



RICHMOND SHINBUN

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BEV PRUITT, PRINCIPAL

DAVE ALLEN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

September Events

- 17 - Late Opening
- 23 - Back to School Night - 1st – 3rd grade (Meet in cafeteria beginning @ 6 pm)
- 24 - Back to School Night - 4th & 5th grade (Meet in cafeteria beginning @ 6 pm)
- 25 - Picture Day

October Events

- 10 - School Closed (in-service)
- 15 - Late Opening
- 29 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 30 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Community Care Cleanup

A big thank you to all of the families and volunteers who helped out to beautify the outside of our school during the Community Care Clean Up!

Elm Trees

This fall, the city is mandated to take down three elm trees that border the playground due to disease. We will replant with new healthy trees.



Welcome Back!

Oregon enjoyed a summer of beautiful, sunny skies and wonderfully warm weather. I hope your families and days were a success under such great conditions. We have an exceptional returning and new staff eager to welcome everyone back to school. Their names & grades are listed on the back of this sheet. They will meet with parents at BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and Wednesday, Sept. 24th for 4th and 5th grades. We are welcoming about 689 students again this year with approximately 100 new students at Pre-K and 1st grades. We have missed your kids and are glad to see them back. Teachers will continue to work toward the implementation of the new CCSS standards (what kids should know and be able to do at each level) and the new tests called Smarter Balanced that will replace OAKS at the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. (See the attached sheet at the back of this newsletter for more information on that work.) We are happy to see so many new and familiar faces. Our parent groups are tremendous support for our program and some PTA parents were here over the summer making improvements. Thank you to parents who house our interns and to parents who donate monthly or often to our Richmond Foundation. We have an Instructional Specialist who will be supporting the English teachers this year via the use of Foundation dollars. We will highlight many more of our parents' wonderful support over the year and we are sure a successful and productive year lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Bev Pruitt Richmond Principal





Richmond Staff

Kindergarten

Amy Grover/Jill Iverson
Reiko Yoshida/Kelly Marsh

First Grade

Sumiko Uchida/Karen Meier
Toshiko Rivera/Sarah Gaynor

Second Grade

Eriko Mogi/Seth Denlinger
Anna Kapranos/Anne Scheiman

Third Grade

Michiko Hirahara/Ben Kiggen
Ritsuko Fujiwara/Martha Gross

Fourth Grade

Kaoru Kitazawa/Jaina Kapranos
Yoshiko Kamata/Beth Martin

Fifth Grade

Atsuko Ando/Bill Aubrecht
Miki Tomita/Jen Loveland

Claudia Sterry – Counselor
Emily Martine – Special Education
Alexandra Fagan – Instructional Specialist
Deb Madore – Physical Education
Kari Shawen – Library
Lavonna Zeller-Williams Bratschi - Music
Sparrow West –Art
Megan Stephens – Speech/Language
Pathologist
Wakako Sogo – School Psychologist
Catherine Kittams - Nurse
Kristina Kallen – Principal's Secretary
Erica Scarborough - Office Secretary
Anne Rogers – Kitchen
Emi Avondstondt – Kitchen Assistant
Dan Alexander – Custodian
Ayako March – EA
Mitsue Ham – EA
Linda Top – EA
Jill Carter - EA

New Staff

Dave Allen, Assistant Principal

I am so excited and honored to be here at Richmond Elementary. During my years as a special educator, I had a range of teaching experiences from early childhood through high school. Recently, I worked at Portland State preparing future teachers to work with young children with special needs. Before obtaining my first teaching position in the U.S., I lived in Japan for two years teaching English. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the students and their families as the year progresses.

Ritsuko Fujiwara, Third Grade

I have taught our pre-k program for the last four years, and before that, I was the Cultural Arts Liaison for three years. Helping this JMP program for 14 years as both a parent and staff member, I am very excited to have my own classroom and to be the third grade teacher. I look forward to working with our teaching team to explore what works best for our students. I love our pathway to be a life-time learner.

Ben Kiggen, Third Grade

I will be partnering with Michiko Hirahara this year to teach the blue and green groups of third grade. I have previously taught at an international school in South Korea and student taught at ACCESS academy here in Portland, OR. I am excited to bring my experience and enthusiasm to Richmond and to be a part of this fantastic learning community!

Alexandra Fagan, School Improvement Specialist

Switching from a career in advertising, I became a teacher in the Boston Public Schools in 2001. After adopting a baby girl, I transitioned from working with students to collaborating with teachers as a Literacy Coach and RTI Specialist. I moved to Portland this summer with my now-8-year-old daughter and look forward to collaborating with the Richmond teachers to incorporate the CCSS instructional shifts and support best practices around reading and writing.

Parent Parking/Drop Off and Pick Up

It is our goal to ensure the safety of all members of the Richmond community. With close to 700 students arriving each morning, the streets surrounding Richmond can get congested. **Please allow sufficient time to negotiate the traffic, adhere to neighborhood speed limits, and pay close attention to pedestrians and cyclists. DO NOT block any driveways** – we all need to respect those who live in the area surrounding the school.

