**TOPS Thursday Go-Home**  
**November 6th**

---

**No Bake is on the Road to Success!**

TOPS community members have donated **$11,281** towards our goal of **$90,000**!

Letters should have arrived at your house by now -- note that donation forms were mistakenly left out of most envelopes. There is one attached to the flyer 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, contact Maureen Germani at mwgermani@seattleschools.org or 545.1771.

Keep your eyes peeled for the poster near the office that will track our status.

**Many thanks from the No Bake team!**

---

**No School on Tuesday**

There will be NO SCHOOL on Tuesday November 11th, due to the Veteran’s Day holiday. If your child will miss school on Monday, be sure to notify Michele Lamb in the TOPS office: 252-3518 or bllamb@seattleschools.org.

---

**TOPS Poet at Benaroya!**

TOPS 7th grader Kellen Lambert-Vail will share the stage with esteemed poet W.S. Merwin on Friday, November 7th, as part of Seattle Arts & Lectures Poetry Series. She will read an original poem, entitled “Calling to Air,” which was inspired by Mr. Merwin’s writing and written under the mentorship of Writers in the Schools (WITS) writer-in-residence Emily Beyer. WITS is paid for at TOPS by your generous donations to the No-Bake and Auction. The event will take place at 7:30pm at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall. To purchase tickets to see and hear both Kellen and Mr. Merwin, please visit www.lectures.org or call (206) 621-2230. **Congratulations Kellen!**

---

**School Picture Retakes**

Make-up-Retake day will be on Wednesday, Nov. 19th in the morning. School portraits can be retaken at no cost if the photographs are unsatisfactory for a valid reason (eyes closed,
technical defect). Retakes at a student’s request will be half the original package price. Simply return all the pictures to Don Zemke on Make-up Retake day.

**Our Town**

Rehearsal schedules and a final cast list have been distributed for the Middle School play. If your student is involved, make sure Madalyn Corbit (Production Manager, TOPS parent) has your contact information. You can Contact Madalyn at corbitgirlsrock@yahoo.com with questions and offers to help (you don’t have to have a middle-schooler to be involved!). If you don’t do email, make sure your student has given Madalyn your phone number.

**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.

**More School District Meetings**

The Seattle School District is in the process of redesigning the assignment plan and closing or consolidating more schools. This may (or may not?) have major repercussions for the TOPS community. Three or four TOPS parents attended one of last week’s meetings. Lynn Goodrich was good enough to post a summary to the TOPSMiddleSchool Yahoo group that will be forwarded to the TOPS_Info Yahoo group. More meetings are scheduled for Nov and Dec. “The purpose of the upcoming meetings is to consult with the public in reviewing and commenting on Student Assignment Plan models, based on academic and operational principles (the impact of various decisions).”

**Dates, Times and Locations:**

**Thurs, Nov 6**, 6:30 - 8:30
John Stanford Center (JSC), 3rd Floor
2445 3rd Avenue South

**Fri, Nov 7**, 10:00 a.m. - noon.
JSC, Room 2750
2445 3rd Avenue South

**Fri, Nov 14**, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Northgate Community Center
10510 5th Avenue NE

**Sat, Nov 15**, 10:00 a.m. - noon.
Delridge Community Center
4501 Delridge Way SW

**Tues, Nov 18**, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Treehouse - The 2100 Bldng, Cmnty Room B
2100 24th Avenue S

**Thurs, Nov 20**, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
NewHolly Gathering Hall
7050 32nd Avenue S

**Tues, Dec 2**, 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m
JSC
2445 3rd Avenue South

See the Seattle Schools website: [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org) for more details.

Another meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss the Accelerated Progress Program (APP) at the High School level. Currently, APP-qualified students who graduate from TOPS cannot access the APP program at Garfield unless they live close enough to be admitted under the distance tiebreaker. It is possible that changes may be made to the HSAPP program and who can access it in the near future. See [http://groups.google.com/group/app-ac-seattle](http://groups.google.com/group/app-ac-seattle) for details.
If you are interested in exchanging information about School District plans with other TOPS families, 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!

**Still Room in Chinese**

The TOPS Chinese Language and Culture program still has spaces in the 3-5 and K classes. The 3-5 class has already started (Thursdays 3:20-4:15), and the K class starts in January (Thursdays, 3:20-4:00). 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. Complete information on the TOPS website, or email Nancy Bacon at nancy@bahiastreet.org.

**TOPS Middle School Ski/Snow Board Program**

There will be a **Mandatory** Information Meeting and Video **Wednesday November 12, at 7pm**. The 2nd Annual Ski/Board Swap and Sale will be held from 6:30 - 7pm in the gym. Please bring items you wish to sell, swap or donate by 6:30pm. Meeting and video will start promptly at 7pm after the sale.

Please plan to attend to sign up for the program and have all of your questions answered. Parents and students need to hear the information. Parents please have your student sit with you during the program and plan to sign agreements and pay for the bus at the meeting that evening. Please bring your checkbook to expedite the process. Grade coordinators will be there for class signups. Forms will be sent via email before the meeting with detailed information. The 5 Friday evenings we ski are January 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6. **Day-between-Semesters Monday, January 26 is our all-day ski day. Questions? Contact Molly LaPatra lapatra@comcast.net but please wait until you get the detailed info email as most questions will be answered with that document.**

**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!

**Activity Bus**

The activity bus has begun running. It leaves from TOPS at 5:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are just two buses: one goes south, one goes north (note that this can make for quite a long ride). The bus is available for middle school students and their siblings ONLY. That means NO younger kids can ride it unless they are with their brother or sister (not cousins or friends). Students must complete an activity bus permission slip and turn it into the office.
before they can ride the bus. After turning in the slip, it generally takes a week before they can begin riding the bus.

