



Richmond Shinbun

リッチモンド新

Bev Pruitt Principal

Dave Allen, Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 15 Presidents' Day (No School)
- Feb. 17 Late Opening
- Feb. 18 Lottery Opens
- Feb. 18 Vaccination Exclusion Day
- Feb 16-19 Battle of the Books
- Feb. 26 RAINBOW DAY**
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- Mar. 4 Principal's Coffee
- Mar. 4 School Class Pictures
- Mar. 5 **ONK AUCTION**
- Mar. 9 Lottery Closes
- Jan. 29 Battle of the Books
- Mar. 16 Late Opening
- Mar. 21-25 Spring Break
- April 1 Principal's Coffee
- April 8 Teacher Planning Day (No School for Students)
- April 11 Switch Day

UPCOMING MEETINGS

PTA General Meeting:
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

New Parent Mandatory Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2016 from 6 - 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Safety Meeting: Our next safety meeting is Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:30 a.m.

Principal's News

ONK NEEDS YOUR AUCTION DONATIONS

TODAY! Please consider making a tax-deductible auction donation of sports/entertainment tickets; art; gift certificates for restaurants or services; getaways/vacation homes; technology; wine/spirits (for our Instant Bar); signup parties; unique experiences; etc. Nothing is too big or small! Drop donations off at Richmond, Room 110, or contact us for other arrangements at info@oyanokai.org.

Community and corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available starting at \$250. Send inquiries to info@oyanokai.org.



**Get Ready for the
2016 ONK Auction at
Revolution Hall on March 5th!**

Tickets available **now** at
www.onk.tofinoauctions.com/auction2016

Dear Richmond Community,

Staffing will be coming out earlier this year. The good news is that this is much earlier in the hiring year and should give PPS adequate time to do a great job of staffing for next year. March 8th is the scheduled date for the superintendent to take her budget recommendations to the school board. After they vote on accepting the budget the principals will be notified of their schools' staffing numbers. In anticipation of this news, the staff and I have had a few conversations as it is going to be ever increasingly difficult to maintain a contribution from the Richmond Foundation in the \$90K+ range. This is how much the Richmond Foundation contributed this year to our current staffing. It is not possible, nor fair to compete for parent dollars when the other parent groups do so much for our program, too. Therefore, if I have to make staffing cuts this year, there will be a **parent survey in the March 8th newsletter that will need to be returned by March 11th if I am to consider your input before the staffing due date of March 18th**

Sincerely,

Bev Pruitt
Principal

PTA Updates

Water Bottle Filling Station

The hard-working Rich Coffee team has approved the use of their proceeds from 2014-2016 to fund a new water fountain and water bottle filling station at Richmond. More details will come as the project is further defined. If you have a chance, please let this team know how much you appreciate their hard work, warm smiles and financial support to make projects such as the water bottle filling station possible at our school.

Efforts to Preserve Richmond Elms

Richmond PTA, PPS Grounds Department and Save Our Elms have joined forces to prune and inoculate our remaining Elms at Richmond to keep them healthy as long as possible. Efforts are underway also to replant the trees lost to Dutch Elm Disease this past summer. If you would like to participate in these efforts, please contact Tess Sandgathe at yogathes@gmail.com. And please continue to support these efforts financially through purchasing coffee beans from Portland Roasting. Order forms are in Room 110 and at the Rich Coffee table.



Advocacy Update

As many of you are aware, the District Wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee (DBRAC) will make formal recommendations to the superintendent regarding west-side changes in the coming weeks. East-side changes will be evaluated starting in March and formalized by May to take affect starting Fall 2017. Richmond PTA Advocacy and Oya No Kai will be monitoring the discussions regarding middle school and high school feeder patterns. If you have any questions regarding these ongoing conversations, please email the PTA Advocacy Committee at richmond.advocacy@gmail.com.

PTA UPCOMING DATES

PTA General Meeting Feb 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Please join us for sushi, snacks and updates on all current PTA projects, including an exciting new initiative for seasoned Richmond families to mentor incoming kindergarten families. Assistant Principal, Dave Allen, will recap Richmond's testing plan for Spring 2016, updates/changes from last year, and what to expect for parents of third graders - who may be new to Smarter Balanced testing. Oregon PTA will be presenting A Better Oregon Campaign and answering questions on its legislative efforts to improve state funding for PPS. Childcare and games/activities will be provided.

Breakfast in the Garden, March 12, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Help us get ahead of spring weeds, keep our green spaces looking beautiful and get the South Garden ready for our kindergarteners to begin planting as part of their Spring Journals. Enjoy Peets coffee and fresh pastries.

PTA Clothing Center - Richmond Volunteer Day, March 28, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to donate an hour or two between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at Marshall High School's Clothing Center and help struggling PPS families provide much-needed spring/summer clothing to their kids. Help kids coming to the center "shop" for essential items including shoes, jeans, and socks and much more. Or help sort donated items and put them out on the floor. Please email natashabanks@gmail.com to sign up.

Science Fair, Friday, April 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

For all those lovers of science, nature and exploring new ideas, get ready for another exciting Science Fair on Friday, April 1. Spring break will offer some extra time to get those exhibits/experiments ready. There are many ways to participate including: Experiments, inventions, research projects/collections, or dressing up as your favorite scientist. Start brainstorming now!

A Letter from the PTA

The Richmond community needs more - your - volunteer support.

Richmond currently has more families enrolled in our program than ever before. **We are also at a record low level of volunteer participation.** This is a common phenomenon in growing communities where it is easy to think there are so many people around that “somebody else” will answer the call for help. But the actual result is that not enough people step up, and the few that do are overburdened.

Next year a number of PTA Board positions will be vacant. Parents of fifth graders who have been serving for years will be “graduating” along with their children. **Richmond needs the parents of children in younger grades to pick up the mantle to create the school environment you wish for your own children.** Please understand that if no one steps up to fill these positions, the Richmond you know and love will look very different.

Without a PTA Board there will be NO:

- Rich Coffee
- Harvest Festival, Spring Festival, New Years Festival, Craft Night
- Movie Nights
- Garden or Garden Parties
- Room Representation
- Class parties
- Fundraisers which pay for teacher grants, field improvements, technology and more.

Nominations for **PTA Board positions need to be in by March 2016.**

If you have ever considered volunteering on the PTA board, NOW is the time to step forward. These positions **MUST BE FILLED** or the PTA will dissolve. The 2016-17 vacant Board positions include:

- President or Co-Presidents*
- Vice President*
- Treasurer*
- Rich Coffee Chair
- Special Events Chair

(*There is a two-year term limit for all officer positions. Contact PTA President Sara DeLuca if you have questions about board service at sarackdeluca@yahoo.com.)

This fall the PTA struggled to get enough volunteers for the Harvest Festival and Classroom Representatives, and for the first time ever, the parent-hosted Teacher Potluck during conferences did not have enough food.

PTA understands that all parents are busy and may not have time to do extensive volunteer service. However, if you are bringing your child to school events, please consider signing up for a shift while your child is enjoying the festivities. (Often parents work together to “tag team” - one child’s parent takes a shift, while another child’s parent watches two or more kids, and then they switch.)

The PTA and its Board is a wonderful, fun, positive, effective and supportive community that works together to make our Richmond house a home. If you have ever thought about becoming more involved, the time is now - we would love to have you!



February 2016

Oya No Kai, Inc.

A parent volunteer 501(c)(3) supporting Interns & Cultural Exchanges at Richmond, Mt. Tabor, and Grant

Dear Richmond Families,

If your pencils are flying and books are on every surface, then it must be springtime at Richmond! We are half-way through the school year and I so appreciate everything the community does to support our children and make them successful learners and citizens.

In the middle of all this activity, Battle of the Books and quarter end, we have Sumaura Elementary School visiting the second week of February. Sumaura and Richmond have been international partners since 1995 when Richmond started a fundraiser to assist after the massive earthquake in Kobe, Japan. For over 20 years, the school principal, Mr. Yamamoto, has brought a delegation of students to Portland. This year 17 students and several teachers will be visiting. Please say hello and greet our guests! This is our chance as well to thank them as well, for we will be sending our 5th graders to their school this June!

The Oya No Kai annual auction is about a month away! Thank you to the many parents, teachers, and community members who have donated items and experience to making this auction thrive. We are certainly not done yet, though we have a very exciting start!

Please join us in celebrating the JMP program at the auction.

Thank you!

Jeff Hopper, President Oya No Kai, Inc.



Upcoming Events

February 5-12

Sumaura School is visiting Portland! Thank you host families and Richmond for hosting!

February 7

Last day to buy Early Bird Auction Tickets!

March 5

Oya No Kai Auction
Revolution Hall in SE Portland

PPS DBRAC - Rebalancing

The School Board is meeting to hear the DBRAC proposal from the committee and Superintendent Carol Smith.

At this point, we only have rumors of program location change at the Middle and High School levels, but overall we have no hard evidence of a move.

We will all know what the district will do in the next few weeks.

www.oyanokai.org

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Richmond Shinbun

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Attendance Line:
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Portland Public Schools

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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 School Board 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.

Counselor's Corner

Dear Parents,

Hello from the Counseling Center!

Last week, our incredible Richmond students participated in The Great Kindness Challenge (www.greatkindnesschallenge.org) and completed over 1,700 acts of kindness! The Great Kindness Challenge was one week dedicated to performing as many acts of kindness as possible, choosing from a 50-item checklist. Eighty-five students turned in their checklists and will be receiving a token of appreciation for their participation. The challenge was a step towards creating a culture of kindness at school as a powerful tool to increase tolerance, unity and respect. Additionally, every student had the chance to commit to kindness by "planting" a personalized flower or vegetable piece of art in the Richmond Kindness Garden upstairs. Look for our Kindness Garden mural in the second floor hallway, and thanks to you and your students for contributing to a peaceful and kind Richmond community!

This February we have a new theme for Counseling, which is "Diversity: It's Okay to Be Different," and we will be covering some intense but important topics such as discrimination, racism, and equity. Our definition of diversity is: **D**.ifferent **I**.ndividuals **V**.aluing and accepting **E**.ach other **R**.egardless of **S**.kin color, religion, **I**.deas, gender, **T**.alents, or **Y**.ears. The students have been having some amazing discussions this past week, and we have a few inspired second grade activists who have already been asking me if we can have a protest to march against discrimination. I welcome any parent participation or feedback on this topic, so please come talk to me if you would like to get involved or have good book recommendations to increase our multicultural library.

Spring term of Student Council has started, so look forward to our annual Project Second Wind canned food drive in March, and Pennies for Patients coin drive for children with cancer in April.

The Student Store is still open Tuesdays and Thursdays before school, but we are in need of some more volunteers. If you are an early bird family and you know your child and/or you can commit to getting to school at 7:30 twice a month for a shift at the store, please let us know.

RAINBOW DAY is Friday February 26th! Each grade level will be wearing one color top (**K-purple, 1st-blue, 2nd-green, 3rd-yellow, 4th-orange, 5th-red**), and we will be taking a school-wide photo of our "rainbow," so please mark this day on your calendars! More info will come home through BigTent.

Sincerely,

Your Richmond School Counselors

Ms. Sterry & Ms. O'Leary