



Richmond Shinbun

リッチモンド新聞

Bev Pruitt, Principal
Matt Goldstein, Assistant Principal

April 2013

An Evening to Celebrate the Arts



Please mark your calendars for a wonderful night celebrating the arts. On **Thursday, April 25th, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm** you will be able to enjoy poetry posted throughout the building and two musical performances in the cafeteria.

The K-2 program will start at 6:30 and grades 3 through 5 will begin at 7:15. We hope you are able to attend what will undoubtedly be a wonderful evening. We thank Elizabeth Van Engel for orchestrating the music programs and all the teachers for cultivating our amazing writers.



A Message from Mr. Goldstein -- Welcome Back!

It was great to see many smiling faces at Richmond on Monday morning. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break! The sun is shining, the flowers continue to bloom, and the leaves on our beautiful elm trees begin to emerge. April and May are always exciting, fast-paced months. With so much activity, please make sure to be on the lookout for email, newsletters, and of course consult the Richmond website for the latest information.




The Richmond School Foundation (RSF) sends out a big "Arigato Gozaimashita!" to all of the wonderful Richmond families and friends that volunteered, contributed, or both during our Spring Pledge Drive! The success of the pledge drive speaks volumes about your commitment to our children's education. Thank you for making the time to honor the fantastic teachers and staff at Richmond as well as help create some much-needed breathing room in Richmond's staffing budget. Contributions to the RSF help Richmond maintain our one-of-a-kind classroom model, preserve access to specialists and educational assistants, and keep enrichment activities like PE and library available to our kids.



Additional thanks to Mike Connors, Jen Darling, Jenn Gregor, Becca Kennedy, Jonathan Knutson, Morgan Kunze, Denis O'Brien, Laura Senders, Mark Camack, David Gregor, and Amy Hall for making the pledge drive possible. Their commitment to Richmond School and our school foundation is truly incredible. We thank them for volunteering a significant amount of time. The winners for the ice cream sandwich party for total amount raised is the Ms. Gross/Fukushima Sensei 3rd grade team. The winner for participation is Anne Sensei's Sakura PRE-K class.

Important Dates!

- Apr. 12 No School – Teacher Planning Day 
- Apr. 15 Switch Day
- Apr. 17 Late Opening – School begins at 10:00 a.m.
- Apr. 17 Parent Placement Forms Due at Office
- Apr. 17 Classified Staff recognition day. See page 2.
- Apr. 19 Run for Richmond
- Apr. 25 Poetry Walk/Music Concert– 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Apr. 29 –May 3 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- May 11 Spring Festival
- May 15 Late Opening – School begins at 10:00 a.m.
- May 27 No School – Memorial Day Holiday.

How to keep the momentum going? This month, **Foundation** will be pairing up with *Noho's Hawaiian Cafe* on Tuesday, April 16th at the NE Fremont location. Pizza is on the menu for May! *Pizzicato Pizza's* Mt. Tabor location will be raising money for Foundation on May 7th. Enjoy a family outing, have a great meal, support your local community and raise some funds for the amazing programs that you are creating with the philanthropic effort of eating dinner! Oh, and there is no penalty for ordering an Anchovy Pizza!

Richmond Bulldog Sweatshirts and T-Shirts

Final Push for Richmond Bulldog T-Shirt Sales



PTA is collecting order forms for Richmond Bulldog T-Shirts and hoodie sweatshirts for one final order for the school year. Order forms are available on the main floor just outside the office. Because this is the final order, PTA is really trying to make sure Richmond parents are dressed right. They have the adult T-Shirts discounted for this final order! Hurry and get your orders placed!



OAKS Testing

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be taking the Oregon State Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) during the next few weeks. All our students will take tests in reading and math, and our 5th graders will also take a test in science. All tests are multiple choice, computer-based assessments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or Richmond Elementary School's testing coordinator, Matt Goldstein. In addition, you can visit the Oregon Department of Education website for more in-depth information about OAKS. The website is: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=201>



Honoring our Incredible Staff

During the month of April, we take a brief pause in our hectic lives to recognize a group of people that bring a sense of calm and care into our daily lives at Richmond. Our classified staff will be honored during our Recognition Assembly on April 16th. Richmond would be unable to function and be so successful without the work of these individuals. We truly thank Linda Top, Jennifer Haug, Ritsuko Fujiwara, Rumi Bibb, Marni Fuller, Kari Shawen, Dan Alexander, Eugene Houghton, Raul Curiel, Anne Rogers, Noriko Levine, and Doug Bailey for their amazing effort.

In April we also recognize our two incredible front office gurus. Kristina Kallen, Richmond's Principal's Secretary, and Terry Tanada, our School Secretary. Both work their magic each and every day. Not only are they able to handle multiple tasks, but they do so graciously and professionally. We will honor Kristina and Terry on April 24th.

We encourage Richmond students and other community members to write cards or a brief note to express your gratitude for this fine group of professionals.

Or course, our amazing teaching staff deserves plenty of recognition as well. During the first week of May, our PTA will sponsor what will no doubt be a wonderful week of celebration. We thank our teachers for their commitment and the passion that they bring to the classroom each day. Teaching is incredibly important work, and the Richmond community is so fortunate to have a group of individuals that care so deeply about educating all of Richmond's students.

