Eat Ice Cream, Don’t Bake!
Our Fall Fund Drive (the “No Bake”) will kick in to gear at the First Annual TOPS Music and Ice Cream Social on Sunday October 5th from 1-4 p.m.! See the attached flyer for details on this fun event. Contact Karen Stuhldreher or Brad Angell with questions.

No School on Oct 10th
There will be no school on Friday October 10th for Professional Development.

TOPICS News
The first TOPICS of the year will be held on Friday Oct 3rd from 1-3. Contact Sarah Marks if you can teach or help teach one of these cool mini courses. If you could use some guidance, or a refresher, Sarah will lead an informative hour long “HOW TO TEACH A TOPICS’ session on Wednesday, October, 8th from 5:00 to 6:00 PM in classroom C104. Also, you are more than welcome to join Sarah during a TOPICS session to be an observer/helper to see how the flow of a TOPICS session goes. You can contact her at slmarks@seattleschools.org or call the office at 252-3510 and they’ll stick a note in her mailbox.

All TOPICS will be on Fridays from 1-3. TOPICS dates and themes for this year are:
- Oct. 3rd
- Nov. 7th
- Dec. 12th
- Jan. 16th (Social Justice)
- March 13th
- March 27th
- April 24th (Cultures of our World)
- May 8th (Earth Day)

Back to School Packets
A packet was sent home with the youngest child in each family. Almost all of them have been returned! If you have not filled out your forms please do it as soon as possible and return them to school. If you need extra copies of anything or have any questions, please contact Maureen at mwgermani@seattleschools.org or 545-1771.

Schedule Conferences Now
Conferences will be held on Nov. 24th-26th. Note that the timing has changed from previous years (three full days of no school vs. more than a week of early dismissals in the past.) If you didn’t sign up for a time at curriculum night then contact your child’s teacher now to do so. Middle School families can call the office 252-3510 to schedule their conference.
**Picture Day**

Picture Days will be Oct 14th and 15th. Keep an eye out for an envelope/order form. Talk to Don Zemke if you have questions leave a message at 252-3510 or email dwzemke@seattleschools.org.

**REAL Green Card Policy**

If your child needs a “green card” to ride a bus other than their own, you **MUST** send a written note, either by hand or by fax, to the office. For years Helen allowed us parents to sneak by with phone calls because she recognized so many voices, but now the real policy must be followed. The TOPS fax number is 206.252.3511. Notes can be put on file for repeated green card needs; include the dates the card will be needed. In any note, include the bus number and the stop where your child will get off. It’s also good to list who your child will be going home with if that is relevant. Need a green card? **SEND A NOTE!**

**Communicating at TOPS**

Are you as connected as you can be? Almost all of the classes at TOPS maintain email lists and/or Yahoo groups to communicate. If you aren’t receiving emails (and would like to!) contact your classroom rep to get on the list (your teacher can tell you how to contact the room rep). TOPS Middle School families communicate via a Yahoo group. To join the group, click the “middle school news” link on the 6th-8th grade class pages of the TOPS website: www.topsk8.org. If you have any questions contact Staci Delgado at staci.delgado@kingcounty.gov. Another potential source of information is the TOPS_Info Yahoo group. This is used infrequently—mainly when the School District starts threatening to close us down or change our assignment process. To sign up go to groups.yahoo.com search TOPS_Info and follow the directions (alternatively, contact Sheri Toussaint).

**Paris! London! -- Spring Break 2009**

You can still sign up to go with Marianne, TOPS families, and their friends on next year’s spring break trip to Paris with a London add-on. Students can travel with or without their parents. (Parents can even come without their kids, for that matter!) Go to www.explorica.com. Enter the Tour Center ID Trangen-7064 in the box For Students and Parents to get details. Questions? Contact Marianne at mptrangen@seattleschools.org. **Please note that last year’s prices will be available to all who sign up by September 30.**

**Middle School Survey**

TOPS will be administering the Healthy Youth Survey to our 6th-grade and 8th-grade students on Thursday, October 16th. 6th-graders and 8th-graders will receive a flyer about the survey attached to this week’s go-home. Parents may take a look at the survey in the office. For more information, please go to http://www.hys.wa.gov/Administration/ParentBrochures.aspx for Parent and Student Information Flyers provided in English and Spanish.

**Site Council**
Site Council meetings are generally the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-7 and are held in the library. All TOPS Community members are always welcome to come to the meetings and provide input. Contact Susan Welch with questions or input.

