

HOMework CLUB HAS STARTED!

Oya No Kai is pleased to be able to sponsor Homework Club again this year. Below are details provided by Ando Sensei:

- 1) Homework Club started on Thursday November 30th for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Maki Hagglund (3rd grade teacher), Atsuko Ando (4th grade teacher), Minori Fukushima (5th grade teacher) will take turns in teaching children every Thursday. Two teachers will be present each session.
- 2) 10 students from each grade level.
- 3) Six or seven Interns will help teach students every session.
- 4) A nominal donation of \$5.00/month is requested.
- 5) In order to make this club a productive time, we ask students to follow these guidelines:
 - a) Students need to make good use of the time and our help (stay focused on their homework without disturbing others).
 - b) Students need a note from a parent/guardian when he/she is unable to attend.
 - c) Students need to turn in their homework to their Japanese teacher on time.
- 6) Place: RM 206 Time: 2:30 to 3:30
- 7) Students need to wait in their Japanese classroom until 2:30. Their teacher will take them to RM 206 at 2:30.
- 8) Students are allowed to bring healthy snack to homework club.
- 9) Parents or designated adults must come to RM 206 to pick up their children at 2:30.
- 10) The below is the content of homework permission club

Permission Slip For The After School Homework Club

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ Class _____

Parent(s)/Guardian's Name _____ Signature: _____

Phone# (if we need to contact) _____ E-mail Address: _____

Please check one.

I will pick him/her up. He/she will walk home. He/she will go to YMCA.

I give my permission to _____ to stay at school on Thursday to work on his/her Japanese homework at the After School Japanese Homework Club.

Atsuko Ando • JMP 4th grade teacher • Richmond Elementary School • ando@pps.k12.or.us
(503)916-6220 • 2276 S.E. 41st • Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to help students by offering the Japanese homework club on Thursday after school from 2:30–3:30pm in Room 206. Students are expected to come to the club with their homework and work independently. During this time, we will be available to listen students' reading, assist with their writing, and answer their questions. In order to make this club a productive time, we ask students to follow these guideline.

- 1) Students need to make good use of the time and our help. (focused on their homework without disturbing others.)
- 2) Students need a note from a parent/guardian when he/she is unable to attend.
- 3) Students need to turn in their homework to their Japanese teacher on time.

If a student does not follow these guidelines, we may ask him/her to give up the spot to another student who would like to have this opportunity.

Since the homework club is after school, please arrange the student's transportation. Please be prompt in picking up, too.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact grade level teacher. Sincerely,

ATSUKO ANDO 4TH GRADE
ANDO@PPS.K12.OR.US

MINORI FUKKUSHIMA 5TH GRADE
MFUKUSHI@PPS.K12.OR.US

MAKI HAGGLUND 3RD GRADE
MHAGGLUN@PPS.K12.OR.US

Meet the New Principal at Mt. Tabor

Vân Truong, the new Principal at Mt. Tabor Middle School brings a wealth of experiences in language learning and secondary curriculum with her. In Vietnam, Van attended an all girl French catholic school until she left. Van is fluent in 3 languages, French, Vietnamese and English. Van immigrated to the US from Vietnam in 1975 at the age of 16. She and her family spent a short time in Guam and Pennsylvania camps before permanently settling in Portland. She graduated from Madison High School. She received 2 Bachelors of Art degrees in Applied Linguistics and in French and later a Masters degree in Education from Portland State University. A Doctorate in Instructional Leadership from Lewis and Clark College is being pursued (Van is taking a break from this program currently but will start up again next year) Van also is the mother of 4 children. Her eldest daughter is Yen, 26 years old, U of O graduate and is employed at Nike. She just got married in October to her college sweetheart, Ryan. Daughter



number 2, Amanda is 18 years old and attending Mt. Hood Community College. Daughter number 3, Kristine is 16 years old and is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at Gresham High School. She was the Mt. Hood District Tennis champion last year and went on to compete at the state level. Van's youngest child is son Andrew who is 14 years old and a freshman at Gresham High school. He is also an aspiring tennis player. Van currently teaches at PSU in their continuing education program. She also was the director of a Vietnamese language school for 3 years. During this period the school grew from 100 students to 450 students. Before coming to Mt. Tabor she was an Assistant Principal at Binnsmead M.S. and a Vice Principal at Franklin H.S. While she was the Vice Principal at Franklin High School, she won the Franklin award voted by staff and students. The Franklin award is to recognize those whose presence, attitudes, personality and good deeds have made Franklin a better place to be.

Welcome Yukari Birkett - New Japanese Teacher at Grant High School

By Jordan Green

New to Grant High School this year is **Yukari Birkett Sensei**. She is teaching Japanese to the freshmen and sophomore students in the JIS at Grant High School. She is also teaching an English Literature class at Grant High School.



Ms. Birkett was born and grew up in Tokyo, Japan. She attended Seisen University in Tokyo. After coming to the United States, she attended University of Michigan and Concordia College. She obtained her MA in Bilingual/Foreign Language from Eastern Michigan University. She has been teaching for ten years.

