

Richmond Shinbun

Richmond Elementary School



...Changing Seasons

October 2010

The seasons changing from summer into fall brings our Richmond students back into our school. This is an exciting time for staff and students. Parents were ready to welcome and assist staff. PTA hosted the staff welcome-back breakfast and ice cream social. PTA board members Mary Klinger and Amy Starr Thomas were working for us before the first bell ever rang so many thanks! A gracious thank you to our PTA Rich Coffee ladies (Yoko, Emi, Sachiko, Etsuko, Katy) for being back, too. A heartfelt thanks to Elizabeth Cramer and her Super Green Team for a sunny harvest festival last weekend. Thank you to Rich Shawen of Foundation and his hard-working board for contributing to our PE staffing.

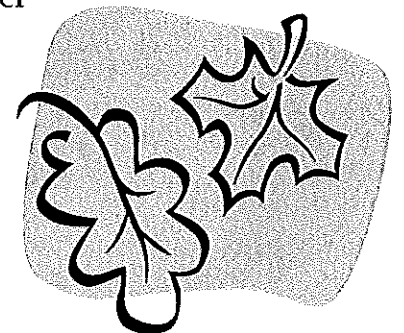
The changes will continue for staff and curriculum this year. Oregon state math standards and the spring student tests are being changed. The math scores have been set higher at every grade level for this year. The fourth Monday of every month, staff will study and discuss these math changes. We will select a new math adoption this spring and then purchase new math materials for next year.

The changes at the high school redesign level continue and the Japanese Immersion location remains in question, although it has tentatively been cited to continue at Grant High School. Parents should let the superintendent and school board know their thoughts, concerns, and feelings regarding this discussion, as the board will make a final decision sometime in December. Until then, the high school Japanese Immersion Program has not been given a final location.

The changes on our staff of new teachers and returning teachers at new grade levels combined with all the rest of us have resulted in a strong, skilled teaching staff. It is an honor for me to work with this staff. We all feel it is a privilege to work with your children.

Looking forward to a successful year with each new season!

Beverly Pruitt
Richmond Principal



Reminder Road



- ❖ **There is no school this Friday, October 8, due to a state-wide inservice.**
- ❖ PTA Room Rep. Meeting at 10:15 on Wednesday, October 13 in the Library.
- ❖ Foundation Meetings: Oct 11th & Oct 25th at 6:30 in Staff Room
- ❖ OMSI Free Family Night: Oct 11th, 6-8pm
- ❖ Technology Committee Meeting: Oct 14, at 7:30 a.m. in the office.
- ❖ PTA Meeting: Oct 16th at 6:30pm in the Cafeteria
- ❖ Site Council Meeting: Oct 19th, 2:30-4:00pm in the Library
- ❖ LSAC Meeting: Oct 19th, 7-8pm
- ❖ TAG Meeting: Oct 21st, 6pm at Franklin High School
- ❖ SuperGreen Team Meeting: Oct 25th 7-9pm in Volunteer Room
- ❖ Picture Re-Take Day (and **Volunteer Name Tags**): Oct 27th 8-11:00am Playcourt
- ❖ ESL District Presentation: Oct 27th, 6pm at Franklin High School
- ❖ Fall Foundation Fundraiser: Pledge Drive Nov. 1st – Nov 10th
- ❖ **LATE OPENING is Wednesday, October 13, with school starting at 10 a.m.**

Gratitude Grove

- ❖ PTA for all the pre-school events that supported the staff and students!!
- ❖ RichCoffee Ladies for keeping us fed, happy and caffeinated!
- ❖ SuperGreen Team for a fabulous Harvest Festival!!
- ❖ Foundation Team for fundraising for staffing!
- ❖ All the parents and grandparents for their endless dedication to this school community!
- ❖ Staff and Administration for an informative Curriculum Night!

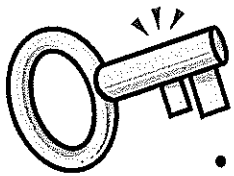


COMMUNICATION UPDATES

Remember these Richmond Websites to Stay in the loop!

