

TOPS Thursday Go-Home

March 12th

Spring for TOPS!

The TOPS Auction Web Site is online: Go to <http://tops.maestroweb.com> and have a look at the growing catalogue (start your 'wish list!').

See the attached flyer for lots of details.

The Procurement Deadline is Wednesday April 8th.

New for this year: RSVP by April 8th and save \$5 on your ticket price!
(Invitations will be mailed soon)

Your job?

Procure, Volunteer, Underwrite and get ready to . . . ***Spring for TOPS on May 2nd!***

No School Next Friday

There will be no school on Friday March 20th due to professional development. Spring break is the week of March 30th-April 3rd. If your child will miss additional days, be sure to inform Michele Lamb in the office: 252-3518 or blamb@seattleschools.org.

Taste of TOPS

Our annual family celebration and potluck will be held on Thursday March 19th, from 6:00-9:00.

See the attached flyer for all of the details.

Book Fair - March 18th & 19th

Don't miss the 2nd Annual TOPS Book Fair. We are partnering with Secret Garden Bookstore once again to buy books for ourselves & TOPS! We earned over \$1200 last year for teachers and the TOPS Library. Mark the dates on your calendar and join us on Wednesday, March 18th or at the **TASTE of TOPS Thursday, March 19th**. See the attached flyer and if you'd like to help - contact Susan at susan.welch1@comcast.net.

Tired of the Snow??? Come to the Glow!

Come to the Glowout Dance! Wear white colored clothing! It looks awesome under the black lights! This Friday: March 13, 2009, 6:30pm – 9:00pm in the TOPS Cafeteria. TOPS Students: \$5.00, Guests: \$6.00. Guest Slips are available from Marianne, Ms. Eick, or the

Office. The ASB is still looking for chaperones. If you are interested, please call Ms. Hubbard in the office at (206) 252-3513.

TOPS Playwrights

TOPS 8th grader, Becca Ehlers and TOPS grad Zoe Barker-Aderam will be featured by the ACT Theatre's Young Playwright Program (YPP). Becca's play, **White Dove Over Afghanistan**, will be presented Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, March 21 at 12:00 pm. Zoe's play, **After Maren**, will be presented Friday, March 20 at 7:30 pm and Saturday March 21 at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$10/session see www.acttheatre.org or call 292-7676 for details. TOPS students participation in the YPP is made possible by your generous donations to the No Bake and the Auction. Thank you!

There's Still Time to Climb!

There is still time to register to climb or to donate. Go to www.bigclimb.org and learn how you can climb the Columbia Tower and contribute to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in honor of TOPS grad (and Maria's brother) Mikael Perla. To join or donate, search for "TOPS to the Top" You can register to join the TOPS team until March 16th. "TOPS to the Top" has 44 members and has collected over \$5,600 in donations to date!

Yearbooks Are Available Online

Go to the TOPS website and click on the link to order your yearbook now! Books are now \$22. Order your book now to ensure a copy. Personalization is no longer available. 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.

Got Shirts?

Luzita needs more middle school painting smocks, please send in any old large or extra large t-shirts you have lying around. Thank you!

Poetry Slam

Wednesday, April 8 from 5:30-6:30 both 1st grade classes will hold their 3rd annual poetry slam. Join us in Mrs. Stoneberg's room for a slammin' good time! The Poetry Festival will be held

Volunteer Job of the Week

TOPS earned over \$500 from Escrip in our first year of participation! Membership has doubled over this school year. Julie Wroble has the program off to a strong start. Are you interested in taking on this project? Julie would be happy to talk to you about what it entails: Contact her at 324-4829 or jwroble@comcast.net. And thank you for helping TOPS!

Camps, Spring and Summer

Eric Herndon is offering his popular basketball and interactive gaming camp over spring break. See the attached flyer for details.

And TOPS Middle School Art Teacher, Luzita Roll is offering her popular Art4Kids camp again this summer. This year will be four weeks from 6/22/09 to 7/17/09, covering Fused Glass, Ceramics, Block Printing, Silk Screening, "Shoe" