Dear Richard Families and Friends,

As parents and educators, we are always seeking ways to motivate children and help them achieve as much as possible. Many adults praise children, thinking that it will help them succeed and build confidence, using comments such as these:

“You are so smart. You didn’t even have to study and you got 100%!”

“Your science project is the best one. You’re an Einstein!”

“You will make the All Star team if you keep playing like that!”

We all have praised our children in ways like these. In fact, even teachers and coaches have done the same. While parents have the best intentions and have children’s self-esteem in mind, current research has shown that praise can be detrimental, unless it focuses on effort instead of on intelligence or natural talent.

This important research suggests that praising our kids for effort goes a long way toward increasing their feelings of success and fulfillment. When our kids achieve success, we need to remember to praise them for their hard work instead of merely saying, “You are so smart!” For more information about this, read Mindset: The New Psychology of Success, by Carol S. Dweck, Ph. D. I highly recommend visiting the website: http://mindsetonline.com/. Please take a look, it’s very worthwhile.

Do you have a “growth mindset” or a “fixed mindset?” For those of you with a few spare minutes, please view the following videos to learn more.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPNeu07i52w&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1&safe=active&noredirect=1

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTsF2TaEaJA

We can all be mindful of praising effort instead of ability and can use this information to help motivate our children and develop a “growth mindset.”

Your partner in education,

Mary MacDonald-Barrett

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**Winter Weather**

Richard Students will go outdoors to recess two times a day unless the wind chill is below zero degrees Fahrenheit. All students must have boots and snow pants to play on the hill. Otherwise they must stay on the blacktop.

Please be sure your child comes to school properly dressed for the winter weather. Also, please write your child’s name on their gloves, hats, boots, and coat. Right now our LOST and FOUND is full of these items with no names.
Golden Awards

Golden Note Award Winners
K-1  Mrs. Bayster/Brown
2-3  Ms. K. Schmitz
4-5  Mrs. Cole

Golden Paintbrush Award Winners
K-1  Mrs. Tawile
2-3  Ms. Gerlach
4-5  Mrs. Wrosch – Mrs. Cole

Safety Patrol Awards
December - Kaitlin I.

Golden Shoe Award Winners
K-2  Mrs. Murphy
3-5  Mr. Havern

Golden Book Award Winners
K-1  Mrs. Kelly
2-3  Mrs. Murphy
3-5  Ms. Gerlach

Spot Awards
Ryan E.
Madeline A.
Zachary V.
Kelsie G.

Family Center
The Family Center is the go-to resource for parents, caregivers, and professionals who want to better navigate the challenges of raising children in today’s busy world. For information on upcoming seminars for parents and caregivers, go to www.familycenterweb.org or call 313-432-3822.

Congratulations!
Allison T.—Finalist in “Future Chefs of America”
Honor W.—Finalist in “Future Chefs of America”

Thank you for Being on Time for School
Thank you for reminding your son or daughter of the importance of being on time for school. Just a reminder that the tardy bell rings at 8:25 AM and all students should be in their classroom ready to learn. If your son or daughter is tardy, remember to have them enter the building through the parking lot door.

Richard Blood Drive
A blood drive was held on Monday, February 4th at Richard and 30 pints of blood were collected. Thanks to all the men and women that took the time and donated the “Gift of Life.”

Dates to Remember

February
2-13-13—Count Day
2-13-13—PTO Meeting—7PM—Library
2-18-13 to 2-22-13—Midwinter Break
2-19-13—TCBY Fundraiser

March
3-19-13—TCBY Fundraiser
3-20-13—Evening Conferences
3-21-13—All Day/Evening Conferences
3-29 to 4-5-13—Spring Break
Attention Fifth Grade Parents...

We are beginning development of the 5th Grade Graduation slide show/video. In order to make sure every child is represented we need your help!

1. Please gather a few photos (3-5 photos) of your student during his/her time at Richard Elementary (e.g. class parties, recess, concerts, etc).  
   
   NOTE:  
   Photos should be school related “snapshots”.  
   Please no studio shots that are taken at beginning of school year.

2. Convert your photos into a digital photo file (e.g.-.jpg, .png); no pdfs please.

3. Email photos to mlappguevara@aol.com before Spring Break – March 29. In the email include your student’s name and teacher. Call Mary with questions: 313-702-7893.
Kids Against Hunger

Kids Against Hunger is a nonprofit humanitarian food aid organization with the mission to significantly reduce the number of undernourished children around the corner in the United States and starving children around the world. The fully nutritious meals are packaged by volunteers and delivered to starving families with the help of worldwide partners.

Every minute 12 children die from starvation. Kids Against Hunger food packages are a rice and soy casserole fortified with 21 essential vitamins and minerals, 6 dehydrated vegetables and chicken flavoring. This soy (52% protein) and nutrient-rich formula reverses the starvation process. Kids Against Hunger food packages each contain 6 servings and each bag is prepared in less than 20 minutes by adding it to boiling water.

On February 5, members of the GP community came to the gym at Grosse Pointe North High School and helped packed 10,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger.

Two Richard families: the family of Austin W., 5th grade and Griffin W., 2nd grade and the family of Aidan O., 5th grade and Ava O., 3rd grade helped the assembly line.
Camp Invention Early Registration Discount

Creativity and brainstorming are the building blocks to your child’s future! Camp Invention® emphasizes those skills and more. Parcells Middle School is proud to be among the select schools in Michigan that will serve as a host site during the week of June 24 – June 28, 2013. Register by March 28, 2013, and save $25 off of the base registration rate! You can save an additional $5 if you register online! You can secure your child’s reservation with only a $50 deposit. Our camp fills every year, so don’t miss out.

At camp, children will create exciting new games and transform ordinary household items into extraordinary inventions during this weeklong summer adventure for students entering grades 1-6. Children will participate daily in five activity-oriented modules focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math.) This year’s module is GEO-Quest. We invite your child to join us on an international expedition and navigate their way through a treasure-filled world while solving global challenges.

Debra Duffey, a teacher at Parcells Middle School, will direct the camp and local teachers will teach the five modules. High school and college students will serve as camp counselors. The camp features a low staff-to-participant ratio of 1:8.

The camp fee includes an afternoon snack and a T-shirt. Registration for each camp is limited to 110 children, so register early. In addition to registering online, you may also register at 1-800-968-4332, via fax at 330-849-8528 or by mail at Camp Invention, 3701 Highland Park NW, North Canton, OH 44720. For more information, visit the Web site at www.campinvention.org or contact Michigan’s Regional Coordinator, Patricia Holmes, at pholmes@INVENT.ORG or 800-968-4332 ext. 6890 or contact Camp Director, Debra Duffey, at debra.duffey@gpschools.org or 313-432-5341.
BOX TOPS

Box Tops are due **FEBRUARY 15, 2013**. Please submit all of your Box Tops to your classroom by that date. Also, if you have not already done so, please visit the Box Tops website: [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to check on our progress, as well as enter into daily and monthly sweepstakes for e-Box Tops. You can also shop at over 175 online retailers through the Box Tops Marketplace and earn Richard more Box Tops, with no additional cost to you! Clipping those little squares really makes a difference at our school … thanks for your continued participation. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy O’Keefe at sandyokeefe@comcast.net.

FAMILY FUNCTIONS

SAVE THE DATE: Family Functions is planning another dance party at the Richard gym on **FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST from 6:00 – 8:00 pm**.

“**Volunteers don’t just do the work – they make it work.**” – Carol Pettit

We are looking to fill PTO positions for next year. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Jean Leonard at: jmleonard425@hotmail.com

BOOK FAIR

The PTO is happy to report that the Book Fair was such a success, that we are able to give classroom teachers $300 in Scholastic books to supplement their classroom libraries and $1,000 to the Library to supplement the whole school library.

RICHARD READS

Our next check-in dates are **Friday, February 8th** and **Monday, February 11th**. Carnival preparations are under way and you will be receiving further information on that by way of a take-home flyer. The kids are doing great. Please encourage them to keep READING!!!! Also, we will be partnering with TEAM REACH to do a “gently” used book collection March 4th – March 8th at lunch to benefit the Voyager Academy in Detroit. Every student who donates will receive **5 bonus tickets** for the Richard READS carnival.
Dear Richard Family,

As you may have heard by now, my last day as the Richard Art Teacher will be February 28th. After 40 years as an art teacher I will be retiring. I just want to thank you for letting me share and experience art and the humanities with your children. I hope you’ve enjoyed all the art projects we’ve done together.

I will be retired, but not gone, as I will still be part of the Grosse Pointe community.

With all my caring,

Mrs. Kathie Hilton

P.S. “Sha na na na na na,  Sha na na na na na na, hey, hey ,
Good-Bye.”
TEAM REACH UPDATE -

We want to thank all of the bakers and buyers that participated in the Dec. bake sale. It was a huge success, raising $811! The Wayne Elementary school was appreciative of the new books that they received and we are working closely with the Go-Lightly Education Center to help them with their needs. Ms. Briggs and Mr. Stemmler’s class are the lucky recipients of a snack party for their class participation!

The student council put on Spirit Wear Day in January, and raised over $120. This money was used to purchase hand warmers which were delivered to a homeless warming shelter in Detroit. A huge help to them during these cold winter days!

In conjunction with reading month in March, we will be doing a “gently used” book collection. The books will be donated to the Voyager Academy in Detroit. One of our Richard parents is the reading specialist at this school and has indicated that their students are in great need of book at all reading levels. Please take some time to skim through your bookshelves to see if there are any books that you can share with others!

Thank you for all of your support!

Susie Sine & Sharlene Schulte