



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 full

Richmond Calendar

April 18	Barnes & Noble Book Fair— Lloyd Center, 12:00-5:00 PM 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 PM — 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

