TOPS Thursday Go-Home
January 15th

100% Participation Is Our No Bake Goal!

The TOPS No-Bake Fund Drive has raised $70,436, which makes us hopeful we will meet our goal of $90,000. However, to date, only 44% of all TOPS families have donated. We believe very strongly that 100% participation is as important a goal, even if it means a family can only donate $5.

To that end, we have enlisted the help of our students on the ASB. They will be talking to all students in each classroom and handing out bright green pledge forms and return envelopes by Friday 1/16.

Please ask your child about this and return your donation by January 30th.

Many thanks from the No Bake team!

TOPS Movie Night

Friday January 30th 6:00-9:00 pm in the TOPS Library:
TOPS Movie Night presents Kids on the Ave, a documentary about teen homelessness in Seattle.

Join us to learn about the middle school Planting the Seeds Project and view a remarkable documentary about homelessness in Seattle. Kids on the Ave chronicles the lives of several homeless teenagers who populate this well known Seattle street. This movie reveals the ways these teens survive life on the street as well as the circumstances that have caused "The Ave" to become their home. Through this closer look into how these teens come to rely on one another for support, we begin to gain a greater understanding of "Life on the Ave."

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

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Doors open at 6:00 pm and the films will show at 6:30. A light dinner will be provided. There will be time for discussion following the films. The evening will end by 9:00. Come when you can.

Childcare is available and pizza, snacks, age appropriate movies, and games will be provided for children at Kids Co. Call 252-3510 to make a reservation. Movie Night is sponsored by The TOPS Coalition for Social Justice. Contact Karen Stuhldreher at kstuhldr@sccd.ctc.edu with questions.
**MLK Assembly Rescheduled**
Due to work in the gym, the MLK Day assembly has been rescheduled for Wed Jan 28th at 10:00. Come and join the TOPS celebration of Dr. King’s legacy. Lift Every Voice and SING!

**Got (Old) Magazines?**
The Art Dept needs to replenish its magazine collection ASAP, as we will be working with collage artist, Deborah Lawrence, toward the end of January. We are looking for a large variety, such as science, news, people, fashion, geography, history, culture, politics, current events, biography, sports, etc. Lots of pictures! Please bring them up to Luzita's room, 401, top of the brick building, or leave them at the office. Packing them in a sturdy box will help us keep some order in the classroom. THANKS! Luzita

**Parking Courtesy**
Parents picking up after school in the parking lot -- please be considerate and don't leave your car "driverless" in the parking lot drive. If you need to meet your students in the school, allow extra time to park on the street. We're all on busy schedules. Let's work together to help our TOPS families, teachers and staff get to their after school activities/appointments on time. Remember, the kids are watching!

**Lunch Account Reminder**
The vast majority of TOPS parents keep their child’s lunch account stocked. If you are one of the few who have fallen behind, please send payment to cover your child’s balance. Free lunch is always available for those who qualify. Contact Annie at ammeyer@seattleschools.org or 252-3523 to check on your child’s balance. Thank you!

**Yearbooks on Sale Now!**
Go to the TOPS website and click on the link to order your yearbook now! Books are $20 until January 27th and then $24 after that. Order your book now to ensure a copy. Another advantage to ordering now is that you can get your name foil stamped onto the book. This personalization makes it much easier for us to distribute the books and for the kids to keep track of them after they are distributed. We strongly encourage you to order your yearbook early and to have it personalized. Name stamped orders will only be accepted until January 27th, so act now! You can also order by going to www.jostensyearbooks.com and following the links to TOPS. If you have questions, contact Catrice Dennis or Colette Hubbard at chubbard@seattleschools.org or 252-3513.

**Site Council**
Two ongoing Site Council committees are looking for additional members. If you are interested in special needs inclusion at TOPS, contact Dan Hurley 325-8367 or dhruley@edcc.edu. Tamara Kincaid and Barbara Rockey have formed TACT (“TOPS Active Communication Team.”) Contact Tamara at 545-1304 or tkincaid@aol.com if you want to help improve communication at TOPS. An Adhoc Committee has formed to follow the School District’s proposed changes regarding capacity, closure and alternative education.
Contact Susan Welch if you want to join us. Site Council is also looking for someone who is willing to attend Seattle School Board meetings and report back to the group, contact Susan at 755-3684 or susan.welch1@comcast.net if you can do that job.

Site Council meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-7 in the library. The next meeting will be Feb 11th. All TOPS Community members are always welcome to come to the meetings and provide input.

