

Richmond Shinbun

January 2011



Principal's News

Welcome back from vacation!

We are so happy to see you and your children back at Richmond. Hopefully, you had many happy and warming experiences over the winter break. This New Year holds much promise and busy times for us. The New Year celebration at the Japanese garden on Jan 9th includes a discount pass enclosed in this newsletter. It would make a wonderful family event for this New Year.

We have also included a copy of the 2009-10 school report card from the state with this newsletter. While we continued to be an outstanding school last year, we need to be vigilant this year in several areas. Our attendance and tardies are rated and could cause us to miss the "Outstanding" rank if they continue to go down percentage-wise. I know Richmond families have an extra challenge of getting here everyday, but it is important to be on time and in school for all students to learn well and so this is an important aspect of the report card.

Additionally, the math scores were raised this year by the state. Our students have to reach a higher score this year than is a normal gain for some students to reach in one year's time. While we anticipate our average math score will dip this year, we will be piloting a math supplemental program for 5th grade and one of the new math adoptions for next year at the 3rd grade. The district held off purchasing a new math program last year with the intent to do so this spring for all grade levels.

Battle of the books teams are formed and

will be reading and answering questions about the books this spring. Thank you to our Library Assistant, Mitzi McCullen, for organizing these nine teams and the events. Watch for the science fair at the end of April and Run for Richmond coming on April 22nd.

Late openings continue to be dedicated to writing, differentiation, and strategies for different learners and observations by staff visiting each other's rooms. The district's 4th Monday professional development workshops focus on math. Our amazing Richmond teachers do all of this as well as achieve amazing outcomes in reading, Japanese, and other content areas. The upcoming TAG parent night on January 13 is from 6 to 7PM.

We are still in conversation with the district regarding next year and our growth. There is some misunderstanding that this is a three-teacher per grade level model so we hope to resolve this while growing and adding two fifth grade teachers during a year of more state budget cuts. This may be a hard sell. We will have a site committee starting the last Monday of each month at 4:30 from January to April for interested parents. Thank you to Richmond Foundation and parents who have raised about \$40k so far this year. That will purchase about half of a teacher's position.

Richmond's lottery meetings begin next month for new families on Feb 24th and March 16th at 7PM. Attending one of these is mandatory to apply to the program.

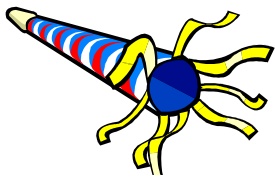
PTA is sharing about the PPS bond this Wednesday night, and there is much information located on the PPS website which is linked to the Richmond site at <https://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/Richmond>.

We have some sad news about our beloved custodian, Dan, who lost his oldest daughter over the winter break. He is so special to and with our children. We hold him in our thoughts as we move into a new year.

We wish all of you a bright new year!

Bev Pruitt

**Happy
New
Year!**



School Day Changes

- ◆ Jan 12 - Late Start - 10 a.m.
- ◆ Jan 17 - No School - MLK Day
- ◆ Feb 9 - Late Start 10 a.m.
- ◆ Feb 21 - No School - Presidents Day

Thank You & Domo Arigato Gozaimasu



- ◆ Everyone who worked the Craft Fair made it fabulous! Our annual event was well attended! The intern table and the food & cards were great fundraisers for the intern program and the 5th grade trip!
- ◆ Alison Walcott and Oya no Kai for organizing the Read-a-Thon – and kudos to all the student participants!
- ◆ Book Fair Volunteers – Thank you for all your time and effort! Such a wonderful event for our kids that supports reading and fun!
- ◆ A warm thank you to all the overly generous students and parents who showered the office with so many gifts from the heart and kitchen!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!

Seventeen interns for next year are due to arrive in late March! We desperately need to secure host homes for each intern by February or the agency in Japan will not approve the interns to travel here in March.

Having an intern in your home is a great way to connect deeper with the

JMP community & provide language and culture infusion in the home. Hosting only requires a bedroom and willingness to embrace a lifelong friend to your home for a six-month stay.

