

RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Newsletter- October 28, 2011

Telephone 413.698.2207 - Facsimile 413.698.3199

Calendar of Events

- 11/5 - Richmond Craft & Country Fair
- 11/8 – AntiBullying Mtg. 3:30-4:30pm
(everyone is welcome to attend)
- 11/8 - PTO meeting 5:30pm
- 11/8 – School Comm Mtg. 7pm
- 11/10 - Dining to Donate – Firefly
- 11/14 - Joe Corbi Fundraiser pick up 3pm - 5pm
- 11/19 - Richmond Recycles Day

Lunch Menu

Monday November 7

- Chili
- Rice
- Cornbread
- Fruit
- Sandwiches: PBJ or Roastbeef
- Salad Bar

Tuesday November 8

- Potato Bar & Toppings
- Broccoli
- Homemade Bread
- Fruit
- Sandwiches: PBJ or Pepperoni & Cheese
- Salad Bar

Wednesday November 9

- NO HOT LUNCH
- Salad Bar & Soup of the Day
- Sandwiches: PBF or Roasted Veggies on a baguette

Thursday November 10

- Baked Ham w/Apricot Sauce
- Roasted Butternut Squash
- Broccoli
- Homemade Bread
- Ginger Cake
- Fruit
- Sandwiches: PBJ or Deli Turkey
- Salad Bar

Friday November 11

- No School Today—Remember Our Veterans!

From the Principal's Office:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parent Teacher Conferences. Please contact your child's classroom teacher to set up a meeting time if you were unable to schedule a conference and want to.

The Richmond Craft Fair is this Saturday from 10 to 3. Please come and enjoy all that there is to offer. I understand that this is our biggest fundraiser so come and support us. You will certainly have the opportunity to walk away with great things and have some fun in the process.

The **YMCA After School** program is a go. The program begins on Monday, October 24th however, you can **sign up anytime**. For more information please contact Earl Persip at the YMCA, 499-7650 x37. There are forms here in the office if you need one.

Birthday celebrations – In an effort to be mindful of our **Health and Wellness Policy**, we are requesting that we celebrate all birthdays within a month all on one day. Not only will this cut down on sweets in classes, it will also reduce the time spent off academics. Please contact the classroom teacher with coordination of sweet and healthy snacks. The following dates will be our monthly birthday celebrations:

October 14, November 14, December 14, January 13, February 13, March 13, April 13, May 11, June 11

Note from the Nurse:

Please check with your child in grades 1-6 re: Fluoride "SWISH" permissions. We would like to begin next week and all slips need to be in with either yes or no. Thank you

Health Reminder: If your child has a fever, please wait 24 hours before sending him/her to school.

Town of Richmond:

If you suspect your child may have special needs and is three years old or older, please call the Special Education Director, Jenevra A. Strock, at 413-698-2207 ext. 215, to schedule an evaluation.

Richmond Consolidated School—Pancake Breakfast to assist Richmond's Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund:

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19th from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. for our fourth annual pancake breakfast to raise funds to supplement the Town of Richmond's \$4,000 appropriation for Emergency Fuel Assistance. The Richmond Congregational Church joins with other community members including the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department, Richmond Consolidated School and town officers for a morning of fun and fine purpose. The price for breakfast is \$5:00 for adults, \$3:00 for children, and will be held at the church.

Additional donations are indeed most welcome. For tax purposes checks may be made out to the Richmond Congregational Church, and designate Emergency Fuel Fund. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The proceeds from last year's pancake breakfast were \$3,540. With the town's \$4,000, heating assistance was provided for 29 Richmond families, each of which received \$260 fuel relief. Assistance is distributed through the Berkshire Community Action Council, and is strictly confidential.

We understand that federal and state assistance will be more limited for fuel assistance; so please help with our fund raising effort to keep our neighbors warm this coming winter season.

Richmond Robotics Club 5th-8th Graders:

"Students in grades 5-8 are invited to join the Richmond Robotics Club (see flyer below). The club will meet after school on Mondays, 3:00-4:00, from Nov 7 to Dec 12. If your child would like to attend, please send an email to christopherbegley@mac.com, along with any questions you may have. (flyer attached)

Computer TidBytes:

All students K through 8 have **Big Universe** Accounts. They can access biguniverse.com on the internet anywhere, anytime! I have created usernames and passwords for each student as follows:

Username: firstname+lastname

Password: firstname.

For example, if my name were John Smith, my username would be johnsmith (note that all letters are lowercase with NO spaces); my password would be john (again, lowercase).

The group name for all students is rcs (again, lowercase).

Please let your student show you what Big Universe is all about! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at 698-2207 x221.

Happy Reading! Mrs. M

Student News:

Mrs. Renfrew's 6th and 8th grade Community Service Group has collected 11 large bags of gently worn winter clothing for children. "My van was filled to the top," Mrs. Renfrew said. "Our Richmond School families were very generous."

Over the past two weeks, dozens of Richmond School families have donated clothes. The clothing will be delivered today to the Christian Center in Pittsfield to help the many needy families they serve. Thanks to **Amerlia Biancolo, Alysha DiSilva, Savannah Dodge, Shawn Gingras, Kristin Sark, Emma Sinkoff, Chase Wojtkowski, Forest Borden, Dunkyn Giblin, Jacob Mann, Alexis Mazzeo, and Sinaia Smith** for their hard work planning and publicizing this event, and for their work sorting the clothing and packaging it for delivery to the **Christian Center**.