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/Richmond> Official Richmond Website

<https://www.bigtent.com/groups/richmondjnp> Official site for Richmond School and Parent groups: PTA, Oya No Kai, and Foundation

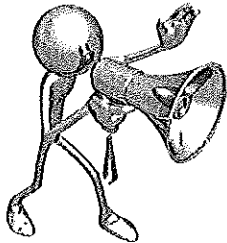


SECURITY CHANGES

Please note the following security guidelines at Richmond:

- All doors will be locked during the day except the front door.
- Students are not to be in the halls before 8:00 a.m. without their parent. Students may wait outside or in the cafeteria. Parents should not leave children unattended in the halls.
- All visitors must check in at the office and get a badge to wear while in the building.
- Until 8:15 students go straight to their class. Students arriving after 8:15 must report to the office for a tardy slip but not before 8:15.
- **Written notes must be sent to school** with students whose after-school plan will change that day. *(a note to teacher and office is appreciated)*
- **No phone calls will be taken requesting changes** in the students' after-school plan except for an emergency or extraordinary circumstances.

Notes from the Assistant Principal



It is a true privilege to be the new Assistant Principal at Richmond. The year is off to a wonderful start. We have an incredibly dedicated staff, supportive and caring families, and over 600 amazingly talented students. Each day I am amazed by the exceptional teaching and learning taking place at Richmond. I am thrilled to be a part of this community.

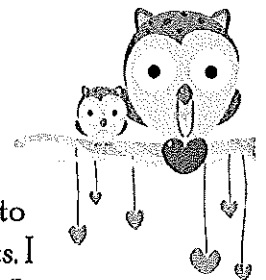
Prior to this year, I taught fourth and fifth grades for 13 years, most recently at Alameda Elementary School. When I'm not working, I enjoy running, cooking, playing soccer, and going on bicycle rides with my family.

I have enjoyed meeting many of you during our first month of school. I look forward to working together to make the 2010-2011 school year a great success. Please feel free to stop by my office, give me a call, or email (mgoldste@pps.k12.or.us) with any questions, comments, or concerns.

-- Matt Goldstein, Assistant Principal

Notes from the School Counselor

My name is Mary Megivern, and I am the new school counselor. I am delighted to be here full time and easily accessible to support students, teachers, and parents. I have been in the classrooms to introduce myself. I have begun a review of a conflict management tool (the conflict wheel) with all classes, so by now most of the students know who I am. I support our school-wide efforts for a positive school climate by working with all the students on fundamental behavioral expectations. I also provide individual and small-group interventions for students who need more support or skill development. If you would like to talk to me, feel free to stop by or call the main number (503-916-6220) to leave me a message. Additionally, I have begun efforts to form a Student Council to give students more of a voice, and I also coordinate both our climate/discipline committee (comprised of teachers) and our building screening committee (to address specific needs of students). I look forward to getting to know you and your children.





From Deb Madore, Physical Education Specialist

All Richmond students (except PK) receive PE twice a week: 1st-5th, 30 minutes; and K, 20 minutes.

This is an activity- and success-based program. Through developmentally appropriate activities, children achieve success on an individual level, encouraging full participation. PE is not an athletic program or recess—it is for all to enjoy, regardless of experience.

At all grade levels, the PE curriculum focuses on three standards: movement experiences, fitness activities/concepts and cooperative/social experiences.

- Depending on the grade level, the movement experiences incorporate everything from beginning locomotion movement like skipping and hopping to dance and rhythmic movements, high and low skill games, equipment manipulation, sport lead-up, and a host of other activities.
- Social and cooperative experiences include activities where children work independently, with a partner, or in a group. They learn equipment use and care, following directions, and problem-solving.
- Fitness activities and concepts vary widely and include fitness components, yoga, resistance training, simple anatomy, and many others. By the time students leave Richmond, I would like them to understand that adopting a healthy lifestyle will positively affect health risk factors and that they will have the tools to make wise choices about their health.
- For safety, please have your child wear proper shoes on PE days:

Kindergarten	Green/Yellow—M,F		Red/Blue—T,Th	
1 st grade	Yellow—M,W	Green—M,F	Red—M,W	Blue—T,Th
2 nd grade	Yellow—T,F	Green—T,Th	Red—W,F	Blue—W,Th
3 rd grade-	Yellow & Green—T,Th		Red—W,F	Blue—M,F
4 th grade	Green—M,W		White/Red—W,Th	Blue—M,W
5 th grade	T,F			

Please feel free to observe or join your child’s PE class at any time.