We have completed our work with the City of Portland in collaboration with the Richmond community, to help improve the drop-off and pick-up experience. Along SE 41st, just south of the school bus drop off is a reserved section of sidewalk where parents in privately operated vehicles can pull up and drop off their child(ren). This is a no parking zone so parents can safely and quickly drop off their child(ren) for school.

We also encourage carpooling, biking, walking, and riding the PPS school bus.

Portland Public Schools recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups and their roles in society. It is the policy of the Portland Public Schools Board of Education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups on the grounds of age, color, creed, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation in any educational programs, activities or employment.

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff at Richmond Elementary we are happy to welcome you to the 2014-2015 school year! The start of the school year is always exciting, but this year there are some important changes at Richmond Elementary designed to better prepare your child for future success and we wanted to take a minute to explain them.

As you may know, in 2010, Oregon adopted new, higher academic standards called the Common Core State Standards in English and math. Our state chose to adopt the K-12 standards to help ensure that all students graduate from high school with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, career, and life. The challenge is all too real in Oregon, where statewide approximately 66 percent of Oregon's high school graduates who go on to attend community college need to take remedial, or pre-college level, courses in English and/or math. Students taking remedial classes waste time, money, and scholarship funds on relearning content that should have been mastered in high school – without earning any college credit. At a district level, we have worked to address this challenge in several ways, and we are pleased to see it being addressed on a state level through raising academic standards in all grades. We believe that all students deserve to graduate from high school with the skills they need to be successful in college or the workforce – without the need for remediation.

The new standards explain what your child should know and be able to do at each grade level. The standards are aligned to college- and career-expectations so when your child graduates from high school, he or she will be ready to take their next step into a college or career. Although Oregon has had academic standards for years, the previous standards did not adequately prepare our students for the rapidly changing economy of the future. These new standards offer a clear, strong path for your student's success.

It's important to know the standards do not tell a teacher how to teach. Our local school district will determine the curriculum that best helps teach these standards in the classroom.

With a shift to new standards, we also must shift our statewide test so that it is aligned to the information your child is learning. Oregon will transition to a new statewide assessment this spring. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take this end-of-year test to demonstrate their learning. Instead of relying on multiple choice questions like our past tests have done, this test will be more interactive and engaging and will provide better information about what your child knows and can do.

Because the standards are higher, we know it will take students a few years to master them, which is why we will initially see a drop in the number of students reaching this higher proficiency level. However, it is really important to remember this drop in test scores is not because our students woke up one day and were not as smart as the day before. It is because we are now teaching them to a higher standard, which is a good thing for your child and their future. We know your child is capable of achieving at high levels and we are committed to providing the support to make this transition as smooth as possible.

We encourage you to stay involved and active in your child's education. You are an important partner in the work of preparing your child for success this year and in the future. We hope you will take the time to review the information provided, ask questions, and join us in supporting your child in the months and years to come.

Richmond Elementary
Portland Public School Curriculum & Instruction

Oregon's New College- and Career-Ready Standards

The Academic Baseline for Success in College, Careers, and Life

- **Our children need to be prepared for college, career, and future success.** As the economy continues to grow, we need to ensure that all students, no matter their zip code, are prepared for the opportunities and challenges they will face after high school.
- Our state chose to adopt the K–12 Common Core State Standards to help ensure that **all students graduate from high school with the core academic knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, careers, and life**, for the benefit of their futures and the future of our state.
- **Working to close the achievement gap is a top priority for Oregon.** The new standards promote equity by ensuring all students, especially historically underserved students, are offered access to high-level content. They allow teachers and parents to understand exactly what all students should know and/or be able to do at each grade. They allow us to more accurately measure student learning outcomes so that feedback and support can be provided when it is clear students are not on track for success.
- **Today's — and tomorrow's — jobs value postsecondary education and training more than ever.** Americans without the requisite knowledge and skills will struggle to access good jobs in the increasingly competitive global economy.
- **Oregon has had state-adopted standards for years.** The Common Core are simply the latest version of these standards for English and math. Our state has been involved in every step of their development and adoption. Oregon teachers and administrators reviewed various versions of the standards and provided multiple rounds of feedback to the developers before they were adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010.
- **Teachers are implementing these standards.** 80% of teachers in Oregon say what is being taught in their school aligns with the Common Core. Districts around the state have offered support and professional development for teachers to implement the standards since 2010. Locally, teams of teachers have created curriculum aligned to the Common Core, giving teachers access to high-quality instructional materials.
- **These common standards help ensure that students are receiving a high quality, rigorous education consistently from school to school and state to state.** The Common Core State Standards are shared learning expectations adopted by 46 states around the country. They provide a clear, consistent understanding of what our students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English.
- **The Common Core is not a curriculum.** Curriculum remains a local school district decision. The Common Core are simply the standards outlining what students should know and be able to do at various grades. Locally adopted curriculum allows for teacher flexibility and creativity in the classroom.