Before coming to Grant, she was teaching English literature at Franklin High School. She has also worked as a translator for a company in Michigan, taught ESL

classes at Eastern Michigan University, taught at a private school in Japan, and been a substitute teacher at most all of the PPS schools.

When asked what she likes most about teaching she says, "I like to meet new people and like new challenges", and she enjoys teaching and learning about different cultures. When she lived

in Michigan she hosted various students from all over the world including Africa, China, and Japan, and they were all bilingual.

She is a busy mother of three active teenagers, age 14, 16, and 18. Between teaching and raising her family she doesn't have much free time for extracurricular activities, but she enjoys photography, tennis, music, art, camping, hiking, and running. She's even tried windsurfing in the past.

We welcome Yukari Birkett sensei to the JMP community!

NEW FACES IN THE JMP

Even though the academic year is well underway, we want to introduce some new faculty in the JMP this year.

Elisabeth Martin is the Richmond JMP 3 English classroom teacher. She comes to us with prior teaching experience at Alameda Elementary and Hayhurst Middle School.

Before her teaching career, Elisabeth received a degree in apparel design and worked for a local clothes designer. She obtained a BFA from University of Oregon in fiber arts and owned her own women's clothing business before joining AmeriCorps in 1998. It was through this AmeriCorps experience at Whittaker Middle School that Elisabeth realized her calling as a teacher.

Elisabeth's art background is evident throughout the classroom. She attempts to integrate art into all subjects, as one can see from the brilliantly painted posters of math groupings hanging overhead.

Elisabeth was born and raised in Portland with 11 brothers and sisters! She enjoys skiing, camping and backpacking with her 12 year old border collie-Australian shepard, Rosie.

We feel very lucky to have Elisabeth with us at Richmond!

Oya No Kai Board Meetings

Meetings of the ONK Board of Directors are held monthly at the home of one of the board members. These meetings are open to ONK members and other interested individuals with prior approval.

The scheduled ONK board meetings are:

December 12, 2006
January 23, 2007
February 27, 2007
March 20, 2007
April 24, 2007
May 22, 2007
June 26, 2007
July 24, 2007

The minutes from each meeting are posted on the ONK website.

OYA NO KAI STATUS AT RICHMOND

As many of you are aware, PPS recently passed administrative direction, based on a policy passed by the School Board in February, 2006, that outlines the rules governing access by non-PPS groups to such things as school bulleting boards, hallway pamphlet areas, and students. These rules state that non-profit groups that support PPS programs must request approval from PPS to distribute materials, unless that group is PTA, Foundation, or a Booster Club. Since ONK is not clearly any one of these, we must ask permission in order to distribute materials. When we did so late September for the gift wrap sale, we were denied permission to distribute such materials. Since then, ONK has been given temporary permission through 12/31/06 to distribute materials in the schools in which it operates. ONK has been in contact with the District staff responsible for implementing this directive. As PPS currently does not have a definition of what a "booster club" is, they are doing research into this matter.

ONK is taking this situation very seriously. We are currently working with Principal Anderson, MTMS administrators, PPS, and other Richmond support groups to determine how ONK can best continue to fulfill its mission of providing cultural support to JMP grades pre-K through 12 and fit within the PPS guidelines.

Your thoughts are always welcome. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to Monica Mueller, ONK president, at monica_mueller@hotmail.com.

Annual Report 2005-06 Oya No Kai Inc.

To our Oya No Kai members,
The following is a recap of what ONK accomplished during 2005-06 :

\$1332.39 Money donated to Richmond classrooms including funds used to pay for substitute teachers so Richmond teachers could attend the lectures by Mimi Mets from the Center for Applied Linguistics.
\$465.56 Money spent on class field trips at Richmond
\$1155.89 Money to Mt.Tabor MS to pay for planning time for Taborson teachers
\$1503.44 Money to Grant H.S. JMP paid for Japanese DVD compatible DVD Player and for planning time between Mt.Tabor Japanese teachers and Grant HS. JMP teacher to smooth curriculum articulation between the 2 schools.
Paid for graduation ceremony expenses (refreshments, decorations, individual name stamps in Japanese for each graduate, and honor cords and seals)
\$1777.00 Spent on guest relations which includes gifts and dinners for entertaining Chaperones and students from our visiting cultural exchange schools (Katoh, Fukano and Kobe)
\$195.55 Money for Docent program, \$750 was budgeted but not needed because supplies from previous years were used.
\$1540.00 Gifts to JMP teachers at all 3 schools including support staff at Richmond
\$1253.35 Costs for newsletter printing and postage
\$1398.00 Directory printing costs
\$1004.98 Operational costs including new quickbooks software to replace 6 year old version.
\$2679.00 Insurance costs covering Officers liability and general liability—this is the coverage that protects us during the cultural exchanges, participation at festivals (Japanfest, Asiafest, Obon Festival, Mochitsuki) events sponsored by ONK at schools (spring festival, general membership meetings), Camp Westwind and what protects ONK board members from liability for actions on behalf of the corporation.
\$784.59 Donations to others: this was used to donate \$500 to Portland Taiko for doing the 2 workshops at Richmond and also for a gift and certificate framing for Deanne Balzer in honor of her 15 years of service to the JMP
\$1529.11 Money spent for print advertising in the Metro-Parent magazine to promote the JMP and help recruit students for kindergarten and pre-school.
\$2828.57 Calligraphy teacher wages and supplies for classes at Richmond
\$7,000 Matching and direct grant given for ½ time literacy specialist for Richmond.