**Lunchroom News**
The District will no longer provide an assistant in the lunchroom. Annie Meyer is looking for a parent to help out 11:30-12:30 every day. Contact her for details: ammeyer@seattleschools.org or 252-3523, lunch would be provided. Also, remember it is your responsibility to make sure your child’s lunch account has a positive balance. Contact Annie to check on your account or to apply for free lunches.

**Middle School Play**
The details of the play are still being worked out. Keep your eye out for the audition dates. Most likely they will be during the week of Oct 6th. The play will be in the first half of December. Contact Linda Korbus with questions.

**Spanish Classes for 2008/9**

Spanish language and culture classes will begin the first week of November. Elementary school students can learn about Spain and Latin America, their foods, music, and customs in a fun after school program that features an immersion approach to the language. The elementary classes are likely to occur after school on Tuesday and Thursday.

Middle school parents, your child can now begin high school level Spanish with the middle school Spanish language and culture classes. The schedule for the middle school class will be determined on the basis of when the most students are available. Please let us know now if you are interested in this program.

The cost will be $300 for 45-minute sessions, two times per week over 20 weeks. Scholarships available in accordance with TOPS financial aid policies.

For more information, please contact Johnny Calcagno Johnny@stickerville.org or Marcia Weaver mweaver@u.washington.edu. To register, please complete the registration form (attached and on the TOPS website).

**Chinese Program**
The TOPS Chinese Language and Culture program is starting classes for grades 1-5 at the end of October and for Kindergarten in January. Now in its fourth year, the program provides Chinese language instruction that is fun and developmentally appropriate. The emphasis is on speaking and listening with some character writing. It gives children early exposure to this important world language, instilling in them a love of language and appreciation for diverse cultures. Grades 3-5 meets on Tuesdays, with K and 1-2 meeting on Thursdays. Complete information on the TOPS website and in the office, or email Nancy Bacon at nancy@bahiastreet.org.
**TOPS Alum Offers Violin Lessons**

Eliza Cohn, TOPS class of ’05, is offering private lessons to kids who love to play the violin. She has been playing the violin for nine years, takes private lessons, and plays with the Garfield Symphony Orchestra under Marcus Tsutakawa. She is available on weekends, at her house on Capitol Hill, or is available to drive to houses if transportation is an issue. The cost would be $20 per one hour lesson. Contact her at eliza.cohn@yahoo.com or (206)-788-6567.

**Ink Cartridge Recycling Redux**

Ok, so in the last Go Home I said we would no longer accept ink cartridges for recycling, BUT... Molly LaPatra found another organization that will take them and give us money! So ... bring your used ink cartridges into the office. Contact Molly with questions.

**Lost and Found**

Did you remember to label your kid’s stuff when you read this two weeks ago? You can still do it now! Pull out a permanent marker and write your name and phone number on every piece of clothing your kid might take off at school (you might be surprised at what they consider outerwear!). Items that are labeled generally make their way back to you, but anonymous items are donated at the end of every semester. Don’t forget lunch bags and backpacks. Preserve your investment (and your sanity): label today!

**Yearbooks Still Available**

Did you miss out on buying a 2007-2008 yearbook? You are in luck! Colette Hubbard has some left in the office. They can be purchased for $20. First come first served, get them while you can!

**Help Don and Luzita**

Luzita needs plastic food containers (yogurt, salsa, whatever), sizes 16 & 32 oz are the most useful. You can bring them to her classroom or leave them in the office. AND Don is looking for some middle school sized soccer cleats. Bring them to the gym or leave them in the office. Thanks!

**Dates to Note**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 25th</td>
<td>“Danger Books” Assembly 5th-8th grades Gym 1:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Curriculum Night for K, 3, 4 and DHH (6:00) &amp; State of the School (7:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th</td>
<td>September Experience at Lincoln Park, Middle School, 9-3:30</td>
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<td>Oct 3rd</td>
<td>TOPICS 2:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Music &amp; Ice Cream Social at TOPS 1-4 in the gym</td>
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<td>6th-7th</td>
<td>Most likely dates for MS Play auditions</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>Site Council Meeting 5-7 p.m. TOPS Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>How to teach a TOPIC 5-6 in C104</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Picture Day – Middle School</td>
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</table>
15th  Picture Day – K-5
17th  CSJ Movie Night 6-9 in the Library
20-24 Spirit Week
22  First and Second grades to SCT
24th  Middle School Dance 6:00-
31st  Salmon Parade Kindergarten 10:00
Nov 5-7  6th grade camp
Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year we have nine children in our school who have severe, life threatening allergies. If the child is exposed to or ingests the allergen they can go into anaphylactic shock and stop breathing. Most of the allergies are to peanuts, nuts and seeds, but some are to seafood and eggs.

