



Richmond Shinbun

リッチモンド新聞

Bev Pruitt, Principal
Matt Goldstein, Assistant Principal

January 2013

Back at Richmond!

Let's welcome back Beth Martin and Minori Fukushima to the Richmond Community! Both teachers have been with Richmond for a number of years and have established themselves with former students as "having a great sense of humor" with a love of literature and high standards. Please take a moment and join the Richmond staff in welcoming back a couple of great teachers through the front doors of Richmond Elementary School!

As we brace ourselves for another Oregon winter, please take a few minutes to review the "Family Advisory" handout that your child recently brought home from school. This page discusses how the district makes decisions about delays and closures and how you can become made aware of this information in a timely manner.



Important Dates!

- Jan. 11: Japanese New Year's Festival Richmond Cafeteria - 6:30 to 8:00
- Jan. 16: 2-Hour Late Opening: First Bell is at 10:00 AM
- Jan. 21: NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 24 : PTA Meeting – See Article!
- Jan. 25: Japanese Folktale Storytelling Assembly; PK-2nd Grade
- Feb. 1: NO SCHOOL: Teacher Planning Day – End of Second Quarter
- Feb. 4: "Switch Day"
- Feb. 8– Feb. 14: Sumaura School Visits Richmond
- Feb. 18: NO SCHOOL: President's Day
- Feb. 20: 2-Hour Late Opening: First Bell is at 10:00 AM

Welcome Back from Mr. Goldstein

あけましておめでとうございます -- Happy New Year!

It is great to be back after a restful and enjoyable break. I hope all of you enjoyed time with family and friends and found time to rest, relax, and enjoy the splendors of winter. With the last of the elm tree leaves fallen to the ground, I am treated (seasonally) to a beautiful view of the snowy summit of Mt. Hood from my office window. These winter months, while dark and a bit gray, give us all the chance to read a great book, sip some hot chocolate, enjoy a lazy day by the fire, and get excited for the New Year ahead.



As we come back to school in 2013, I am reminded about this incredible school community. All of the holiday gifts, warm wishes, and overwhelming generosity are just incredible. The entire

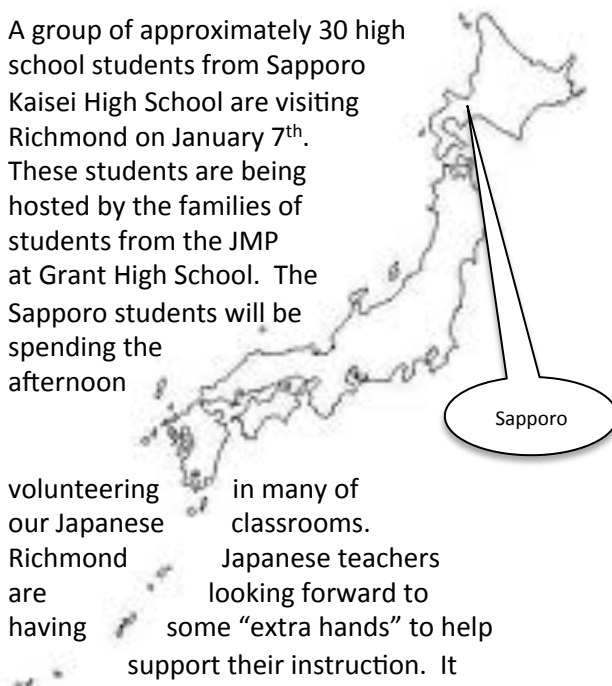
Richmond

staff feels very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with your children and to be a part of this community. We recognize that Richmond's success is a true collaborative effort and that each of us holds a critical piece of what makes this community thrive. We thank you for your commitment, your on-going contributions to our school, and the value you have for an immersion education. We look forward to the coming months and the wonderful learning that will take place.