Classroom Placement: 2013-2014

As spring rolls around, we are set to begin forming our classes for the 2013-2014 school year. We take multiple factors into consideration when creating our class sections. If you are interested in providing information that will help with your child's placement for next year, please complete the form attached to this month's newsletter. Any feedback that you provide **MUST BE** on this form. Please turn in this form to the office no later than May 1st. Please be reminded that we cannot take requests for specific teachers.



Japanese Teachers Appreciate Their Success

Recently, the Japanese language teachers of Richmond sent a letter to the district Dual Immersion Office. They pointed out that they entered teaching knowing they'd need a college degree, would have to pass tests, and would need to renew their teaching licenses on an on-going basis.

All Richmond teachers have successfully completed course work and have renewed their tests every three to five years. This includes our native Japanese-speaking teachers. They are all proud of their accomplishments.



Gratitude Grove



We all know that the Richmond PTA provides an extraordinary amount of support to our school community. On April 19th, our annual Run for Richmond, sponsored by the PTA, will take place. This fundraiser is a real favorite for our entire community. Our students get outside and exercise, and our community pledges fund support for the arts and sciences at Richmond. We thank President, Amy Starr Thomas, the PTA Board, and all PTA members for their effort.

And now, it is your turn! Run for Richmond is not only the first day of spring "Guaranteed Not to Rain," it is also one of the best events to volunteer and watch the children do their part for the school! Watch **BIG TENT** for upcoming details and schedules!



**Fiscal Crisis Avoids
Cliff and Hits the
Cafeteria Floor**



Hello Richmond parents! The cafeteria continues to have a very high negative balance on lunch card accounts. If you could please make sure to have money in your students account, or when they need to borrow money, pay it back quickly it would really help me in this situation. Mylunchmoney.com is a great tool to help you manage those lunch card accounts. All you need is your students ID number (see your child's report card or give Terry a call) to set up an account. Once your account is set up, Mylunchmoney.com is able to send you email reminders whenever the account balance starts to get low. As we are drawing closer to the end of the year, there is no need to worry about depositing too much money into the account. The balance will hold and be available when the following school year starts.

Sometimes, life throws a curve, and some help may be needed. Portland Public Schools has a link to the Oregon Department of Education online application for the Free and Reduced-Price Meals program. This application can be submitted at **any** time. You can find the link for this application on the PPS website at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/nutrition/3984.htm>. If you need a paper copy of the application, contact the Central Meal Application office at 503 916 3402 or stop by the Richmond office and ask Terry for an application.

This program for meal assistance is a wonderful partnership and is available to all families that qualify. If you have any questions, please feel free to come see me in the Cafeteria.



-Anne Rogers arogers@pps.net

Lottery and Enrollment & Transfer

With the lottery closed, the Enrollment and Transfer office is going through the applications and getting ready to send out the notification letters. Family's should expect to receive their notification sometime around the first week or so in May.

Answers to many common questions can be found at <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/enrollment-transfer/schoolchoice.htm>. If you are not finding an answer to your question, please contact the Enrollment and Transfer office directly at 503 916 3205.

Library Books

It is getting closer to the end of our school year and preparations are needing to begin. All library books must be returned to the protective care of Miss Marni by May the 31st for the their long summer's nap. Take a look for any overdue books in backpacks, under beds, etc. and see about getting them in for one last round of reading!

Let's welcome the 2013 – 2014 Interns!

Richmond's new interns have arrived. Please welcome...

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|------------------|---------------------|
| Manami Hashimoto | Erika Tsumori |
| Yuka Sataka | Ayako Yamazaki |
| Yuki Shimotori | Miwa Kawamoto |
| Satomi Koyama | Rena Kitahama |
| Noriko Ikeda | Chihiro Shimabukuro |
| Yuki Okamoto | Wakana Umemoto |
| Yuko Komori | |

Counselor's Corner

Our focus for March was stress and stress reduction. The students learned what stress is, how to identify it, what possible stressors they experience and how it affects their lives. The number one stressor the students identified was homework, but waking up early took a close second and running late was right up there, too. We discussed how stress feels inside our bodies and how a small amount of it is normal and healthy, but excessive stress can hurt us. We learned some strategies for coping with it, including recognizing body sensations (tight muscles, clenched teeth, stomachache), slow breathing, counting, repetitive self talk (such as "calm down, calm down"), and visual cues (like a calming color or picture). We also discussed the Five Point Scale (developed by Kari Dunn Buron, an educator in Minnesota) where a five, represented by the color red, is at the top of one's stress or anger scale, compared to a one, represented by green, as the most calm state, at the bottom of the chart. Many students, in all grade levels, identified with the symptoms of stress, and, hopefully, by our overview at school, more discussion and stress-reduction strategies will take place at home.

Thank you for all your generous contributions of food to our annual drive to benefit the Oregon Food Bank. Since the food this year was placed in large bins, we were unable to weigh it, but once we get the final count from the food bank, we'll let you know. Hopefully, we met our goal of 2,000 pounds of food. The Student Council members took a tour of the food bank and learned more about the process and were requested to report back to their classes what they learned.

Our focus in April will be time management and goal setting, not only as a follow-up to some of the discussions surrounding stress, but also to prepare for the academic challenges and the busy countdown toward the end of the year.

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