For those of you still searching for after-school childcare for your kids,

Here is another possible option:

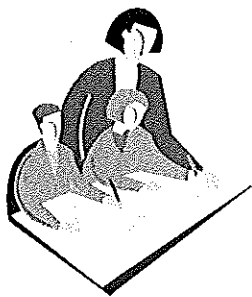
Y’s Choice / Tabor Heights YMCA is offering after school care for students up through age 12 (grade 5). They have one Richmond parent so far enrolling her child at their After School program. Ideally they would like at least 4 more children in order for them to provide transportation. Please let Sheri Greenstone know if you know of any more parents that may be interested in enrolling for after school care. Thank you!

Sheri Greenstone, Center Director

Y’s Choice CDC and Tabor Heights YMCA

503-231-7277

***Note:* After school enrichments are provided by private vendors. Their advertisements are located in the plastic bins to the south side of the office.**



A Note about English as a Second Language (ESL)

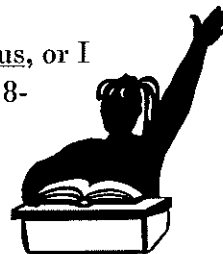
I am Lesley Spector, and I am the ESL teacher here Richmond. I wanted to let you know a bit about ESL and the process we go through to determine whether students are eligible for ESL services.

In ESL we target the teaching of the English language for students who are not native speakers. While non-native speakers pick up much English simply by being immersed in an English-speaking environment, there is much in the way of vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar, and pronunciation that are much more quickly and easily learned with instruction targeted toward English language development. The ESL curriculum is set up to provide students with that instruction to support their English development so that they will become proficient speakers of English. Students are assessed for eligibility for ESL using a language proficiency test (the process is described below) and then assessed yearly for their progress. They are exited from the program when they score as advanced speakers on the yearly English Language Proficiency Assessment. Parents can also choose to exit their students from ESL at any time by contacting the ESL teacher and signing a form indicating that they wish to terminate services. Most students enjoy coming for ESL and benefit from the support.

Any student who resides in a home in which a language other than English is spoken (even if one parent does speak English) may be eligible for ESL services. The parent must fill out a "Home Language Survey" form in the front office and if one of the boxes on the form is checked "yes," the secretary will help that parent to set up an assessment at one of the family support centers in Portland. This is the only way to receive this assessment, as it is not available in the school buildings themselves. The parent then takes their student to an assessment appointment. When the assessment has been scored, the parent and the school will be notified about whether the student is eligible for ESL services at school. If the student is found eligible, I will be notified and will add the student to an appropriately leveled ESL class at school. The parents have the right at any point, even if the child is found eligible, to refuse or terminate ESL services.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at lspector@pps.k12.or.us, or I am at Richmond in Room 205 from 8-11:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; 8-11:15 on Thursdays.

Sincerely,
Lesley Spector



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 orientations. Board Policy 1.80 20-P

Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

October 2010

Richmond Japanese Immersion
Beverly Pruitt, Principal



KID BITS

1492 vs. 2010

Columbus Day is a good time to help your youngster compare past and present. For example, when you spot an airplane in the sky or drive your car, explain that Christopher Columbus sailed to America on a ship and explored on foot. At night, discuss how explorers could see after dark (moonlight, candles).

Bounce back

When something doesn't happen the way your child planned, can he brush it off easily? Help him become more resilient by showing him how to look on the bright side. *Example:* "I know you're upset that Joey can't come over. Maybe he can play next weekend instead."

Stay informed

When your youngster brings home newsletters, forms, and announcements from school, try to look them over as soon as possible. Fill out paperwork and add important dates to your calendar (picture day, teacher work days). Finally, have your child put completed forms back into her bag so she can turn them in on time.

Worth quoting

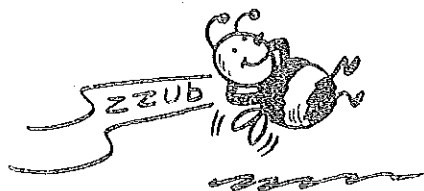
"What we learn to do, we learn by doing."

Thomas Jefferson

Just for fun

Q: What goes zzub, zzub?

A: A bee flying backward.



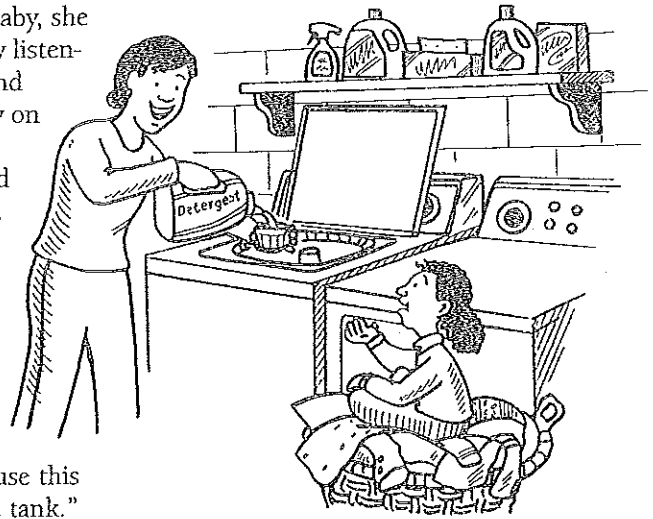
A world of words

Since your child was a baby, she has been learning to talk by listening to you and others around her. Now that she can carry on conversations, you can use everyday exchanges to build her vocabulary. Here's how.

Talk. Introduce bigger words by describing what you're doing. When you wash clothes, you might say, "I'm putting in the detergent—that's the soap." At the gas station, you can say, "I'm going to use this nozzle to pump gas into the tank."

Respond. When your child talks to you, make comments that include new words. If she says, "Look at my block tower," you might say, "That is a tall skyscraper!" Or repeat what she tells you, replacing one of her words with a more interesting one. *Example:* She says, "This is a good snack," and you respond, "I agree—it's scrumptious."

Explain. As you read to your youngster, pause to explain unfamiliar words.



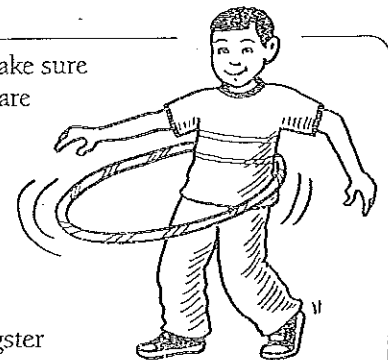
"Ruby was certain"—she was really sure." You might ask your child what she thinks a word means and encourage her to guess based on how it's used in a sentence or by looking at the picture. "He put the soil in a wheelbarrow"—do you see a wheelbarrow in the picture?"

Tip: Don't hesitate to use big words during conversations with your youngster. If she hears them often, they'll become a regular part of her vocabulary.♥

Be active

As the days get cooler and shorter, you can make sure your youngster still gets plenty of exercise. Here are some outdoor activities to do this fall:

- Visit a high school track. Can your child make it all the way around without stopping? To keep it interesting, encourage him to alternate different ways of moving (jog, skip, gallop).
- Play with a hula hoop. Suggest that your youngster twirl it around his waist, arm, or leg. He might also put it on the ground and jump in and out on one or both feet.
- Ask your child to help you with yard work, like raking leaves or pulling weeds. Race to see who can make the biggest pile.♥



Three fun family nights

Relaxing with your children can strengthen family relationships and help siblings get along better. Enjoy each other's company with these three ideas.

1. Play games

Choose a game that all ages will like, such as Uno or Sorry. Pop some popcorn and gather around the coffee table to play. Encourage your youngsters to play fairly and to focus on having fun rather than on winning. ("You two make a great team!")



2. Enjoy memories

Work together to create or update a photo album. Gather loose photos, or print pictures you've taken recently. As you organize them and put them into the album, you can discuss what you were doing in the pictures. You'll remind your youngsters how much fun they have together. ("Look—that's from the picnic when Damien found the frog under his baseball cap.")

