TOPS Thursday Go-Home
October 23rd

No Bake Is Gathering Steam!

TOPS community members have donated $5,775 towards our goal of $90,000! Letters should have arrived this week, note that donations forms were mistakenly left out of most envelopes. There is one attached at the end of the Go Home, or you can download one from the web site. The donation form lets you pay by credit card and pay by installments, it also identifies how you want to be listed in the newsletter and it gives you the chance to send a No Bake request to your friends and relatives. Contact Marlies van Bergeijk at 328.3064 or marliesvanb@att.net with questions or offers to help! If you didn’t get a No Bake letter, then contact Maureen Germani at mwgermani@seattleschools.org or 545.1771.

Many thanks from the No Bake team!

Middle School Dance

The first dance of the year will be held Friday Oct 24th from 6:30-9:00. Remember that guests must be pre approved by Ms. Eick and bring ID. Parents, please be prompt about pick up—our staff puts in extra hours on these events and we need to respect their time! If you are interested in chaperoning, contact Colette Hubbard at 252-3510 or chubbard@seattleschools.org right now.

Our Town

Auditions were held last week for The TOPS Drama Middle school production of OUR TOWN By Thornton Wilder. The play will be performed December 12th and 13th. Contact Madalyn Corbit at corbitgirlslack@yahoo.com with questions and offers to help (you don’t have to have a middle-schooler to be involved!)

Parking at TOPS

Eastlake community members have recently met with the police to discuss how TOPS people have blocked driveways and parking lots and impeded traffic by parking too close to the corners and double parking. As a result, parking rules are being heavily enforced in the neighborhood. Be aware that parking illegally not only is inconsiderate—it can endanger our kids. Tickets are expensive and the good will of our neighbors is precious. Follow the rules, please!
**Penny Harvest, 2008**
Commences Monday, October 27 through Friday, November 21, 2008. Get a Penny harvest bag, gather pennies and bring them back to your classroom teacher. Thanks in advance for your support, Sheri Toussaint, Penny Harvest coach, shtoussaint@seattleschools.org

**Site Council**
Site Council meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-7 and are held in the library. The next meeting will be Nov 12th. All TOPS Community members are always welcome to come to the meetings and provide input. Contact Susan Welch with questions or input.

**CSJ Movie Night—Thanks for Coming!**
The Coalition for Social Justice first Movie Night of the year on Friday October 17th was a big success thanks to Karen Stuhldreher, Lynn Goodrich and the thirty plus thoughtful TOPS community members. Contact Karen or Lynn if you are interested in helping to plan future movie nights.

**School District Meetings on Assignment Plan**
The Seattle School District is in the process of redesigning the assignment plan. This may (or may not?) have major repercussions for the TOPS community. They are holding three informational meetings in the next week. It would be great if members of our community could attend all three meetings and report back on what was discussed.

Seattle Public Schools invites families and community members to a Series of Community Meetings http://www.seattleschools.org/area/m_news/Flyer_Community_Meetings_October2008.pdf to discuss a new District-wide Student Assignment Plan. The meetings will inform community members of the overall process to design, develop and implement a new student assignment plan.

Background information on Student Assignment and on Excellence for All is available on the Strategic Plan Web site http://www.seattleschools.org/area/strategicplan/draft/index.dxml
Enrollment Web Site http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/index.html

Meeting times and locations are listed below:

**Thursday, October 23**
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Ingraham High School Library
1819 N. 135th St.
Interpreters: Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese

**Monday, October 27**
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Rainier Beach High School
Paul Robeson Performing Arts Center
8815 Seward Park Ave. S.
Interpreters: Somali, Spanish,
Tagalog and Vietnamese

**Saturday, November 1**
10 a.m. to noon
John Stanford Center Auditorium
2445 3rd Ave. S.
Interpreters: Amharic, Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Tigrigna, Vietnamese
If you are interested in exchanging information about the assignment plan with other TOPS parents, sign up for the TOPS_Info Yahoo group. To sign up go to groups.yahoo.com search TOPS_Info and follow the directions. Sheri Toussaint and Johnny Calcagno are moderators, contact them with questions. If you do attend a meeting, please do join the group and send your impressions to the rest of us. Thank you!
Turn in Box Tops by October 31st!
Help support TOPS by clipping Box Tops from participating products such as Cheerios, Yoplait, Betty Crocker baking products (perfect for the upcoming holidays!), and Juicy Juice. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ so we’re going to need a lot to make our goal of $500 this year.

For those of you who are online shoppers, you can also earn money through Box Tops at participating vendors when you shop on their websites. Gap.com, drugstore.com, Proflowers.com, Taget.com and HarryandDavid.com are only a few of the many vendors who will donate a percentage of your purchase to TOPS. For a complete list of participating vendors, go to http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace/Default.aspx.