Climb to the TOP for Mikael!
Join the “TOPS to the Top” team on The Big Climb Sunday March 22nd. It is a climb of the Columbia Tower- 69 flights- to raise money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma foundation. You can register as a climber or a racer for $25 (school group discount rate) on the www.bigclimb.org website. Go to teams and register under team name “TOPS to the Top.” The password to get the discounted rate is TOPS (case sensitive). Faculty, families, students and friends are welcome to climb, fundraise or sponsor a climber. We are doing this in Mikael Perla’s name. He is a TOPS graduate, class of 2008, who was just diagnosed with leukemia. Please sign up ASAP as the climb fills up and closes. Contact Nina Binder, nlbinder@seattleschools.org, or leave a message at 252-3510, for additional information. Nina wants to encourage students to participate even if they can’t come up with the $25 entry fee, so let her know if you need help or can sponsor a student.

If you would like to see how you can support the Perlas in other ways, you can contact Sandi Kurtz at sandik@drizzle.com and she’ll put you on her email list.

Winter Wishes and Holiday Food Drive
(See the Dec/Jan Newsletter article for all of the details)
Thanks to the generous donations from TOPS faculty, students and their families the TOPS Winter Wishes Food Drive event was a resounding success. There were more items collected this year than in years past, 1,720 food items and a bounty of Christmas gifts. The holidays were a lot cheerier for twelve TOPS families who received Christmas gifts, a basket and a box full of dried food goods along with a Safeway gift card. In addition to providing TOPS families with food items we were also able to make a contribution of 27 boxes of food to Food Lifeline, Washington’s largest hunger relief agency. A special thanks to the following: Jennifer Murray, Mrs. Scott and Sheri Toussaint (organizers), Mrs. Kuban, Alicia Jessie, Marlies van Bergeijk, George Scott, Sabrina Scott, Mr. Smith and Jennifer MacColl.

Top two classes that collect the most food items:
8th grade class collected 450 items
5th grade class collected 350 items

Immeasurable thanks to all!

Penny Harvest
(See the Dec/Jan Newsletter article for all of the details)
The Penny Harvest Service Learning Event was huge triumph. Classes from kindergarten through 8th grade collected pennies and as a school we exceeded our goal by filling 30 Canvas Sacks and collecting $262 dollars in cash!


Top three classes that filled the most thirty-pound canvas sacks
Katie Water’s 3rd grade class filled 11 classroom containers
Nina Binder’s 5th grade class filled 9 classroom containers
Elizabeth Reiter’s 5th grade class filled 6 classroom containers

Spring for TOPS!
Auction 2009

It may be the middle of winter but it’s never too early to spring into action for this year’s TOPS Auction to be held on May 2. Start thinking now about you’d like to pitch in:

- Procure or donate items worth $50 or more – talk to local business or inventory your own talents or resources.
- Organize the Class Project – help the kids create their own unique and priceless work of art.
- Organize the Class Basket – pick a theme and encourage class families to contribute items to go along with the theme.
- Buy a table – share the evening with your friends or a teacher.
- Buy raffle tickets – buy tickets for a chance at a great prize.
- Underwrite – pitch in to help with the costs of the event by providing products (like beverages), by volunteering, or by offsetting the costs through a cash donation.
- Volunteer – choose a committee position or step into the frenzy of activity on auction night. New positions are open to help with the dessert and catering committees!

Keep an eye out for your auction packet in the next few weeks. In the meantime, you can check out last year’s auction site at http://www.topsk8.org/helping/auction/ for a preview of the fun to come or contact members of the Auction Committee -

Chair: Janet Morrison janetm@blarg.net 634-2203
Volunteer Coordinator: Beth Eagen b_eagen@hotmail.com 723-5149
Procurement: Pam Copeland jimpamandsophia@comcast.net 264-1850

Dates to Note
Jan. 16th Middle School Service Learning 11-1
16th Social Justice Topics 1-3
19th No School - Martin Luther King Day Holiday
26th  **No School** – Day between Semesters
27th  Elementary Prospective Parent Tour 9:30-11:30
28th  MLK Day Assembly 10:00 in the gym (Note New Date)
30th  CSJ Movie Night 6-9 TOPS Library

Feb.  4th  SCT ‘Tomas’ 10:30-12:00
4th  **Two Hour Early Dismissal** – Professional Development
5th  Middle School Prospective Parent Tour 9:30-11:30
10th  Elementary Prospective Parent Tour 9:30-11:30
11th  Site Council Meeting 5-7 Library
13th  100 Day celebration -- Kindergarten
16-20  **No School** – Midwinter Break

**Save the date:**
Feb 19th-22nd TOPS Mission Ridge All Family ski trip. See the Dec/Jan newsletter for details:

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**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’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 #94-3143401. All donations are tax deductible.

Return to the Tops Office or

Mail to: Tops School No-Bake 2500 Franklin Ave E Seattle WA 98102
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
* scholarships
* 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 scholarships
* ACT Theatre Young Playwright program

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.