3. Cook together

Your children can make a dish for a family meal. They might combine grapes, strawberries, and blueberries into a fruit salad, for example. Or a younger child could wash and tear lettuce for a salad, while older children carefully slice cucumbers and tomatoes to add. When you eat together, be sure to compliment their joint effort! ♥

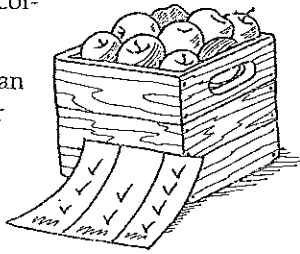
ACTIVITY CORNER

Apple lab

Apples are not only crunchy and delicious—they also make great learning tools. Get red, yellow, and green apples, and use them for these activities:

● Let your youngster practice estimating and measuring. First, she can arrange her apples by size (narrow to wide). Then, let her wrap yarn once around the widest part of each apple and cut the yarn. She can compare the pieces of yarn by lining them up, making sure the bottom ends are even. Did she put the apples in the correct order?

● Your child can learn to gather and display information by graphing apples. Have



her divide a piece of paper into three columns ("Red," "Green," "Yellow"). She can ask family members which color apple they like best. Help her gather more data by calling other relatives. Have her draw and color each choice in the correct column, count the votes, and report which apple is most popular. ♥



Q & A

We recycle!

Q: My son is learning about ways to help the environment in school. What are some simple things we can do as a family?

A: Put a recycling bin near your trash can, and ask your son to make a sign encouraging people to recycle. He might draw household items that go inside (plastic bottles, paper, newspapers). Then, help him write a message ("Recycle it!").

You can show your son that there are other ways to help the environment, too. At the grocery store, have him look for products with less packaging. For example, explain that it's better to buy one large jar of applesauce rather than six plastic cups in a cardboard box. Also, teach him to find items that can be used for a long time, like a pitcher that filters water, reusable grocery bags, and energy-saving lightbulbs. ♥



PARENT TO PARENT

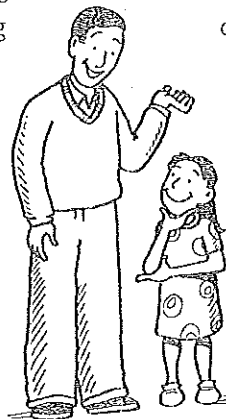
Raising a thinker

My father-in-law, a high school teacher, recently visited us. I noticed that he asked our daughter, Mariah, a lot of interesting questions. When he saw her playing with a flashlight, he asked, "What else can you think of that lights up?" And at the park, he asked her, "How are the swings and the slide the same? How are they different?"

When I mentioned it to him, he said that he was helping Mariah think logically—a skill that is important for students. Logical thinking

includes being able to name objects that fit into a category or to explain what two items have in common, he said.

Now Mariah asks me what she calls "thinking questions." We were stuck in slow traffic the other day, and she asked, "What else goes slow?" We couldn't believe all that we came up with—turtles, snails, and even the hour hand on a clock. My father-in-law definitely sparked Mariah's thinking—and it's nice to know it's a skill she'll need throughout school. ♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote school readiness, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,
a division of Aspen Publishers, Inc.
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5567

October 2010

The Mission of the Oregon PTA is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

YOUR 2010/11 PTA BOARD

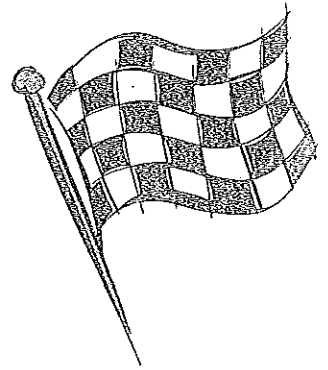
- President*, Mary Klinger
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- Advocacy and Outreach, Jeff Hopper
- Classroom Support, Sue Baer
- Cultural Center, Cindy Gunderson
- Membership, Vacant
- Rich Coffee, Emi Avondstondt
- Safety And Transportation, Vacant
- Super Green Team, Elizabeth Cramer

* Board Officer/ Executive Committee

All board members may be reached at richmondptapdx@gmail.com. Check your Richmond School Directory for personal contact information.

WE'RE OFF TO A GREAT START!

What a wonderful start to the year we've had! Many thanks to the terrific folks who've volunteered their precious time to help with the PTA events we've already enjoyed this year: *Ice Cream Social, Staff Breakfast, Pre-K/K Parent Night, New Family Tea, Movie Night*, and the wonderful *Harvest Festival*. With schedules overflowing for everyone, making time to volunteer can be challenging, especially while trying to get back into the swing of a new school year. So again, **THANK YOU**, for making Richmond a priority in your family's life.