If you have any questions, contact Lynn Bazamic (bazamic@u.washington.edu), the Box Top coordinator. Lynn will be sending in the next batch on Oct 31st. Please place your Box Tops in the collection jar in the main office. Thank you for supporting TOPS!

Kids Co. is having a FOOD DRIVE!
Please bring down any non-perishable boxed or canned items to donate to Northwest Harvest Food Bank. We're hoping to help out families in need over the holiday season! Thanks!

Also...the Kids Co. program at TOPS has openings in our before school program (7:00-9:00am) and our after school program (3:20-6:00 pm). We run a high quality program with fun and enriching activities. Please give us a call at 709-8487 to register your child!

Lunchroom News
My last post on this was not quite correct—the district is still willing to fund an assistant for Annie in the lunch room, but they have not been able to fill the position because of the limited hours. If you know someone who would be interested, have them contact Annie Meyer at or 252-3523 or ammeyer@seattleschools.org. I know that some TOPS employees have priority in enrolling their kids here, maybe that could be an incentive for someone? Two or three parents have been helping Annie out at lunch time (they say it’s really fun!) contact Annie if you can help one or two days a week.

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.

Volunteer Opportunity of the Week
Our nurse, Annie Uomoto, will be doing vision and hearing screening on Friday, Nov. 7th from 9am to 11:30am and 12:30 -2:30pm. She’ll be testing 1st, 2nd (Julie’s class is done) 3rd, 5th and 7th grades. She’ll need one person to make sure classes are on time, direct the students and keep them quiet! The others will be doing vision screening. She’ll train you before the first
class comes. Please let Annie know if you can help by next week. Contact her at 252-3510 or auomot@seattleschools.org.

**Do you shop at Safeway?**

Then sign up for **escrip**! It’s easy! We’ve now got 36 families supporting escrip and our total contributions to TOPS over our first year of operation was $329. I know we can do better this school year, so, if you haven’t already signed up, please visit the escrip website www.escrip.com, click on “sign up,” then follow the instructions to register your grocery and credit cards. Remember, retailers are willing to give us this money, we just need to sign up. Please contact Julie Wroble at jwroble@comcast.net if you have questions, need information, or want to help to promote escrip at TOPS. Thanks!

**Activity Bus**

The activity bus has begun running on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Permission slips need to be turned in to the office a week in advance.

**Ways for Adults to Support Writing**

From our writing specialist, Jaque Ensign...

If your child brings writing home, or is writing at home, keep the focus on the writing process. Ask questions such as
- How’s it going?
- Tell me about your writing (or drawing, which is a prewriting option)

Focus on the process, content, and style of what your child is writing, not the outward appearance of handwriting or spelling (which are usually addressed in the editing process in the classroom).
- “You are writing this so I feel like I’m really seeing what you saw.”
- “I can see that ___ is something you are really interested in. Maybe we can get some books about ___ or do this more often.”

Appreciate your child’s efforts and name them:
- “I see that you have [used dialogue, written many details, drawn to help you remember what to write…]
- “Oh, this makes me want to know more about ___!”

If your child asks you for help, keep the focus on your child as the writer.
- For spelling, if this is a first draft, suggest “guess and go.” You can help the child sound out the word but allow temporary spellings as these help the teachers see areas to help your child improve spelling. For more confident writers, it sometimes helps to suggest resources such as favorite books, dictionary, etc. where the word is spelled.
- Our aim is to develop independent and confident writers!
In your daily life, note to your child how you use the writing process. For instance, if you are writing a letter, show how you write and later edit before sending. If you are writing a shopping list, show how you organize your thoughts and sometimes ‘guesstimate’ spellings.

You can contact Jaque at jaensign@seattleschools.org with questions or comments.

## Dates to Note

**Oct**
- 24th  Northwest Bookshelf 2 musical review in gym K-5 9:30 - 10:30
- 24th  7th Grade Service, Gospel Mission, 11:00-1:00
- 24th  Middle School Dance 6:30-9:00
- 27th  Penny Harvest Kick Off (through Nov. 21st)
- 29th  Two Hour Early Dismissal—Professional Development
- 31st  Salmon Parade Kindergarten 10:00
- 31st  Middle School TOPICS, All Day

**Nov**
- 4th  Election Day - Remember to Vote!
- 5th  FLUTS Culture Fest 2008 UW, 5th grade, Judy, 11:00-2:00
- 5-7  6th grade camp
- 7th  Hearing and Vision Screening
- 7th  TOPICS
- 11th  NO SCHOOL -- Veterans Day
- 12th  3rd, 4th and DHH to SCT
- 15th  Fall Landscaping Work Party—tentative date