These funds came from the 10% that goes to the General fund from any fundraisers (including scrip and auction) sponsored by ONK and membership donations. The annual gift wrap fundraiser and t-shirt sales are the only fundraisers exclusively designated for the general fund and this earned \$5200 and \$1034.63 respectively. \$6188 was donated from memberships a \$5000 increase from the previous year! Next is the breakdown of costs for the intern program.

BUDGET FOR 2005-2006 INTERN'S

Per Intern

Bus Pass 13 months (year pass \$671 + \$61 additional month) = \$732

Lunches \$3 each day x 220 days = \$660

English Classes \$1500 = \$137 for each intern

Homework club = \$360 (24 weeks)

Retreat \$500 = \$46 for each intern

Mochisuki = \$10

Christmas present = \$100

Auction = \$45

Tee shirt = \$8

Intern night materials = \$10

Summer Host Family gift card to offset lunches = \$50

Misc = \$50

\$2208.00 for each intern

Oya No Kai members also volunteered hundred of hours with the following activities:

- Supporting the planning and execution of the 5th and 8th Grade Cultural exchanges
- Coordination and support for the JMP Interns
- Coordination of Cultural exchange visits by our sister schools from Japan
- Docent tours of Richmond
- Promotion of the JMP at 4 festivals this past year
- Our Dreams take Flight Auction
- Spring Festival at Richmond
- Publishing Oshirase
- Putting together the JMP directory

Oya No Kai

Winter 2006

JAPANESE MAGNET PROGRAM NEWSLETTER FOR RICHMOND ELEMENTARY, MT TABOR MIDDLE AND GRANT HIGH SCHOOL

oshirase

Our Dreams Take Flight

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS YEAR'S "Our Dreams Take Flight" auction will be on Friday, February 9th at the Melody Ballroom in Portland, Oregon. Mark your calendar for a fun-filled night of friends, food and fund-raising.

The annual auction benefits the 5th grade cultural exchange to Japan in June, and our wonderful Japanese interns. This year a portion of the proceeds will also be shared with the Richmond PTA to help fund a literacy specialist.

Thanks to Jean Mittelstaedt and Melanie Scheuremann, we have a dedicated auction website this year. Please visit the site at: <http://www.oyanokai.org/auction07/> On the website you will find copies of the procurement forms, new donor letters and receipts for your use. The site will updated regularly with additional information including silent and oral auction items, and special "buy-in" events.

Procurement for the auction has begun. If you have merchandise, gift certificates, or cash donations, please bring your gift to the Richmond office and place in the auction bin. Procurement forms are available at Richmond or on the website.

This year, the auction committee is seeking more corporate and individual sponsorships.

Mark your calendars—Friday February 9th at the Melody Ballroom for the auction

Please consider asking your place of business to sponsor our auction with a donation of \$1000 or more. Our sponsors will receive advertising and recognition before, during and after our auction.

If you have questions, suggestions or concerns regarding auction, please contact Jody Little at littlej@qwest.net or Melanie Scheuermann wmdrj@quik.com

Thank you so much for your support! See you at the auction!

MOCHITSUKI!

Mochitsuki is coming up January 28th. It is being held from noon to 4pm at PCC Sylvania. Show times are 1pm and 3:15pm. Lawson Inada, Oregon's poet laureate will be the emcee for the stage performances in the Performing Arts Center. Portland Taiko, Tanuki Taiko, Fujinami-kai, Sahomi Tachibana's dance group and storyteller Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo will perform in the stage shows.

Tickets are \$12 for Adults, \$9 for students and Seniors (62+), \$5 Children (12 and under), free for under 2. Tickets without service fees are available for pre-order. Please specify which show and the number of tickets you want and the grade and name of your student and enclose a check. Tickets will be distributed the 2nd week of January.

Richmond kindergarten teacher Reiko Yoshida is in charge of the Community Stage and 1st grade parent Kim Tanada is helping to plan this event. It is likely that several student groups from Richmond will be performing on the Community Stage. A suggested donation of \$2 adult and \$1 for children will be asked for entrance into the cultural fair/community stage.

Oya No Kai will have a booth and will sponsor a calligraphy activity. Volunteers for the booth and calligraphy are very welcome. Please contact Monica at monica_mueller@hotmail.com for more information.

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