




Richmond Shinbun

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Bev Pruitt, Principal
Matt Goldstein, Assistant Principal

March 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

It is hard to believe that spring is just a couple weeks away. I love seeing the daffodils blooming and having that extra daylight! March and April are always incredibly busy and exciting months. There are field trips, assemblies, state assessments, and just the sheer excitement that the last few months of school always brings. We believe it is vital that all Richmond students continue to excel, work hard, and stay positive and respectful through the very last day. I often tell students that the school year is a true marathon and that they need to not only pace themselves, but they also need to finish strong.



This includes staying focused on academics and maintaining appropriate behavior in the classroom, on the playground, in the cafeteria, and while in the hallways. We look forward to a wonderful final few months of the school year.

Richmond Foundation – Spring Pledge Drive

The annual spring pledge drive is planned for the week of March 11 – March 15. All donations to the Foundation, regardless of the dollar amount, are incredibly important. Making a donation to the Richmond School Foundation is the **ONLY** way you can directly impact the staffing at Richmond. We thank those of you who have already contributed, and we look forward to a successful spring pledge week.



Important Dates!

- Mar 4 – 8 Scholastic Book Fair
- Mar 11 OMSI Family Night
6:00 to 8:00 pm
- Mar 11-15 Richmond School Foundation
Spring Pledge Drive
- Mar 20 Late Opening–1st Bell
at 10:00 am
- Mar 25-29 Spring Break
- Apr 12 No School, Teacher
Planning Day
- Apr 17 Late Opening – 1st
Bell at 10:00 am
- Apr 19 Run for Richmond
- Apr 25 Spring Musical
Concerts & Poetry
Night: 6:30 to 8:00
- Apr 29-May 3 Staff Appreciation
Week

The Battle is Over, and we have WON!

Richmond wins the Regional Battle of the Books Competition!



The "Black Guardians of the Books " team took 1st place Saturday, March 2nd, at the Regional level of the **Battle of the Books!** Sixty teams were at Stafford Elementary ready to test their memory and skills on the 16 books for the annual reading event. The Black Guardians easily took 4th place and moved into the final 16-team bracket. Two especially grueling battles entailed a total of eight overtime rounds to overcome the other highly talented teams for a 95-93 win . The next step for the Black Guardians of the Books is the State Championship - held Saturday, April 13th in Salem at Chemeketa Community College. Last year the Black Guardians of Books team scored 2nd in the state - barely losing to the Oregon Episcopal School. Cheer this team to the top - they have worked hard reading and memorizing hundred's of infinitesimal details from each book.

Congratulations to the Black Guardians of the Books; **Whit Thomas, Hannah Streck, Micah Griffin, Malik Khouma, and Captain Sophie Baer.** Special recognition to Coach Sue Baer and the parents of this amazing group of kids for their support and hard work.



New Parking Signs Installed by City of Portland

You may have noticed the new drop-off/pick-up parking zones created by several new 15-minute parking/driver remain at wheel parking signs. The goal is to create additional Drop-off locations that are close to school, and, most importantly, safe for students. While I recognize this change has resulted in a "loss" of longer-term parking and that some people are interested in coming into the school (leaving their car), it is our hope that traffic congestion will decrease and that safety will improve. We will continue to work with the City of Portland and do our best to meet the needs of our community and the neighborhood.



Please also consider several good alternatives – carpooling, walking, riding bicycles, parking a couple of blocks away and enjoying a short walk to school, or taking one of our four school buses.

Questions or concerns regarding this important step in addressing the parking issue can be directed to Matt Goldstein at mgoldste@pps.net

Richmond Elementary & The Oregon Food Bank

The Richmond annual food drive to benefit the Oregon Food Bank has come to an end. We have been collecting non-perishable foods in barrels provided by the Oregon Food Bank in the breezeway and the response has been excellent!

Each month, 270,000 people receive meals from OFB, and of those, 92,000 are children. This generous outpouring from the Richmond Community will be greatly felt as we close in on our goal of 2,000 pounds of food!