All these children have Epi-pens available in case of emergency and the staff has been trained to use them. It would be great if we could have a totally peanut and nut-free school (the cafeteria lunches are). I realize this is not possible so there are a couple of things you can do to help keep our children safe:

- Remind your child to wash their hands well after eating any nuts or peanut products for breakfast or lunch. Peanuts/nut butters are the worst due to the stickiness of the oil. You would be surprised at what contains peanuts or peanut oil. A few examples are Tim’s Cascade Potato Chips, Pirates Booty from Trader Joe’s, M&M’s (plain), Jelly Bellies, even a shortbread cookie can contain nuts.
- We need to use extra vigilance in the common areas such as lunchroom.
- Please remember no nuts or peanuts in snacks brought from home, for classroom parties.

Thank you for your help and understanding. It truly does take a village. If you have any specific questions on snacks or parties give me a call. I work at Beacon Hill on Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s and TOPS on Thursday and Fridays.

P.S. Remember if your child gets any new immunizations, please let me know what they received and the date they received it. Thankyou!

Your School Nurse,

Ann Uomoto
TOPS Movie Night  
Friday, October 17th  6-9 p.m. in the TOPS Library  

Including Samuel

Released in 2007, Including Samuel is a moving film that tells the story of filmmaker Dan Habib and his family as they make efforts to include him in all facets of their lives. As Samuel wrestles playfully with his brother and plays with his friends at school and on the t-ball field, we follow their personal journey that transforms every member of Samuel’s family as well as his teachers and classmates at Beaver Hills Elementary School in Concord, MA. The film, shot and produced over four years also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with teachers, parents and disability rights experts. In examining the educational and social inclusion of differently-abled kids the film both reveals the positive aspects of inclusion while also raising hard questions about whether inclusion is always possible.

Exceptional Parent Magazine calls Including Samuel a “must see film” whether you are a parent, a teacher, or an administrator. These five deeply personal stories have something to teach all of us about the experiences and perceptions of people with special needs and challenges.

Please join the TOPS community to see and discuss this exceptional film. You won’t want to miss it!

- Doors open at 6:00 pm. Films will begin at 6:30. The evening will end by 9:00. Come when you can.
- Light dinner of sandwiches, snacks, and drinks, will be served.
- Childcare provided via KidsCo for the first 15 kids who are signed up; age-appropriate movie, games, and pizza provided. To reserve childcare, call 252-3510.

Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy a free night out for dinner and the movies --engaging conversation and childcare included--

TOPS MOVIE NIGHTS are Sponsored by The Coalition for Social Justice.

For more information contact Karen Stuhldreher at kstuhldr@sccd.ctc.edu
Dear TOPS Parents,

This school year, third through sixth grade students at TOPS with enthusiasm for mathematics will have the chance to participate in a math enrichment class. This class is centered around Math Olympiad, a national contest in which students work on problems that are both challenging and engaging.

There will be two classes, a 3rd & 4th grade class and a 5th & 6th grade class. Each class will be led by two graduate students in the Mathematics Department at the University of Washington. Their main goal is to get the students excited about math while giving them the opportunity to develop their creative problem solving skills. Students in the fifth and sixth grades who wish to will be able to participate in the national Math Olympiad tests given over the course of the year.

The classes are designed to focus on logical reasoning while bringing in arithmetic skills as necessary. Working in small groups during the classes, students will be able to develop their math communication skills and to gain an appreciation for the many approaches that work for any problem.

In addition to the weekly problem sessions, your student will also take home a challenging problem each week. You may wish to help them solve it, working together to try to find the solution!

Classes will be held after school, from 3:30-4:30, on Thursday afternoons in the cafeteria. Students will be charged $90 for the classes running weekly from October 23, 2008 through May. This fee will include participation in the five Olympiad tests. We may have a few scholarships available to ensure the opportunity to everyone.

So we can keep the working groups small, we will be limiting space to 20 students per class, and we will accept students on a first-come, first-serve basis. The deadline to sign-up for the Math Olympiad club is October 17th. To help you determine whether this program is right for your child, we have included several problems similar to the type we will be working on. If your child seems interested on working on problems such as these, he or she would likely find this class both enjoyable and rewarding.

