



Père Gabriel Richard Elementary School Newsletter, Sept. 12, 2008

176 McKinley Ave.

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

313-432-4900

Principal, Mary MacDonald-Barrett

Dear Richard Families and Friends,

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year at Richard Elementary School! We are off to a great start, with students busy learning each day. We welcome Susan Tawile as our P.M. half-day kindergarten teacher and as a part time librarian! We also welcome Sharon Steen and MaryJo DeMara as classroom assistants new to our building.

There is much excitement around the school regarding our newly adopted math program: ***Everyday Mathematics***. As I walk through the classrooms, I see students engaged in many mathematical activities and hear them discussing mathematical concepts. No doubt, you will be hearing more about math at home as the school year moves along. To support your student at home, take time to look over the homework assignments and all of the informative parent letters that are sent home. ***Everyday Mathematics*** has been proven to be an excellent program in Michigan and across the United States!

Our school website: <http://www.gpschools.org/richard/> continues to be updated and has a lot of useful information. Our Annual report (PA 25) has been added recently along with the district's revised School Code of Conduct. Please take time to read these important documents.

I am so proud to be a part of Richard School for another great year. Our school has a tradition of excellence and, working together, we continue to do our best for our remarkable students. We have a dedicated staff of teachers who work hard to teach a challenging curriculum. Parents are an important part of our learning community and your support, involvement, suggestions, and ideas are essential for our students' learning. Open communication between school and home helps everyone work together and succeed. We have a great team!

We are looking forward to seeing all of you on **Back-to-School-Night, September 18, at 6:30 p.m.** We will start with a short meeting in the Gym, followed by classroom visitations.

Sincerely,

Mary MacDonald-Barrett, Principal

Welcome Back!!





A big thank you goes to Richard parent, Mrs. Jill McDonnell, of "Sew Simple" for the lovely Roman Shades now hanging in the main office. They are beautiful!!

Questions we heard in the office:

Q. What time does the first bell ring? What are the school hours?

First Bell is 8:25 AM. School begins at 8:29 AM. School ends at 3:40 PM

Q. What time does my first grader eat lunch?

First lunch: EDK, Gr. 1 and 2 eat at 11:34 AM to 11:50 PM

Second lunch: Gr. 3 and 4 eat at 11:50 AM to 12:10 PM

Third lunch: Gr. 5 at 12:10 PM to 12:29PM

Q. Where do I pick up my son?

This depends on the age of your son. The Kindergarten, Gr. 1 and Gr. 2 exit the main door on McKinley Ave. Please wait outside the front of the school building for your student. Grades 3, 4 and 5 exit the playground door.

Q. Can my child ride his bike to school in kindergarten?

We don't recommend a kindergartener ride their bike alone to school. Parental guidance is encouraged. Don't forget a helmet and a lock.

Q. With the election this November and voting in the gymnasium, will there be school? Is there Kids' Club?

No school that day for children and no Kids Club for the district. Remember to get out and vote!

Q. My daughter is having a "welcome back to school party". What is the best way to invite her friends?

Unless the entire class is invited, mail them or hand deliver to their homes. It is easier for everyone if it's done from home. This includes sleepovers, birthday parties, etc.

Q. What is the best way to talk to my child's teacher?

Majority of the staff prefer an email. It is the easiest form of communication. However, if you call their voice mail or drop a handwritten note they will get back to you too!

Picture Day is Tuesday, Sept. 16th... Return your \$\$ and envelope directly to the photographer!!

Look what's happening at Richard...

Sept. 15th	Grades K, 1, 2, 4 and Special Ed	Vision and Hearing Testing begins...
Sept. 16th	All School	Photo Day
Sept. 18th	Parent's Only, 6: 30-8PM	Back-to-School Night
Oct. 2nd	After School—Community Ed	Chess Club Begins
Oct. 3rd	Next newsletter goes home	

Are you moving?

Remember that address changes are processed at the District Board Office located at 389 St. Clair Ave. Please call the Enrollment Office at 432-3083 to schedule an address change appointment. You'll need to provide proof of residency.



On-Line Parent Resources

Grosse Pointe Schools—Curriculum and Instruction

Q: Where can I find the main web page for parent resources?

R: Pointe your browser to: <http://www.gpschools.org/newpub/parents.htm>

Back-to-School Night

Thursday, Sept. 18th, 6:30—8:00 PM .

Come to school, visit the classroom, listen to what the teacher expects and meet the other parents.



This event is adult only! Please don't bring the student (s) or their younger siblings. See the evening's agenda on the separate sheet enclosed.

Thank you!

All Visitors to Richard

Every visitor/volunteer entering Richard during school hours MUST sign in at the office. All visitors/volunteers entering the building MUST have a visitor's badge.

Wearing a badge lets staff and students know you are a safe person in our building.

Please cooperate. Thank you.



NOTICE:

All doors are locked during the day at Richard. Please buzz in and identify yourself. Then go to the office for a visitors/volunteer badge.



A big thank you to Cynthia, Natalie, and Margaret S., along with Debbie and Sarah B. for helping collate the first day packets. Your help was greatly appreciated!!

ATTENDANCE LINE

Please be sure to call the Richard attendance line at 432-4901 with all absences/late arrivals by 8:45 AM. The attendance line is a dedicated line and it's available 24/7. If you know of a future absence (trip, appointment, funeral, etc.) please let the office know. Your cooperation will save considerable amount of time spent calling to locate your child. Thank you.



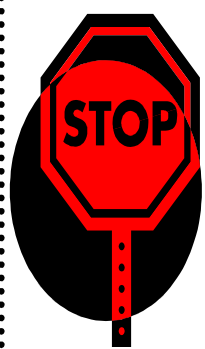
STUDENT PICK-UP DURING SCHOOL

To assure a safe and authorized pick up of children during the day, please come to the office to sign out your child. The office will contact your child's teacher and your child will be sent to the office to meet you. It is helpful if you write a note to the teacher indicating what time the child will be picked up that day. Parents should not go directly to the classroom to release a child. Students MUST be picked up in the office.

Note: A child will only be released to the persons listed on their emergency form.

Drop Off and Pick Up of Students

1. When dropping off or picking up students, please remember NOT to double park in front of the school. It's very dangerous.
2. McKinley Ave. is a NO PARKING zone. Please be considerate of others (neighbors across the street from our building), by using this area for drop off or pick up only. **Police will ticket anyone** parked in front of our school. Parents, you are encouraged to call the Farms police and report any repeat offenders.



3. Don't leave kids unattended in your cars. Never leave your automobile. If you must come into the building, park behind our building off McMillan or behind Rite Aid. Never park in the handicap spot, as we have parents/teachers who need that spot.
4. Consider parking down the street and crossing Ridge Rd. with the crossing guard. This works well for many of our students and eliminates the Kercheval—McKinley "bottleneck."
5. Never use Ridge Rd. as a drop off or pick up location. It's dangerous and your car would be parked on the wrong side of the street.

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Have you signed and returned all your necessary paperwork for the office/school or your teacher?



If you have, thank you. If you still need to do it, PLEASE DO IT NOW!!

RICHARD STAFF VOICEMAIL AND E MAIL, 2008-09

Communication between parents and the school is important for your child's success, but we ask you to respect the teacher's privacy by NOT CALLING THEM AT HOME.

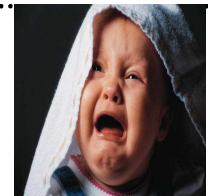
If you have messages or concerns pertaining to your child or school activities, please use voicemail or email. Response times may vary by teacher, however, they will return your call or email at their earliest convenience.

If your message is urgent, please call the office at 432-4900. Don't use the voice mail system for student messages. Student messages will be relayed more efficiently via the office.

NOTE: All phone numbers and email addresses are on the web.

Attention 5th grade students and parents:

A tradition at Richard is to send in a baby picture of your son/daughter which is used for a bulletin board later on in the school year.



Please send them to the office as soon as possible. Put your name on the back of the picture so it can be returned. A nice face or head shot, age 6mos.—3 years and expressing their personality is suggested.

Don't delay, do it today. Make sure your child is represented.

Calling all parents to work on the playground during the lunch recess.

Spend an hour quality time with your student and classmates supervising outdoors.

The fall season is upon us and we can use your help. Plan to arrive at 11:25, sign in, get your badge and patrol the grounds, keeping our kids safe.

Thanks.

**CONFERENCE SIGN UP SHEETS
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT BACK-
TO-SCHOOL NIGHT, IN THE GYM.**

**BEST TIMES GO QUICKLY, SIGN
UP THAT NIGHT. AFTERWARD,
THEY WILL BE POSTED IN THE
MAIN HALLWAY.**



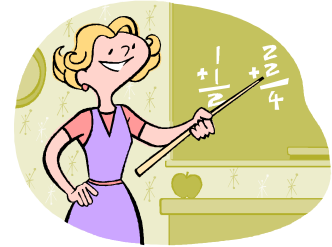
Thanks

Thank you Julia B., Griffin M., Lisa and Brenna K. for your help as tour guides at the Aug. 25th, New Student Open House. You were wonderful representatives of Richard and your help was greatly appreciated.