On March 8th, Mary Megivern will be taking Richmond School's Student Council members on a field trip to the Oregon Food Bank. The students will learn about the collection and distribution procedures for feeding Oregon's hungry children and families. This is a nice opportunity to see how our efforts to collect food at school are a part of a much larger community process. The students will report back to their classrooms to discuss what they learned on this fun and important outing.



Problem

We have a big problem with a very big negative balance at this time! Please make sure your student has money on his or her lunch account if he/she is going to be eating a hot lunch with us.

Parents/Guardians can go to <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/nutrition/3985.htm> and add money to a students account (you will need the students ID number) with a debit or credit card. You are also able to sign up to get email alerts when the balance is low on the account. Another option is to come to the cafeteria and bring your balance current with a personal check or cash. If you are going to come in and get your account balance current, it is best to come see me after 7:30 a.m.

Thank you very much for your help with this

-Anne Rogers
arogers@pps.net

Oya No Kai Annual Auction UPDATE



On Friday, February 22nd, Oya No Kai hosted their annual auction. The event grossed more than \$90,000. The money will help fund our intern program and cultural exchange events. Sincere thanks to auction chair Sara Tam and a wonderful team of volunteers who yet again managed to pull off a truly special event. In addition, thank you to all of you who attended and made the event such a wonderful (and financial) success.

The online auction is still going on until March 10. You can find auction items at: https://onk.tofinoauctions.com/auction2013/online_auction.

OMSI NIGHT...March 11th, 2013

On March 11th, between 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, OMSI will be open and **FREE** for all Richmond families. This event is a closed event put in place for Richmond families only and is not going to be advertised to the greater community. This OMSI night is made possible by proceeds from the PTA's Run for Richmond. Thanks to all of you who participated in the run last year. The 2013 Run for Richmond is coming up, so mark your calendars! We always need volunteers for this super fun event which is scheduled for April 19th. More details to follow, so watch your Big Tent messages!



Gratitude Grove



The month of March ushers in an exciting time for those families that have opened their homes to the experience of hosting an intern. The benefits of this experience create life-long memories and relationships that enhance the Richmond experience. This month, we wanted to say "Thank You" to the Byrd/Nakai, McIlhenny, Blandy, Backus-Cramer, Jinnah, Peterson/Cummings, Gatewood/Brown, and Munzing families for volunteering to host an intern beginning this spring.

We would also like to offer our sincere and profound thanks to the following families who hosted an intern in the last year. The intern program could not exist without families graciously opening their homes.

Jennifer Snyder and Richard Beyler (Katie and Zoe), Krissy Haglund and Dan Wright (Johan), Amy and Rand Thomas (Whit, Scarlett, and Cole), Greg Byrd and Hitomi Nakai (Hana), Norm Clark and Mona Ozaki (Keli'i), Scott and Gena Siegel (Gracine and Nic), Rich and Jen Nakanishi (Raymond and Robbie), Emily and Keivan Jinnah (Aliya and Jacob), Todd and Jennifer McIlhenny (Isabel and Caden), Jennifer and Bryan Lundstrom (Taylor), Sharon Martell and Scott Adams (Gabe and Levi), Bonnie and Antranik Zadeyan (Adrian and Jack), Sue and Mike Baer (Sophie, Ian, and Megan), Jim and Vivienne Blandy (Madoka and Mika), Keith and Elena Schreiner (Nova), Rich and Kari Shawen (Kyla and Cady), Jody and Pat Lando (Reed and Piper), Geoff Koch and Betty Izumi (Tomomi and Satsuki), Jeff Hopper and Karen Tingey (Ethan and Linna), Richard and Jill Panches (Madeline, Rachel, and Kate), Elizabeth Cramer-Backus and Ted Backus (Henry and Charlie), Amar and Desirae Khouma (Malik and Bouba), Luke and Corinna Hammer (Brody, Dominic, and Cyrus), Lori and Jace Thompson (Marina and Elena), Theresa and Asa Hartney (Kirra), and John Baumgardner.

Are you thinking of hosting and have questions? Above is an amazing list of people to find answers to your questions about hosting an intern!