Sincerely,

Mark Sullivan

University of Washington,
Department of Mathematics

Please enroll my son/daughter in the Math Olympiad program scheduled for Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:30, beginning Thursday, October 23th. I will provide transportation home at 4:30.

Parent name: ___________________________ Grade/Teacher: _______________________

Home phone: _______ Work phone: _____________________________

Email (for notifying about scheduling issues): __________________________________________

Please attach a check for $90 made out to Mark Sullivan.
Please return to the TOPS main office by Friday, October 17th.
Here are a few sample problems from a Math Olympiad:

**Grades 5&6**

1. A stamp collector bought a rare stamp for $30, sold it for $42, bought it back for $50, and finally sold it for $48. Did the stamp collector make money or lose money and how many dollars were made or lost?

2. Two students are needed to work in the school store during the lunch hour every day, and four students volunteer for this work. What is the greatest number of days that can be arranged in which no pair of the four students works together more than once.

3. Many whole numbers between 10 and 1,000 have 2 or 7 as the units digit. How many such numbers are there between 10 and 1,000?

**Grades 3&4**

1. You decide that you want to bring in Rice Krispie Treats for your class. You make a batch in a pan that measures 20 inches by 20 inches. You want to share the Treats with your friends so you decide to cut them into 2 inch by 4 inch rectangles. How many rectangles of this size can you cut out of the pan? What if you wanted to cut out 2 inch by 3 inch rectangles?

2. A cricket chirps 4 times every 6 seconds. How many times does it chirp in one minute?
Questions about the Program? See the TOPS website for a full description of the Spanish program (under Academics/Languages)

Register by October 24, 2008 Make check payable to Friends of TOPS
Classes begin November 1, 2008 Mail to: Marcia Weaver

937 Broadway East / Seattle, WA 98102

☐ Tuition is enclosed ($300 per child).
☐ Please accept my additional donation to the scholarship fund.
☐ I am requesting a partial scholarship contingent on available program funding. I can pay and am enclosing $____________.
(We will contact you directly. Note: you must pay something towards the program fee.)

Program Dates: The TOPS Spanish Language Program is Before/After school. Please note there is no bus service available for elementary school students. Students attend a 45-minute Spanish class twice weekly for 20 weeks. During the 2007-08 school year, classes will begin on Monday, November 1 and will follow the TOPS holiday/no school calendar. Classes may meet Mon & Wed or Tues & Thurs and are grouped by age and Spanish level.

Please copy and complete a registration form for each child attending the program. Please mail applications and checks to Marcia Weaver at the address above. Do not leave them at the TOPS office without letting Marcia know. Thank you!

Child's name____________________________________________________________

Parent name(s)_________________________________________________________

Address________________________________________________________________

Day phone__________________________Evening phone_______________________

Parent(s) e-mail addresses________________________________________________

Child's grade and teacher (08-09)___________________________________________

Prior Spanish learning: ☐ None ☐ A Little Number of years__________________

Allergies or special concerns_______________________________________________

Emergency contact info before/after school hours_____________________________
Save the DATE!
Sunday, October 5th
1:00-4:00 pm

“Welcome to TOPS”
Music & Ice Cream Social

Bring your musical instruments (including your voice) and come to the TOPS Gym to meet and greet friends in the TOPS community, play and listen to music, and eat ice cream!

Sponsored by
TOPS Coalition For Social Justice
INFORMATION for PARENTS and STUDENTS

Washington State
Healthy Youth
Survey

Our school is participating in the
Healthy Youth Survey
during the week of October 13–17, 2008.

Who will be asked to take the survey?
Students in Grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 across
Washington State.

Is the survey voluntary?
Yes! Students taking the survey can skip
questions and stop taking the survey at any time.

If you do not want your student to participate in
the survey, you can excuse your student from
participating by calling or sending a note to the
school.

Students can also excuse themselves by telling
their teacher that they do not want to take the
survey.

Students not taking the survey will be provided
with an alternative activity, such as reading or
working in the library.

There is no penalty for not taking part in the
survey. Your student’s grades will not be affected.

How is student identity protected?
Students will not write their names anywhere on the
survey and there are no codes or other information
to match a survey to a particular student.

No one from the school will look at the survey
answers. Students put completed surveys into an
envelope that is sealed before it leaves the classroom.

Survey reports of results will not identify any student.

Need More Information?
If you have any questions about the purpose of the
survey or survey procedures, please contact

The survey will be conducted by RMC Research
Corporation, please contact 1-800-788-1887.