To find out more information call or email Melissa Gorgon-Clark.
mgorgon@yahoo.com 503.539.1008



O-Shogatsu & Japanese Garden



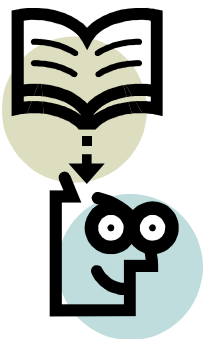
Sunday, January 9th the Japanese Garden again welcomes the Richmond community to the New Year celebration of O-Shogatsu 2011.

It's a beautiful time to see the Garden and participate in the scheduled holiday activities of Sumie (black ink painting)

and Kakizome (New Year calligraphy).

See the attached flyer for more information and a coupon for discounted admission for your family!

Battle of the Books, Science Fair, Run for Richmond!



Look for lots of upcoming events and activities for our students – we will be blasting updates via Big Tent and PTA communications.

Battle of Books teams are forming!

Science Fair experiments are beginning and it's a great time to think of ideas with your children.

Get running shoes on for Run for Richmond April 22nd

Oya No Kai Auction: March 5th

The grand-daddy of events, the Oya no Kai Auction is gearing up for the big night on March 5th.

Donations are needed!
Volunteers are needed!

We depend on our JMP community for amazing donations from vacation homes, wine and gifts, services and

cultural items. Did you end up with extra wine or bubbly after the holiday season? Consider donating it!

Volunteers are needed at every level - procuring donations - working the event - will call...and more!

The Auction Blog is the spot for FAQs:
www.ONKAUCTION.wordpress.com

Lottery – Lottery – Lottery!

As you know, Richmond is a 100% lottery school organized through the Portland Public School Choice lottery.

Tours are run on Wednesdays by our dedicated and enthusiastic parent docent team who introduce prospective parents to our program and active community.

The lottery opens on February 9th and closes on March 11th. Online applications can be found at: www.schoolchoice.pps.k12.or.us

Mandatory meetings reviewing the program and expectations will be Feb 24th at 7pm or March 7th at 7pm. Prospective parents need to attend one meeting to be eligible for the lottery.

If you have a sibling attending the program and want to enroll a new incoming kindergartener or pre-k student, you need to fill out an online application and pick up an enrollment packet in the office.

Word-of-mouth is great free advertising to keep our program active and strong.

\$\$ RICHMOND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS \$\$

💰 **Box Tops & Campbell Soup labels**
Keep cutting out those Box Tops and snip those Campbell soup labels to help raise funds for our school needs. EVERY dime counts - really it does!

💰 **Save our Elms coffee!**
Help our big beautiful trees stay healthy and enjoy a great cup of joe by picking up an order sheet in the office and getting fresh coffee!

💰 **Rich Coffee!**
Is there a better way to raise money for our school than hot chocolate, coffee and delicious muffins?! Thank you to our early-rising team who keep us all happy in the morning!!

💰 **Foundation Dinner Out!**
Look for upcoming information about dinners out at local restaurants to raise funds for our Foundation. An easy way to raise money for teaching staff and a night off of cooking!





Richmond Communications

Richmond
2276 SE 41st St
Portland, OR 97214

Phone:
(503) 916.6220

Fax:
(503) 916.6225

Attendance Line
(503) 916-6148

Bus Routes
(503) 916-6901

Keep informed and up to date with all the Richmond news and events via online at our -

PPS site:
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/richmond/>

Our BigTent school site:
<https://www.bigtent.com/groups/richmondjmp>

The Shinbun, our monthly school newsletter, is full of PTA, Oya No Kai, and Foundation news as well as events and updates. It comes out the first week of the month.

Our Richmond school calendar goes out the third week of the month.



Check out both on-line!



❧ School Calendar ❧

January

- Jan 12: Late Opening – School starts at 10 a.m.
- Jan 17: No School – MLK Day
- Jan 31: Switch day for classes

February

- Feb 7: School Choice Lottery opens
- Feb 9: Late Opening – School starts at 10 a.m.
- Feb 21: No School – Presidents’ Day
- Feb 24: Mandatory meeting for prospective parents to Richmond at 7 p.m.

March

- Mar 9: Late Opening – School starts at 10 a.m.
- Mar 11: School Choice Lottery closes
- Mar 21-25: Spring Break!

TAG Advisory Group Meetings

- Jan 13, 2011 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- Mar 10, 2011 2:30 – 3:30 pm
- May 12, 2011 6:00 – 7:00 pm