State testing slated to begin in April

All Richmond 3-5 grade students will be taking the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) beginning in early April. Students will take assessments in reading and math and our fifth grade students will also take a science assessment. Teachers will be informing students and families exactly when your child will be testing. For more information on OAKS, please contact your child's teacher or Matt Goldstein in the office.



We need your help – Please consider hosting an Intern

As many of you may have heard, we are thrilled to be welcoming 14 new interns to Richmond next month. Having this many interns allows us to have one intern in every Japanese classroom and one in each Pre-K classroom. This also means that it is our community responsibility to host our interns. This is where we need your help! We are still searching for 10 families willing to host an intern. If you are interested in learning a bit more about hosting or are ready to sign-up, please contact Yoko Breyfogle. You can reach Yoko by email at ybreyfogle@gmail.com or call her directly at (503) 351-1543.

Many Richmond families have asked about the requirements of supporting this effort. All you need to do is:

1. Live within a 1-hour bus ride of one of the three schools, Richmond ES, Mt. Tabor MS, or Grant HS. You can check the Trimet Website at <http://trimet.org/go/cgi-bin/plantrip.cgi> to see the trip times.
2. The intern will need a bedroom to themselves. Bathrooms may be shared.
3. You must be able to host for 6 months (from either March 2013 until October 2013, or October 2013 until March 2014).
4. All members of your household accept and welcome the intern into your home and treat your intern as a member of the family.
5. Provide a comfortable, safe and supportive environment for your intern.

So, what are you waiting for? Contact Yoko today!



Lottery & School Choice Transfer

With one mandatory meeting under our belt, every indication shows how well the Portland community has embraced the Richmond Elementary School Program. Our next mandatory meeting is Tuesday, March the 12th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in our cafeteria. For additional information regarding the enrollment process, please consult this link at the PPS web page <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/enrollment-transfer/schoolchoice.htm>. If you are not finding an answer to your question, please contact Enrollment and Transfer directly at 503.916.3205.

Counselor's Corner

In February, counseling lessons focused on Bullying. The characteristics of a bully were identified (asserting power and control, repetitive negative behavior towards another, targeting victims, purposeful action with intent to cause harm). Students also learned the four main types of bullying (physical, emotional, social and cyber) and the behaviors associated with each type. We discussed the role of the bystander and how this lack of action may contribute to the problem, as well as the characteristics of a victim. Strategies for dealing with bullying behavior was discussed at length, building on the tools of conflict resolution and problem solving techniques taught in prior lessons. Our Word Of The Month, "Tolerance," (defined as a willingness to accept others for who they are, including their differences in beliefs, cultures and preferences) was woven into the conversation as well.



Our focus for March will be stress reduction. With our rigorous demands and expectations, especially as we enter into the high stakes time of the year of State benchmark exams, students can often demonstrate anxiety over performance or extra worrying about homework along with all the other activities on their plate. This stress can manifest itself in physical complaints, lack of sleep or strong emotional responses to minor problems. The goal is for the students to learn to identify what stress is and possible stressors in their own lives, and then develop coping methods (such as relaxation strategies) for dealing with it.

A recent article from the website, Stand Up To Bullying.Net, correlated stress at home to bullying at school. It stated, "the way that parents react to economic issues and deal with stress, fear and anger during nerve-racking times impacts children tremendously. Financial stress can create uncertainty and tension in the home which, in turn, can create stress for children too.

When adults act inappropriately out of anger or fear, quickly losing their patience, speaking sharply or behaving disrespectfully towards family members, they increase the chance that their children will exhibit these same behaviors." As adults we all need to remember to be cognizant of how our tone, attitudes and reactions effect the children in our lives.

Mary Megivern, MS
School Counselor
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April is National Poetry Month...
Get ready to **LAUGH!**

Poet Kenn Nesbitt is coming to Richmond for a day of
Poetry, Jokes, and FUN!

*** April 2, 2013 ***

To find out more about poet Kenn Nesbitt and
His zany poetry humor

Visit his web-site at: www.poetry4kids.com

Order One (or MORE!) of Kenn's books and have it autographed!

A portion of the proceeds will go to fund
On-going arts education at Richmond.

Use the order form included in the Richmond Shinbun, March 2013 issue!

All orders are due by March 15, 2013