The Washington State Institutional Review Board has
approved the procedures for conducting the Healthy
Youth Survey that are described in this brochure. If
you believe these procedures have not been followed,
please call 1-800-583-8488. You do not have to leave
your name. All messages will be returned.

Additional information about the Healthy Youth
Survey 2008 can be found at the following web sites:
www.hys.wa.gov and www3.doh.wa.gov/hys

Thank you for reviewing this information about the survey and talking with your student about participating!

The Healthy Youth Survey is sponsored by the following state agencies:
Department of Health, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, DSHS Division of Alcohol & Substance Abuse, Family Policy Council, and Liquor Control Board.
¿Qué es la Encuesta para una Juventud Saludable?
La encuesta hace preguntas que están relacionadas con el cada vez mayor riesgo de lesiones de los estudiantes, resultados de salud malos y el uso de drogas y alcohol. Los resultados de la encuesta son utilizados por las escuelas, las comunidades y los departamentos de salud estatales y locales para planificar programas y apoyar a nuestra juventud y reducir sus riesgos.

La encuesta es voluntaria y anónima.

¿Qué preguntas están en la encuesta?
Las preguntas de la encuesta provienen de varias encuestas bien establecidas que han tenido lugar en toda la nación y en Washington. Los padres o guardianes pueden ver una copia de las preguntas de la encuesta en las oficinas de la escuela.

Los temas de las preguntas incluyen:
- Información sobre los antecedentes (edad, género, nivel escolar, raza/origen étnico)
- Impresiones acerca de la escuela y la comunidad
- Relación con los padres, los amigos y los vecinos
- Nutrición, hábitos alimenticios, actividad física
- Educación sobre la salud
- Conocimiento, actitud acerca de, y uso de tabaco, alcohol y otras drogas
- Hábitos relacionados con la salud, opinión acerca de la seguridad
- Comportamiento relacionado con la violencia

¿A quiénes se les pedirá que tomen la encuesta?
A los estudiantes de los niveles escolares 6, 8, 10 y 12 en todo el Estado de Washington.

¿Es voluntaria la encuesta?
¡Sí! Los estudiantes que tomen la encuesta pueden omitir preguntas y dejar de tomar la encuesta en cualquier momento.

Si usted no desea que su estudiante participe en la encuesta, puede excusar a su estudiante de participar llamando o enviando una nota a la escuela. Los estudiantes también pueden excusarse ellos mismos diciéndole al maestro que no desean tomar la encuesta.

A los estudiantes que no tomen la encuesta se les ofrecerá una actividad alternativa, tal como lectura o trabajar en la biblioteca.

No hay ninguna penalización por no tomar parte en la encuesta. Las calificaciones de su estudiante no serán afectadas.

¿Cómo se protege la identidad del estudiante?
Los estudiantes no escribirán sus nombres en ningún lugar de la encuesta, no hay códigos ni ninguna otra información que vincule una encuesta con un estudiante en particular.

Nadie de la escuela verá las respuestas de la encuesta. Los estudiantes ponen las encuestas llenadas en un sobre que se sella antes de que salgan del aula.

Los informes de los resultados de la encuesta no identificarán a ningún estudiante.

¿Necesita mayor información?
Si tiene alguna pregunta acerca del propósito de la encuesta o de los procedimientos para la encuesta, por favor póngase en contacto con el Departamento de Salud, Kevin Beck, 1-877-HYS-7111. La encuesta será llevada a cabo por RMC Research Corporation, por favor póngase en contacto con ellos llamando al 1-800-788-1887.

El Consejo de Revisión Institucional del Estado de Washington ha aprobado los procedimientos para llevar a cabo la Encuesta para una Juventud Saludable que se describen en este folleto. Si considera que no se han seguido estos procedimientos, por favor llame al 1-800-583-8488. No tiene que dejar su nombre. Se devolverá la llamada a todos los mensajes.

El número de jóvenes que participan en la Encuesta para una Juventud Saludable en el Estado de Washington ha crecido con el transcurso del tiempo – ¡de unas cuantas centenas el año 1988 a 198,000 el año 2006!

¡Gracias por revisar esta información acerca de la encuesta y conversar con su estudiante sobre su participación!

La Encuesta para una Juventud Saludable está patrocinada por las siguientes dependencias del estado: Departamento de Salud, Oficina del Superintendente de Instrucción Pública, Departamento de Comunidad, Comercio y Desarrollo Económico, Departamento contra el Abuso de Alcohol y Sustancias de DSHS, Consejo de Política Familiar y Comité de Control de Bebidas Alcohólicas.