The Richard PTO

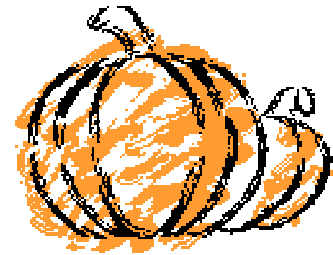
September

- 2 – Staff Appreciation Breakfast
- 8 – Sally Foster Gift Wrap Packet Sent Home, Orders Begin
- Market Day Orders Due
- School Board Meeting, Grosse Pointe South Wicking Library, 8:00 p.m.
- 9 – P.T.O Meeting, Richard Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 – Market Day Pick-Up, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Scripts Orders (On-line and Paper) with Payment Due
- 19 – Sally Foster Gift Wrap Ordering Ends



October

- 6 - Market Day Orders Due
- 13 - Market Day Pick-Up, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- School Board Meeting, Grosse Pointe South Library, 8:00 p.m.
- 15 – Sally Foster Gift Wrap Delivered
- 19 – Pumpkin Party, 3 - 5 p.m.
- Book Fair Begins Today
- 20 – Box Tops First Count Due
- 21 - P.T.O. Meeting, Richard Gym, 7:00 p.m
- 22 - Coney Night, 5 – 8 p.m. Book Fair Evening Hours
- 24 – Book Fair Ends
- 31 – Thomas Plunkard Halloween Magic Show, Richard Gym, 12:45 p.m. (Your P.T.O. membership and fundraising dollars at work.) Parade to follow



IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL PARENTS-

There have been a few cases of head lice in our community. It is extremely important for you to check your child's head frequently. It is sometimes difficult to detect them when the infestation is in the beginning stage. Please keep checking every 2 days until there are no head lice found for 10 consecutive days. □ Teach children not to share combs, brushes, hair ornaments, hats, caps, scarves, headsets, or any other personal headgear.

- Do not try on other people's hats (even in department stores).
- Teach children to hang coats separately - placing hats and scarves inside coat/jacket sleeves.
- Clean or disinfect shared headgear (i.e., helmets) with Lysol® or rubbing alcohol before being used by others.
- Conduct regular head checks of your child.

If head lice are found on your child, please notify the school and go to:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Final_Michigan_Head_Lice_Manual_103750_7.pdf

The Richard P.T.O. Points

Welcome back! It's hard to believe that the summer is already over and we're back at school. I wish you all a smooth transition and peaceful household during this busy time of year. For the P.T.O., our busy year started in August with a flurry of activity. Thanks go out to Melissa Wenzler, our Vice President, for once again doing an amazing job on our P.T.O. Welcome Packets. Thank you also to Stacy Calcaterra, Terri Voytowich and their crew of dedicated volunteers for putting on an amazing "Welcome Back" breakfast for our teachers on September 2. Of course, we also have Stacy, Terri and Laura Poplawski to thank for the adorable Richard shirts and goodie bags that went home with all of our new kindergarteners on their first day. And, I can't forget to thank Mary Beth Austin and Carol Campau for working so hard to fill our main showcase with a terrific Sally Foster display. Finally, thank you to Amy Galsterer for making our school look extra welcoming by planting some beautiful pots.

Speaking of improvements to the school, please take a moment to stop by the playground up on Messner Field and check out our new piece of playground equipment. We were able to purchase it with money raised by the Richard Movie Mania Carnival. It should provide many happy hours of climbing for many children.

I am pleased to report that I now have in my possession a check for over \$55,000. This money arrived courtesy of the school board who found the funds to reimburse us for half the money we raised to complete the air conditioning project. We will be using this money to make major technological improvements in each classroom. The teachers, our district technology specialist, Mrs. MacDonald-Barrett and Cynthia Sohn will be working hard this fall to determine what pieces of equipment will best enhance Richard's learning environment. I'll keep you posted on their progress.

I have already been asked about recycling. I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP! I am still working on this project and will continue to update you.

Please be sure and look through your P.T.O. Welcome Packets carefully. There are many opportunities to volunteer and we appreciate any and all help.

In addition, please support our Sally Foster fundraiser. It really is some of the best wrapping paper around and you get a lot of paper for the money. As we have cut down on the number of fundraisers we're doing (while still providing the same services), your support is greatly appreciated. The sale began September 8 and will run through September 19. Please direct any questions to Mary Beth Austin, 881-3440 or Carol Campau, 886-2285.

Market Day, Scrips and Richardwear are up and running. Feel free to begin placing your orders. You will find information on all three in your P.T.O. Welcome Packet, but if you have questions, please contact Laura Clutterbuck, 642-0523 or Kathy Rosati, 886-1478 regarding Market Day, Melissa Rizer, 343-0924 or Michelle Sloan, 882-2644 regarding SCRIPS and Laura Poplawski, 885-6975 regarding Richardwear. These services are provided by the P.T.O. to help make your life a little easier and our school a little better.

Now is also the time to start clipping those box tops in earnest. This is a truly easy way to help raise money for Richard and our children love the competition. Box tops should be trimmed and put into a labeled baggie and then sent in to your child's classroom. If you have any questions, please call Pam and Allyn MacKay at 642-0068.

Please save October 19 from 3:00- 5:00 p.m. to attend the Pumpkinfest and the opening day of the Book Fair. Thank you again for supporting Richard and the P.T.O.!

All the best,

Laura Huebner,

Richard P.T.O. President