With the start of this new academic year comes a new PTA administration. We have a dedicated team of board members working hard to make sure PTA members' voices are heard, our teachers are supported, and our children are thriving. Please make a point of contacting board members with your thoughts, ideas and feedback. Only through input may we carry out your vision.

RICHMOND PTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

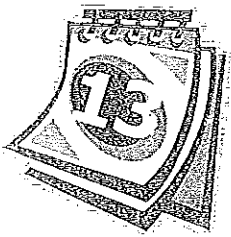
New Members: 65 Renewed Members: 52 Teachers: 10 Total: 117!

Richmond PTA membership numbers are growing! This year's PTA membership goal is to get 2 members of each household to join, and increase our teacher presence as well (we are already at a record high for teacher participation - thank you teachers!!). Membership entitles you to a voice in how PTA supports Richmond - our classrooms, our teachers, our students. Joining Richmond PTA also strengthens the efforts of Oregon PTA and National PTA to advocate on behalf of all children to enrich their educational experience.

PTA membership is on an annual basis, with 2009-2010 memberships expiring at the end of October. Get your vote counted at the next General Meeting by completing your applications and placing it in the PTA mailbox in the office, prior to October 13, 2010. Looking forward to having you!

CALL TO SERVICE

- PTA is seeking 2 motivated individuals to serve as chairs of the Membership and the Safety & Transportation committees. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact PTA President, Mary Klinger, at richmondptapdx@gmail.com.
- Super Green Team (SGT) needs Garden Leaders for Pre-K and K classrooms. If you can help with planning and/or leading the children in the garden please contact Elizabeth Craner, at henrybuilt@gmail.com.
- PTA Committee Members needed! Want to get involved but only have limited time? All PTA committees have a need for short-term, project-based, and event-specific assistance. We have a place for everyone, so please — contact the chair person of the committee that inspires you the most — all offers will be received enthusiastically!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Fall Apple Sale. Watch for order forms coming home in your child's backpack. Apple delivery will be at the end of October.
- Walk or Ride to Richmond. Join students and families around the globe who will be walking or biking to school on Wednesday, October 6th. Stop by SGT tables in front of the school, or by the breezeway near the playground, for fun prizes, snacks and a raffle for a NutCase helmet.
- PTA General Meeting, Wed., October 13th, 6:30pm, Richmond cafeteria, "Health and Wellness at Richmond". Hear from Principal Bev Pruitt and/or Asst. Principal Matt Goldstein; Counselor Mary Megivern; PE Specialist Deb Madore; and a presenter from PPS Nutrition Services. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to learn about all the great expertise at Richmond charged with keeping our children safe and healthy.
- Breakfast in the Garden. Sat., October 23rd, 9am-10:30am. Bring your gardening tools to help with Fall clean-up and SGT will bring coffee, tea and goodies. Kids are welcome. Please email Elizabeth Cramer at henrybuilt@gmail.com if you plan on participating.
- Super Green Team Meeting. Mon., October 25th, 7-9pm, Volunteer Room. If you are interested in learning more about what SGT is all about, please join us!
- Craft Night. Friday, December 10th, 6pm. A festive family evening loaded with holiday craft activities and delicious treats. Get messy and kick off the holiday season with other Richmond families.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND EVENTS

Student Bus Passes at Risk. As you may be aware, all PPS high school students are entitled to unrestricted free access to Tri-Met services simply by showing their school identification. This practice has enabled hundreds of school children to travel to their school campus' safely, conveniently, and affordably. Unfortunately, this academic year bus passes are only funded through the end of 2010. If you are interested in voicing your support for continued funding of bus passes for our high school students, please contact Metro directly at feedback@oregonmetro.gov or the Tri-Met Board of Directors at 503-962-4831.



"Is Giftedness Really a Gift?" Sat., October 9th, Oregon Association for TAG Conference, Reed College. Dr. Janet Davidson, Assoc. Prof. of Psychology at Lewis and Clark College and an expert in the cognitive development of gifted children, will speak. Learn more at www.oatag.org.

CPPS Parent Leadership Conference, Sat., October 16th, Parkrose High School. Free day of workshops to empower parents to be actively involved in their school community. Learn about transition to middle school, high school or college; meet with non-profit providers with resources for families; attend workshops to help support your student. Free childcare, interpretation and food! Learn more at www.cppsportland.org/pic.