

March 1, 2010

# From the Principal's Desk

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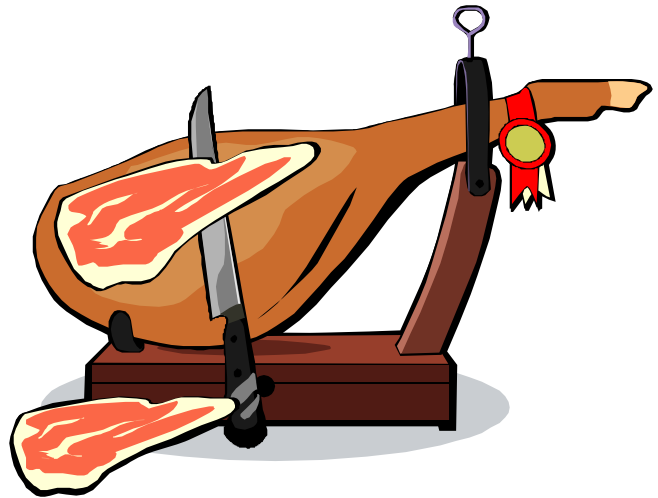
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## Websites worth Looking at

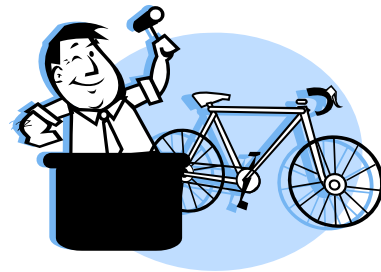
- [www.richfieldschool.org](http://www.richfieldschool.org)
- [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com)
- [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)

## PTO and Fire Department Annual Ham Dinner

You should have it already marked on your calendar. March 6th is the annual Ham Dinner at Richfield School. The PTO has been hard at work preparing for the event, which, once again, looks to be a great hit. There will be great food, great auction items, and great conversations with friends and relatives. Proceeds from the event support both the PTO and local Volunteer Fire Department. This year, the PTO has supported the students in the area of: Field Trips, Reward Assemblies, Classroom Materials and Equipment, and of course the Richfield PTO Scholarship Award. Food will be served from 4:00 to 6:00, with the auction beginning at 6:00.



This annual event is supported by all members of the community. Be sure to come by and join in with the fun. We would love to have you!!



## Reward Day brings BMX Bikers to Richfield

That's right. We will be hosting a 45 minute BMX Flatland show for those students who demonstrated good behavior during the first half of the school year. The program will begin at 1:30 on the blacktop. If it is raining, which it may if this weather keeps up, we will

be in the gym. Just a reminder, good behavior is any student with no more than 2 pink slips or referrals prior to Christmas Break. Student must also have received a C or better in Accelerated Reader. Thank you PTO for sponsoring such an event and

recognizing positive behavior at school. Should be a blast!!



## The State Budget and Impacts on Richfield

You can't avoid it. It is everywhere. Seems like everyday the paper is reporting another local school district laying off staff due to the economic woes of the state. The amount of cuts and deferrals school districts are facing has been massive over the last two years. For this current school year alone, the state is only funding 81% of the amount districts should be receiving. On top of that, there was a one time \$250 per ADA (Average Daily Attendance) reduction in revenue. Richfield entered this year with well over \$100,000 in revenue reduction. The district took action last year by cutting classroom aide time, placing a freeze on administrator's salary increase, as well as other areas. In addition, the district increased

enrollment to help offset the reduction in revenue. We are at full capacity in the upper grades and close to the max in lower grades. These measures followed the previous year cuts including the area of transportation. Last year, the federal government assisted with one-time stimulus money to help save jobs. That money will run out in the next school year. Despite the above cuts and revenue offsets, the district will still face a deficit in the current year.

As we move to next year, the governor is proposing to keep the funding level at 81% with another \$214 per ADA on-going cut, on top of that. To Richfield School it would mean another \$53,000 for next year. To put it in perspec-

tive, the cuts over the last two years equates to \$300,000 to Richfield School. Add to these cuts the yearly increases in expenditures, including Step and Column increases to salaries, increased administration fees for Collective Bargaining with RTA, and general operating expenses, the challenges to the district is exponential.

The next few months, the district will again be looking at cuts for the next year. Richfield continues to ask for your patience and understanding as we work through the lack of monetary resources. Finally, our goal has not changed, and that is to provide the best in quality of education for your children.

*"Most people are about as happy as they make their mind up to be."  
-Abraham Lincoln*

### Negotiations Update

The progress towards a successful Collective Bargaining Agreement between the district and RTA is moving forward. Three more meetings have been scheduled through April. It is the district's desire to finish the Agreement in this fiscal year. There remains a few outstanding issues and both parties are working to solve them.

As this process approaches two full years of negotiating, the district is very hopeful to ratify an agreement by the end of this school year. We will keep you posted.



### SCHOOLWIDE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Richfield Teaching Staff is currently analyzing its reading and math programs. In that process, we have identified three areas for targeted improvement. 1) Tiered intervention program 2) Schoolwide calendaring and collaboration, and 3) Identifying Core Reading/Language Arts Program. Teachers will be visiting other schools and looking at different models of inter-

vention programs. In addition, the School Site Council will be sending home Parent/Community Surveys to get your feedback on the school and its programs. When you get these surveys, please put some thought into your responses. We will use these to develop a Schoolwide Improvement Plan. It is all about continuous improvement. On another note, we

are looking to also improve upon our Schoolwide Positive Behavior Planning. Even in these tough financial times, we are looking to better our existing programs.

