked with Paula McCullough and Dana Jacobs serving as substitute principals. I hope we will have some resolution regarding Richmond leadership within the next two weeks. My word to you is that I will inform you as soon as I am given information and am cleared to share it.

As most of you know, the past three weeks we have been grappling with the staffing for the 2009-10 school year. Richmond will add two additional third grade teachers to support the planned growth of the immersion program. Our school allocation for next year is 22.49 FTE, compared to 18.631 FTE for this year. At first glance this appears to be a 3.86 increase. However, .5 of that increase needs to be reserved for Kindergarten support if we enroll more than 100 kindergarten students. If we enroll fewer than 100 we will need to return the .5 to the district. In addition, last year the Richmond Foundation funded .669 FTE of one teacher. So when we take these changes into account our actual increase for next year is 2.691 FTE. We will add two teachers for third grade. After doing that we have about .7 FTE to fund other things. The district is mandating that all schools provide at least 20 hours of staffing for libraries. With this in mind we will dedicate .5 FTE to a half time librarian and ask that parents continue to support the library as they have this year, during the time our librarian is not present. This leaves us with .2 FTE. Yesterday I spoke with Andy Felcher, President of the Richmond Foundation and asked if he thought the Richmond parents would be supportive of providing .3 FTE which would allow us to support a half time art teacher. He indicated interest in this though he was clear that he was not the only voice that would need to be heard on the matter.

I am writing today to ask you to consider funding .3 FTE to help us provide a part time art teacher for Richmond students. I realize that communication was sent to you stating that we did not need funding for FTE this year from the Foundation. Unfortunately, we miscalculated, specifically around the additional .5 in the kindergarten allotment. When we learned we could not use that until we had the enrollment and that even then, it could only be applied to kindergarten classes, we realized we were mistaken in telling you we did not need help. For this I take responsibility and I apologize.

Please communicate with Andy and your other Foundation leaders to let them know your thinking. Thank you again for your support of the children of Richmond School.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Gilliam Area Director

TAG News

Teachers have been receiving Professional Development this year on effective differentiation strategies. The focus strategy for this month is "Question Strategies/Depth and Complexity". The use of questioning techniques has proven to be a successful strategy for encouraging purposeful inquiry and creative thinking development in and among students. Students need to learn to generate alternatives in solving real-world problems, and teachers help them do this by regularly incorporating divergent questions in the classroom. Teachers frequently use questions to increase the depth of understanding. Rather than ask questions that begin with "What is.....?", ask questions that begin with such phrases as "What do you notice about....?", "How are these similar and different?", "What are the strengths and weaknesses of....?", "How does....affect....?" When differentiation strategies are in place in a classroom, the evidence is not only evident in products, materials or the grouping of students, but by the questions the teacher uses to increase higher level thinking. Modeling the use of higher level questions encourages students to "think about their own thinking", which is called metacognition.

Japanese Teaching Garden

Gardens are *Living Classrooms*: The Japanese Teaching Garden at the entrance to Richmond will soon have fencing and a lawn installed as outlined in the design plan (see: http://www.richmondjmp.org/culturalcenter.html).

Change is a part of the garden experience. Plants grow, die and are replaced, flowers bloom and fade, and new ideas and use shape design. The Cultural Arts Committee encourages you to explore the many changing features of the garden while being respectful of its nature and care. Domo Arigato

Confronted with the vision of a beautiful garden, we see something beautiful about ourselves.—Jeff Cox

Washington Mutual Bank is discontinuing the School Savings program on May 1, 2009. Our Bank Day parents are researching other banking options, so we'll keep you posted. You will still be able to bank at their local branches.

After School Plan Changes: Parents, please remember to make any After School Plan changes with your child in the morning before school and send a note to the teacher (or fax a note if it's an emergency to 503-916-2665). We can no longer change your plans without written permission. We understand that emergencies occasionally happen, but daily phone call changes and reminders are discouraged.



Richmond PTA General Meeting Scheduled for April 30 6:30 pm

The next Richmond PTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 30 at 6:30 pm. An agenda and list of presenters will be sent out in a couple of weeks.

The PTA, along with Oya No Kai and Foundation, has been in communication with Cynthia Gilliam and PPS Human Resources regarding Kathryn Anderson's leave of absence. We have received no new information at this time, but will keep you informed of anything we do learn. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jeanne Kaliszewski at 503-731-8948 or <jkalisze@gmail.com>.

<u>Teacher Appreciation Week Scheduled for May 4-8,</u> Volunteers are Still Needed!

Help us show Richmond's amazing teachers and staff how much we appreciate all they do! The PTA is looking for a couple of volunteers to help coordinate a staff potluck and a classroom cleanup day. If you are interested in helping us organize this great event, please contact Jeanne Kaliszewski.

PTA Survey Results

Thanks to all who participated in our PTA survey. Full results of the survey will be discussed at the next PTA General meeting on April 30, but here are some of the highlights:

- Folks ranked advocating for budgets and staff as the most important role the PTA should play at Richmond, with organizing community events as next most important.
- The most popular long-term project on the survey was the continued 'greening' of Richmond, with continued improvements to the playground and painting of the classrooms ranked next.

On a related note, the Richmond Green Team, headed by Julie Gefroh, is looking for parents who would be willing to organize the Bike/Walk to School Day and the Safer Routes to Schools Program. These two programs are a way to really make an impact on the health and safety of our school. If you are interested please contact Julie at ibgefroh@gmail.com.

Redefining the Japanese Immersion Experience: Roadmap To Superior Proficiency:

PreK –12 Portland Public Schools (PPS) Japanese Immersion parents, students, and community members are invited to learn more about the significant changes happening at the secondary level in the PPS Japanese Immersion Program and the opportunities surrounding these changes.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Carl Falsgraf, Director of the Center for Applied Second Language Studies at UO

Wednesday, May 13th, 6:30-8:00 PM at Grant High School.