News from the Town Recreation Committee:

The Richmond Recreation Committee is looking **for new members**. The RRC administers programs for the residents of our town, both young and not so young. We have programs of basketball right in our own school gym to the annual Ping Pong tourney in the winter and "Reach the Beach" road race in the Spring as well as many other activities. **If you have questions about the programs or are interested in joining us** contact Jeff Konowitch at 698-3415 or Konowitch@rnetworx.com Contact us if you have ideas as well. (flyer attached)

Don't forget to sign up for basketball now at www.richmondbasketball.org

Berkshire Hills Youth Soccer Club Travel Soccer Registration for Spring

for boys & girls U10, U12, U14, & U18 boys will be held on Nov. 9th & 10th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm @ Monument Mountain High School for Students of the Berk. Hills School District and/or residence of the towns in this district. This includes Richmond School. Contact: Sherrie Cardillo email: ari2carina@aol.com (flyer attached)

Pet Sitting Needed:

In need of a loving home to watch my puppy for 2 days at Thanksgiving and one week at Christmas. Neela is a 3-1/2 pound toy poodle who is 5 months old. She's gold and soft, loving and silly. She loves to go everywhere and she's very well behaved. She's mostly house trained and loves everyone, including other dogs (she hasn't met other animals yet).

If you want to add a little light to your life for a few days, please call the office and make a reservation!

PTO NEWS

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JOE CORBI FUNDRAISER Pick up

Joe Corbi orders will be in and ready for pick up on Monday, November 14th.

Small orders will be sent home with your child, large orders will need to be picked up in the school cafeteria between 3pm - 5pm.

RICHMOND CRAFT & COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday, November 5 from 10am - 3pm

Come support our school this Saturday at the Richmond Craft & Country Fair!

This year's fair will feature the work of over 45 local Crafters and Artisans, a Silent Auction, a Chinese Auction, the Scholastic Book Fair and various raffles and drawings throughout the day. Our own Tammy Jervas will be preparing homemade lunches, featuring soup, chili, overstuffed sandwiches and baked goods. Bring the whole family. The Kid's Fair will have fun games and activities for the kids, and weather permitting, a hayride!

The fair is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Richmond School and is a much loved community event. Join us for a day filled with unique gift items, homemade food and fun for all ages. It's a great place to do all your holiday shopping!

DINING TO DONATE - FIREFLY

Dine at Firefly in Lenox on Thursday, November 10th and they will donate 20% of your food bill (a la carte menu) to RCS. Just make sure to mention Richmond School when you order. Firefly is open at 5pm for dinner. Reservations can be made by calling 413.637.2700

Spread the word and tell all your family and friends!

Thank you so much to Laura Shack for her generosity.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

ONLINE BOOKFAIR! Starting **OCTOBER 27** and running until **NOVEMBER 7** you can go to www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs, fill in the location and school name spaces, and buy online. You can purchase ANY BOOK Scholastic sells and the credit goes to Richmond School! If you want

something we don't have at our fair, buy it online! For Middle School students who want more sophisticated books than what we carry at the in-school fair, this is a great opportunity to get the books you want while still supporting our school. All books will be delivered the week after the online sale ends, which means approximately November 14th; in plenty of time before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Please remember the **TEACHER WISH LISTS**. These are available on a bulletin board at the entrance to the book fair. You can purchase these books for as many classrooms as you like and they are all Tax Free!

Finally, we are getting involved with Scholastic's **ONE FOR BOOKS** program this year. All proceeds benefit reading program charities that are sponsored by Scholastic. When you donate \$1 in the box provided at our register the money goes to charity but the dollar amount is credited to our school. We then use that credit to buy books for Richmond School. It's like paying half price and supporting 2 schools at the same time!

The Book Fair is an exciting chance to have fun while supporting our children, our classrooms, and our school. All the money we raise buys books and educational materials for our school library and our classes. So get ready and get involved!

If you have any questions please call Jen Yohalem at 698-3023, or email me at jenniferyohalem@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Go to our Book Fair Homepage:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/richmondconsolidated>

From the Superintendent's Office:

Date: 10/24/2011

William S. Ballen, Superintendent of the Richmond Consolidated School was informed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of an upcoming Coordinated Program Review that will be taking place this school year. As part of this Coordinated Program Review, Department staff will visit the district during the week of November 28th, 2011. Such visits are routinely conducted by the Department to satisfy federal and state requirements for the periodic review of specific education programs and services in schools throughout the Commonwealth. The Department is reviewing several programs during a single visit in order to use Department and school staff's time most efficiently and to encourage strong connections among the programs.

The Department's Coordinated Program Review will address the following programs: Special Education, ELL, and Civil Rights. After reviewing school district procedures for these programs, a Department team will make its onsite visit, during which it will review individual student records, interview administrators, teachers and paraprofessional staff, survey parents and observe instructional spaces. After the onsite visit it will prepare a report for the superintendent and school committee, with detailed findings for each program.

Using a scale of ratings ranging from "Commendable" to "Not Implemented," the report will rate the implementation of each requirement reviewed by the Department. Where requirements are found not implemented or only partially implemented, the district must propose to the Department corrective action to bring those areas into compliance with statutes and regulations. Districts and schools are encouraged to incorporate the corrective action into their district and school improvement plans and professional development plan. The school district [or charter school] will be provided with technical assistance from the Department in developing a corrective action plan. Both the Department's report and the corrective action plan are public information and will be available to the public upon request. Program Review Final Reports are also available on the Department's Internet website at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/>.

Any member of the public may request to be interviewed by telephone by a member of the Department's visiting team. Those wishing to be interviewed should call the superintendent's office at 413-698-4001 no later than November 21st, 2011

to leave their name and phone number, or they may call the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at (413) 314-6708. A member of the visiting team will contact each person desiring an interview within two weeks after the completion of the onsite visit. If an individual is not comfortable communicating in English or requires some other accommodation, the Department will make arrangements to communicate appropriately with the individual.