**Dec**
- 1st  Winter Wishes/TOPS Food Drive

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**Donations can be sent to the TOPS Office: 2500 Franklin Ave E, 98102**

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**TOPS NO-BAKE DONATION FORM please donate by Dec. 31, 2008**

| Name | ________________________________ |
| Address | _____________________________ |
| City | __________________ State | Zip | |
| Phone | __________________ E-mail | | |
| Method of payment | Check (made payable to Friends of TOPS) | Visa | Mastercard |
| | Card Number | Exp. Date | Signature |
| | $1000 | $500 | $200 | $100 |
| | $50 | $25 | $10 | $5 | Other $ | ________________ |

Please consider giving your family and friends an opportunity to give to Friends of TOPS. Provide information below and a letter will be sent.

| Name | ________________________________ |
| Address | _____________________________ |
| City | __________________ State | Zip | |

We’d like to thank your family by listing you as a donor in the TOPS Newsletter. Dollar amounts will not be listed. Please check the box if you do NOT want your family’s name published. 

- My employer will match my donation.

Company | Please include signed company matching form.

Friends of TOPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #94-3142402. All donations are tax deductible.
Don’t forget your relatives and neighbors who sold you wrapping paper or candy or cookie dough or.... They will appreciate the opportunity to donate to TOPS!
Healthy Reminders from Annie the TOPS Nurse

Here is some helpful information as we approach flu season:

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:**
Highly contagious, flu is spread by virus-infected droplets coughed or sneezed into the air. The main symptoms are fever (100-104F), chills, muscle aches, headache, loss of appetite and tiredness. Symptoms may also include cough, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, and weakness.

**PREVENTION:**
+ SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT SPREADING GERMS. Because germs are invisible, it’s difficult for children to understand how dangerous a cough or sneeze can be. Stress the importance of washing their hands, using lots of soap and water, scrubbing until there are bubbles-before meals and snacks, and after coughing, sneezing or using a tissue.
+ THERE’S A PLACE TO COUGH. Children know to cover their mouths when they cough, but a better way not to spread germs is to have them cough into their upper sleeves, not their hands.
+ KEEP HANDS AWAY FROM EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH. Children sometimes put their finger in their mouth or nose, or rub their eyes. Help your kids keep their hands away from “germy” areas-eyes, nose and face.

**WHEN TO CALL YOUR CHILDS DOCTOR:**
The goal for treatment is to relieve aches and pains and to reduce fever. Your doctor may prescribe medication such as acetaminophen or other treatment. Don’t give aspirin to your child unless your child’s doctor instructs you to do so. It’s always better to contact your doctor’s office for advise than wait until your child is suffering and visiting the emergency room at 2:00am!

**HOME TREATMENT:**
People with the flu should rest in bed. Rest helps the body fight the virus. Offer your child plenty of fluids (fever can dehydrate the body). Dress your child in layers. When your child feels warm, you can peel a layer or two, and when her/she feels chilly, layers can be added easily.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:**
Your child shouldn’t attend school until flu symptoms have disappeared. Don’t forget, a phone call to school is expected each day your sick child is absent. The attendance # is 252-3518.
Join us at the 2008 GLBT Families Dinner
Hawaiian Theme...dress the part!

The Health Education Office of Seattle Public Schools, along with Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson would like to invite you to join gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender families and friends at a dinner to be held at Meany Middle School the evening of Thursday, November 6th, 2008. Dinner and activities are complimentary through donations from the community.

**WHO?**  All SPS students, staff and families are welcome at this event!

**WHEN AND WHERE?**  Thursday, November 6th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Meany Middle School in the Lunchroom. (see directions below)

**WHAT CAN I EXPECT?**  Dinner will be provided. Craft tables will be available for younger attendees. Traditional Hawaiian dance performed by the Kennar Family Dancers. Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson, members of the School Board, and other District staff will welcome you.

**WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO R.S.V.P.?**  This will be a well-attended event, so reserve a space for you and your family today! Please reply no later than November 5th. Questions and R.S.V.P. to Lisa Love at 252-0982 (let us know how many people are in your party).

**MEANY MIDDLE SCHOOL**
301 - 21st Ave. E., Seattle 98112
301 - 21st Ave. E., Seattle 98112 ~ (206) 252-2500

**Directions:**
The school is on the East side of Capitol Hill tucked in behind the Miller Community Center, just northeast of Group Health Hospital.

From I-5 take the 520 exit heading briefly toward the bridge to Kirkland/Bellevue. Take the first exit off 520 at Montlake. Turn Right onto Montlake—this turns into 23rd Ave. Follow 23rd up the hill. Turn Right onto Republican. Turn Left onto 21st. Parking available in the lot on the West side of the building, just off 20th, or park on the street.
Attachments: