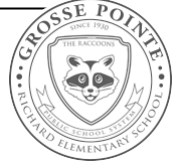




RACCOON NEWS

Presented by the PTO



Issue No. 2 | December 2022

STOP, DROP, AND GO!

Ensuring our students have a safe arrival and departure from school is top priority at Richard. With the help of our 4th grade Safety Patrol, and McKinley crossing guard Ms. Barbara, our pedestrian traffic is in good hands when going to and from school.

While we are continuously brainstorming for new ideas on how to keep our drop off and pick up traffic moving, Ricky took matters into his own hands in November. You may have seen our beloved Ricky working hard to direct traffic, and although we cannot rely on his daily help, we learned that it is possible to have a continuously moving drop off lane! The parent response was overwhelmingly positive so we know that the drop off lanes can move efficiently if we all do our part. Let's continue to work together to make every day at drop off a success.

As the weather continues to get colder, we will have more students get dropped off via car. Please review the pick up and drop off rules at the end of this newsletter so we can all do our part to keep traffic moving (and our students safe) at drop off.



Our 4th Grade Safety Patrol getting sworn in on September 8, 2022.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE RICHARD PTO!

We are so grateful for our amazing Richard community. Our students, faculty, staff, and families are what makes Richard the BEST school around! As 2022 comes to a close (nobody panic!), it is easy to reflect on how fortunate we are to be a part of such a wonderful place. From day one, our halls have been full of chatter, smiles, encouragement, and community. Our students thrive daily because of the support they get from school and from home. We are looking forward to all the fun events planned this holiday season and look forward to continuing to work together so our children feel confident, inspired, safe, and valued during their time at Richard.

Enjoy this last month of 2022 and have a wonderful holiday season!

*Hannah Hiller, Maureen Kruse, Shelayne Miller,
Sarah Pereira, Sherene Winkler, Kristina Junga, and
Rebecca Fannon*



FAMILY FUNCTIONS AND KEY TOPICS



Richard students at the Peace, Love and Planet assembly on November 15, 2022. Students were taught to "Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle" and they actually measured 3 different categories of lunch waste. They measured the different amounts of food waste, packaging, and recycling that are generated at lunchtime.

PTO CONTRIBUTIONS TO RICHARD

Thanks to the ongoing and generous support of our Richard families, the PTO has funded many recent projects at Richard. Some of these items are in addition to the already budgeted items that the PTO funds yearly. All of this would not be possible without you! Below is a glimpse of our recent fundings:

- \$3500 for the Gaga Ball Pit Tiles
- \$1500 for a sensory walk on the 2nd floor of the school
- \$1035 in classroom supplies for teachers
- \$800 for the Assembly for Love, Peace and Planet
- \$795 for the Jim "Basketball" Jones Assembly
- \$700 in candy for the Trunk or Treat
- \$582 for Teachers' Lounge snacks
- \$345 for Beautification around the school, such as pumpkins and fall decor

PTO FUNDRAISING RESULTS ARE IN

Fall was a busy time with our fundraising efforts and, thanks to our very generous Richard families, we had a successful start to the year. Below are the results of the funds raised for our school so far!

Holiday Shopping Event, Charleston Wrap: \$2,440

Haunted Garage: TBD

Book Fair: \$3779.23 in Scholastics Dollars

Fun Run: \$35,000

4th Grade Boosters: \$344

Amazon Smile: \$600

Company Donation Matches: \$1600+ YTD

KEY DATES

December 6: PTO Meeting - Childcare provided 7-8:15pm

December 6: Communities United in Diversity (Monteith)

December 9: Movie Night in the Richard Gym 6:00 PM

December 12: Board meeting

December 14: Richard Holiday Mart

December 15: SNOWPILE donations due

Dec 26-Jan 3: Winter Break

January 16: Martin Luther King Day. NO SCHOOL.

January 19: Communities United in Diversity (Parcells)

January 20: Half Day. Records Day

February 20-24: Mid-Winter Break

HOLIDAY MART AT RICHARD

Our annual Holiday Mart is taking place on December 14th. This is a fun opportunity for students to shop for loved ones. All items are \$1 and wrapped for easy gifting. Students will shop with their teacher during school. The Holiday Mart will also be open for one hour after school on December 14th.



Students shopping at the Holiday Mart in 2021

EASY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PTO

Our PTO is a 501(c)(3) organization, which means your employer can match your contributions to the Richard PTO! Most employers use a company called [Benevity.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3594312) which facilitates the donation match.

Do you know about AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support our PTO every time you shop, at no cost to you. Once signed up, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases directly to the PTO. There are currently 105 Richard families signed up with the PTO as their charity. If anyone wants to connect our PTO to their amazon account, they can follow the instructions at this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3594312>

DROP -OFF & PICK-UP AT RICHARD

PICKUP AND DROP OFF ARE DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY AS THE WEATHER CONTINUES TO CHANGE. WITH SPACE BEING LIMITED AROUND RICHARD, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REMEMBER A FEW THINGS TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE!



RICHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1930 AND WAS DESIGNED WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT CHILDREN WOULD WALK TO SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL SET UP IS NOT IDEAL FOR MASS VEHICULAR CONGESTION AND POSES A SAFETY RISK TO OUR CHILDREN, OUR FAMILIES, AND TEACHERS WHEN CARS ARE PARKED IN DESIGNATED DROP OFF AREAS. PLEASE ADHERE TO THE POSTED "NO PARKING" OR "ONE WAY" SIGNAGE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY DURING SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP.



THERE'S NO PARKING ON MCKINLEY ONCE YOU GET TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. PLEASE DROP YOUR CHILD OFF AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THE NEXT PARENT CAN PULL UP. THERE'S NO PARKING AND ABSOLUTELY NO LEAVING YOUR VEHICLE UNATTENDED. MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR EXTRA HUGS AND HIGH-FIVES BEFORE DROP-OFF! STOP, DROP, AND GO! ON MCKINLEY, ONLY DROP YOUR CHILD OFF USING THE DRIVER'S SIDE DOOR. THIS ELIMINATES YOUR CHILD FROM STEPPING INTO TRAFFIC. Y5 AND K TEACHERS ARE OUTSIDE AT 8:45 TO LINE UP THEIR CLASSROOMS. PLEASE ARRIVE FOR DROP OFF AS CLOSE TO 8:45 AS POSSIBLE SO YOU CAN "DROP AND GO."

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WATCH YOUR STUDENT ENTER THE BUILDING, WALK THEM TO THEIR ENTRY DOOR. STREET PARKING IS AVAILABLE FURTHER DOWN MCKINLEY, SOME PLACES ON RIDGE, KERCHEVAL, OR DOWN ANY SIDE STREET.



WHEN ENTERING OUR PARKING LOT, PLEASE BE SURE TO DRIVE AROUND THE CIRCLE AND NOT TURN LEFT AT THE FIRST OPENING. OUR PARKING LOT IS ONE WAY ALL AROUND! NO SHORT CUTS PLEASE!

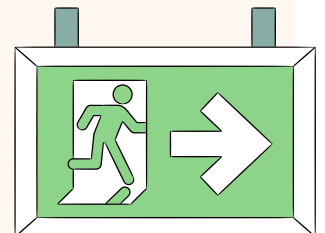


THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE CIRCLE OR ON MCMILLAN. SCHOOL BUSES NEED SAFE AND IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO THIS AREA.



USE THE BACK PARKING LOT CIRCLE TO DROP OFF YOUR OLDER STUDENTS. SIMPLY PULL IN AND USE YOUR PASSENGER SIDE DOOR TO LET THEM OUT. THEN KEEP MOVING.

WHEN IN OUR LOT, PLEASE ONLY USE THE PASSENGER SIDE DOORS TO LET YOUR STUDENTS OUT.



LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS! PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ALL DESIGNATED PICK-UP DROP-OFF FAMILY MEMBERS.

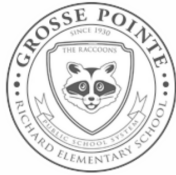


WE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE GROSSE POINTE FARMS POLICE TO HELP US MONITOR THE SITUATION AND INCREASE THEIR PRESENCE BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL TO SUPPORT STUDENT SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

On behalf of the PTO, we thank all of our Richard parents and teachers for your support in helping to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for our students. If you are interested in getting involved, then please reach out to any of our PTO members for more info.

SMALL BUT MIGHTY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE RICHARD PTO ALL YEAR

Scan the codes with your phone camera



Order stationery, decor, holiday cards, and gifts at www.minted.com. Use code **FUNDRAISEPGRE** at checkout to receive 20% off. Minted will donate 15% of your total order to our school!

Shop at Kroger? Enroll in Community Rewards and connect your Kroger Plus Card to RICHARD PTO. A portion of your spending (usually 0.5%) will be donated back to the school.



AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Richard PTO. Be sure to set up your account and select the **Pere Gabriel Richard Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization** as your charitable organization to support. Visit smile.amazon.com

**BECOME A PTO MEMBER TODAY!
SEND \$25 VIA VENMO OR VIA
CHECK TO SCHOOL- PAYABLE TO
PERE GABRIEL RICHARD PTO**



venmo

SCAN FOR
PTO RESOURCES



JOIN THE CONVERSATION...

**RICHARD PTO + FAMILIES
FACEBOOK GROUP AND
INSTAGRAM**

NEED RICHARD WEAR? ORDER HERE

<p>Grade Color Richard Cotton T-Shirts \$14.00 \$18.20 SELECT OPTIONS</p>	<p>Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt \$32.50 SELECT OPTIONS</p>	<p>Colorblock Cotton 3/4 Sleeve Jersey \$19.50 SELECT OPTIONS</p>	<p>Girls Pink Hooded Pullover Sweatshirt \$32.50 SELECT OPTIONS</p>
<p>Performance Short Sleeve Tee \$20.00 SELECT OPTIONS</p>	<p>1/4 zip Cadet Collar Sweatshirt \$45.50 SELECT OPTIONS</p>	<p>Long Sleeve Cotton Tee \$19.50 SELECT OPTIONS</p>	<p>Youth Zip Up Lightweight Moisture-Wicking Jacket SELECT OPTIONS</p>

RICHARD FAMILIES, DID YOU KNOW THAT PLASTIC BAGS CAN BE RECYCLED?

Our community does not accept plastic bags in the curbside bins BUT they can be taken to most local grocery stores or supermarkets, like Kroger, Meijer, and Target!

Most drop-off collections accept polyethylene film. This includes high-density polyethylene (HDPE or #2) and low-density polyethylene (#4 or LDPE). Some bags have the markings, if they don't, here are the guidelines and the plastic bag types that can go in the drop-off bins:



Plastic shopping bags (from any store – remove receipts, food, etc,)

Food packaging (Ziplock type bags)

Bread bags

Plastic liners from cereal boxes (can't be recycled if they tear like paper)

Dry cleaning bags (remove staples, tags or anything else)

Plastic newspaper wrapping

Product wrapping (such as covers a case of water bottles, etc

Bubble wrap and air pillows (popped)

Plastic shipping envelopes (remove labeling)

All materials need to be clean and dry – if the material is contaminated with food residue, it will contaminate the entire batch, and this applies to all recycling in general!

Plastics that need to go in the trash:

Frozen food bags

Cereal box liners that tear like paper

Biodegradable bags

Pre-washed salad bags

Candy bar wrappers

Chip bags

Six-pack rings

Kroger runs a program called “Be a Zero Hero: Recycle that plastic” that has in-store drop-off bins and mailing options. Over the past three years, the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste program has recycled more than 180 million pounds of plastic. That's a lot of plastic kept from going in landfills and the ocean! Check it out!