**Paris! London! -- Spring Break 2009**
The dollar is getting stronger! 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. Prices go up on Dec 1st so move quickly. Students can travel with or without their parents. (Parents can even come without their kids, for that matter!) Go to [www.explorica.com](http://www.explorica.com). Enter the Tour Center ID Tranen-7064 in the box For Students and Parents to get details. Questions? Contact Marianne at mptrangen@seattleschools.org.

**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

**How many times have you read this one?**
If you shop at Safeway, then sign up for [escrip](http://www.escrip.com)! 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](http://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! Ok, so now go sign up!

And, while I’m at it, please make sure your kid has money in his lunch account!

**Dates to Note**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nov.</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>6th grade camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Hearing and Vision Screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>TOPICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong> -- Veterans Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>3rd, 4th and DHH to SCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Middle School Ski Bus: Swap/Sale at 6:30, Mandatory Meeting at 7:00 in the gym.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>(The Landscaping Work Party will be scheduled in the spring)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>Middle School Conferences, 4:30-6:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Middle School Conferences, 4:30-8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-26</td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong> - Elementary and Middle School Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-28</td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong> - Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Winter Wishes/TOPS Food Drive begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Middle School Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Winter Concert 2:00-3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Second grade to see the Nutcracker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>TOPICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>Middle School Play — Our Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Katie’s Class Play</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19th Kindergarten sings at Louisa’s
22nd- NO SCHOOL - Winter Holiday
PLEASE DONATE TODAY to the
TOPS NO-BAKE
Our School’s ANNUAL FUND DRIVE
Our goal this year is $90,000
& participation from 100% of our generous families

* FAQs ON BACK OF THIS PAGE

• USE THE HANDY DONATION FORM BELOW

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

Name ____________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
City ___________________ State ______ Zip ________
Phone ___________________ E-mail ___________________

We would like to donate:  □ $1000  □ $500  □ $200  □ $100
□ $50  □ $25  □ $10  □ $5  □ Other $ ____________

Method of payment
□ Check (made payable to Friends of TOPS  □ Visa □ Mastercard
Card Number __________________ Exp. Date __________

Signature _______________________________________
□ I would like to pay in 3 monthly installments (credit card only)

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 would 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 #94-3142401. All donations are tax deductible.
FREQUENTLY ASKED Q’S about the NO-BAKE FUND DRIVE

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL TOPS NO-BAKE FUND DRIVE?
At TOPS we don’t bake…. We donate. It’s easy!! Each fall TOPS has a good old fashioned fund drive. Just get out your checkbook, write a check to FRIENDS OF TOPS and mail it off!! We do not ask our kids to hit the streets to raise funds. We don’t have a bake sale. We don’t sell candy. TOPS has only two fundraisers: the fall NO-BAKE fund drive and our spring school auction. Each is vital to ensuring our continued support of FRIENDS OF TOPS.

WHAT IS OUR $ GOAL THIS YEAR?
Our goal is $90,000 this year. We hope to receive a donation from each of our 400+ families.

HOW MUCH SHOULD OUR FAMILY DONATE TO THE NO-BAKE?
We welcome your generous donation of any amount… whether your family can give $10 or $1000. Last year we averaged approximately $200 per family.

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR NO-BAKE DONATION?
Mail: TOPS NO-BAKE 2500 Franklin Ave E Seattle, WA 98102 or DELIVER to the TOPS OFFICE

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR NO-BAKE DONATIONS?
Our NO-BAKE ends on December 31st – donations gladly accepted into the 2nd week of January

HOW ARE THE NO-BAKE DONATIONS USED?
Your NO-BAKE DONATION serves the children, families & community in a variety of ways. Funding of core programs, arts, student support & scholarships are made possible through your generosity.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE PROGRAMS THAT YOUR NO-BAKE DONATION SUPPORTS:
* literacy block 1st-2nd grades
*our elementary art teacher, Cynthia
*recess supervision
*science materials for all grade levels
*Oleweus anti-bullying program
*tutoring
*8th grade Planting the Seeds
*choir program
*instrumental music program
*3rd grade drama program
*supplies for every teacher & classroom
*middle school & elementary plays
*school directory and newsletters
*library supplies & multicultural books
*volunteer coordinator
*childcare during evening events
*Writers in the Schools for 5th-8th
*8th grade passage
*Taste of TOPS
*Safety committee
*Mandarin and 8th grade math

VISIT THE TOPS WEBSITE TO SEE THE COMPLETE FRIENDS OF TOPS BUDGET

CAN WE USE OUR CREDIT CARD TO DONATE TO THE NO-BAKE?
Yes! We can accept donations via MASTERCARD OR VISA. You fill out the Donation form in your NO-BAKE letter or download a form on the NO-BAKE link on the TOPS Website. You can also contact Wilma Angell, the NO-BAKE treasurer at wilma.angell@headveins.com or 726.0948 for more information.

IS MY DONATION TO THE NO-BAKE TAX DEDUCTIBLE?
Absolutely. FRIENDS OF TOPS is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit entity (TAX ID 94-3142402).

CAN MY EMPLOYER MATCH MY NO-BAKE CHARITABLE DONATION?
Many employers will match the charitable donation of their employees. Your employer’s matching donation will double your gift to FRIENDS OF TOPS. Please contact your human resources department to fill out the necessary forms.