High School students from Sapporo visit Richmond

A group of approximately 30 high school students from Sapporo Kaisei High School are visiting Richmond on January 7th. These students are being hosted by the families of students from the JMP at Grant High School. The Sapporo students will be spending the afternoon

volunteering in many of our Japanese classrooms. Richmond Japanese teachers are looking forward to having some "extra hands" to help support their instruction. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to interact with our friends from Sapporo.



OMSI Assembly Everyday Encounters with Science

Our first OMSI Assembly of the year will take place on January 17. This assembly and other assemblies as well as classroom workshops are possible because of money raised during last year's Run for Richmond.

Thanks to the PTA and PE Teacher, Deb Madore, for organizing this incredible event. The Run for Richmond will take place on April 19, 2013!

This will be another great opportunity for parent volunteers to lend some help, watch the children run, and support our growing community.

Annual Auction 2013

When: Friday, February 22, 6 pm

Where: Castaway, 1900 NW 18th

What: The Oya No Kai auction is the primary fundraiser for Interns and Cultural Exchange scholarships and grants.

Who (to contact with questions): Auction Chair, Sara Tam, saralynnetam@gmail.com. Procurement Chair, Natasha Banks, natasharbanks@gmail.com. Art Coordinators Kyle Begley, kyle.begley@gmail.com and Corinna Hammer, corinna.hammer@gmail.com.

How (to follow us): Facebook or on our blog oyanokaiauction2013.wordpress.com.



Donations needed now!

Do you have a business that can donate to our auction? Have concert or sporting event tickets? Can you host a party? We are looking for fun & unique experiences (for kids and adults), spa/salon-related items, hotel stays & getaways, parties, and wine, wine, wine! Please don't wait to donate. Deadline for donations is January 18. We can use your help today! Like us on Facebook/Oya No Kai Auction.

Counselor's Corner

This month the counseling focus will continue with lessons on conflict resolution and problem solving. We will continue to work with our conflict management tool, the Conflict Wheel, and also introduce new strategies for managing interpersonal challenges and disagreements. Next month we will delve into the prevention and management of bullying, but for now we want to highlight strategies for typical conflicts that may arise in a student's day. A team of peer helpers (called Bulldog Brigade) were trained in December and will begin working on the playground to assist students with minor issues that may occur, like disagreements about the rules of a game. The helpers are equipped to mediate a minor conflict between two students and know when to ask an adult for help.

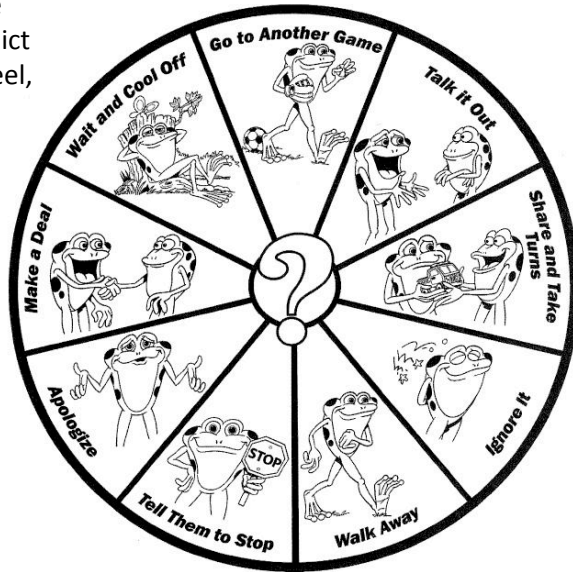
Classroom lessons will reinforce the use of the peer helper program and will discuss some of the strategies that will be used during recess by the Bulldog Brigade.

The 2012/2013 Richmond Student Council was selected and met for the first time in December. We brainstormed ideas for our school Spirit Days and decided that our first one would be Japanese Traditional dress-up day. This will be January 31st. Watch for more information about that next week.

Mary Megivern
mmegiver@pps.net

IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

If you have a smallish problem, try any 2 of the choices on the wheel!



IF YOU HAVE A BIG PROBLEM, TELL AN ADULT YOU TRUST.

If you are interested in fundraising for Oya No Kai, please contact Sara Tam, saralynnetam@gmail.com.

Mochitsuki: Oya No Kai will be part of Mochitsuki, Portland's annual Japanese New Year celebration. Come down to the Scottish Rite Temple on January 27 between 11 - 4. Visit our booth and our wonderful Interns will have a fun craft to do with the kids. To learn more about Mochitsuki and for ticket information, go to mochipdx.org.

Annual Auction 2013 Update: The auction is a little more than a month away. We are currently accepting donations and sponsorships. Thank you to The Law Office of Joseph A. Tripi, PC for becoming our first sponsor! www.tripilaw.com. Oya No Kai would also like to thank Maya Mori and Micah Kassell for designing this year's auction poster and the ONK merchandise available in the cafeteria. We have super cool tees for kids and adults, sweatshirts for women and canvas totes. Send auction questions to: saralynnetam@gmail.com.

Auction tickets now on sale! Go online or stop by the auction table in the cafeteria.

https://onk.tofinoauctions.com/auction2013/ticket_sales.

Visit our blog "oyanokaiauction2013.wordpress.com" and like us on Facebook/Oya No Kai Auction.

Host Families Needed: We are looking for families to host new interns expected in late March. If you have questions or are interested, please contact Yoko Niki-Breyfogle, Intern Coordinator, ynbrefogle@gmail.com



Safety at Richmond

As discussed in previous newsletters, we take safety very seriously at Richmond. Our entire staff has received training and will continue to be briefed on the latest safety protocols used throughout Portland Public Schools. Some recent actions: lockdown drill monitored by outside consultants; all exterior doors (except for the front entrance) are locked after the morning student drop-off; and regular contact with Portland Police Officer Hank Hayes, our School Resource Officer.

Visitors: Portland School District Policy requires that all visitors check in at the office upon entering the building and put on a visitor badge. Richmond staff has been instructed to refer all visitors not wearing a badge to the main office to check in. Even if you are just dropping off a lunch in the classroom, stopping by to say a quick hello to your child, picking a student up early etc., you are required to check in at the main office.

Pick up/Drop off: For drop off, all parents and caregivers must either exit the building or check in at the office by 8:15am. If you are running late and your child will not get to class by 8:10, you must check him/her in at the office. In addition, please make sure you have an accurate and up-to-date after-school plan on file with the office. This information is critical and helps us ensure a safe dismissal for all students.

Our goal is to be as prepared as we possibly can and to have a clear set of guidelines in place to quickly respond to an emergency. The safety of your child, our staff and everyone who enters Richmond is a top priority. If you have questions or suggestions about ways we can bolster safety at Richmond, please feel free to contact the office.

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Carole Smith, PPS Superintendent:

During the past two years, PPS has developed an in-depth emergency preparedness program. School leaders and staff have been trained to respond to a wide range of crisis situations, and every school and classroom has been given emergency management tools and supplies. This work is detailed in [PPS Pulse](#) and on our [Emergency Management](#) webpage (<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/emergency-management/index.htm>).

Please review safety protocols, including reunification procedures in the event of an emergency, on the [Parent/Staff Resources](#) page of our Emergency Management website.

I know that some students may have mixed feelings about returning to school in light of recent events. In case it is helpful, we have posted [resources for parents](#) for dealing with traumatic events, including talking with their children. We have also shared resources with principals and staff. Please let your student's teachers, counselors or principal know if your student is experiencing any anxieties about returning to school.

Hello and Happy New Year Richmond Families,

The Richmond School Foundation (RSF) is delighted to announce the winners of the ice cream sandwich party and the \$50 grocery gift card!!!

First up, first grade parent (and monthly RSF contributor) Ben Wichser is the winner of the \$50 gift card! Congratulations!!

Next, with 29% participation, the ice cream sandwich party winner is.... the Ms. Martin/ Ms. Munoz - Hirahara sensei switch group!!!! WAY TO GO THIRD GRADERS!!!

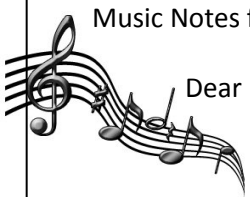
In terms of overall results, our school community raised more than \$19,000 during the fall pledge drive. That's a great start! Last year, you raised about \$28,000 during the fall drive, and so there's still some work to do. Here is a breakdown of how the participation numbers looked across the grades:



If you have a pledge drive form sitting at home or have been considering signing up as a monthly contributor, please take the time to go online (<http://allhandsraised.org/project-focus/portland-public-schools-partnerships/> - click on the red "Donate" button and indicate that you want your gift designated for Richmond School) or send in that check now - Together we can do it! Issho ni ganbarou!

Thanks again for all that you do to make Richmond School such an amazing place for our children!

Music Notes from Miss VanEngel



Dear Richmond Families,



Happy New Year/Akemashite-Omedetougozaimasu to All!

Our Winter/Holiday sing-a-long (the Friday before Winter Break) was a wonderful way to celebrate the season as we had practiced many songs. Everyone did a superb job and enjoyed the spirit of the occasion! Thank you for the support of many!

As we move forward we continue to build vocal skills, build on our knowledge of music vocabulary, symbols and their meanings in the expression of vocal and instrumental music. Movement is incorporated into lessons often. This helps to learn the concepts of beat and rhythm with fun in the primary grades. In the upper grades movement also adds an element of expression and fun.



January reminds us of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We learn history through song, which leads us into February (African-American History Month) where we continue to explore the musical contributions of African-Americans in the United States. This includes Folk Songs, Jazz and Blues as well as famous artists --- contemporary and past. Additionally, St. Valentine's Day brings songs of friendship.

We continue with listening excerpts from famous composers of classical music, Broadway musicals, and film music like Darth Vader's Theme from Star Wars and a listening map with an introduction about Composer John Williams and the piece.



Gratitude Grove

Thank you to the **Grandparent Brigade** for the ongoing support in the office. The PTA Craft Fair Chair, **Andrea Obana** for setting up and coordinating the craft fair, and **Naoko Koki** for use of her residence as a staging area to prepare the materials used in making the *Kadomatsu*. This years craft fair had an amazing turn-out, and had seen over 100 Kadomatsu leave the Richmond Cafeteria by the evenings end.



Host a student from Kobe – A Wonderful Opportunity

Please consider hosting a student from Sumaura Elementary School, our sister school in Kobe. For over a decade, Sumaura and Richmond have had a wonderful relationship. This summer many of our 5th graders will be traveling to Kobe and will be hosted by Sumaura families. During the week of February 8 – 14th, Richmond students and families will have the opportunity to welcome our friends from Kobe. We need a total of SIXTEEN host families to support this visit. Thank you to those families who have already committed to hosting Sumaura students.

If you have a fifth grader who is traveling to Japan this summer, this is a way for you to become involved and show your gratitude. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Yoko Breyfogle at ynbreyfogle@gmail.com.

Siblings Entering the Lottery

If you have a child currently attending Richmond and have a sibling at home, please complete the following steps to ensure your entry into the lottery. As you know, siblings of current Richmond students who currently live within the PPS boundaries receive Step 1 preference for entrance into Richmond (this means you are ahead of the pack)!

1. Go online to schoolchoice@pps.net and fill out a lottery transfer application. Please do this between February 8 and March 15!
2. Come into the office to pick up the Richmond Statement of Understanding beginning February 8. The form is DUE BY March 15!
3. Return the form (and the envelope it came in so we can use it over and over again for your child) to the office by Friday, March 15.

Once you have completed all these steps, you just need to wait for your letter from the Enrollment and Transfer Center which will come approximately the first week of May.

Thanks for choosing Richmond for your educational needs, and we can't wait to welcome your new little ones into our community!!!

Kristina Kallen, Principal's Secretary

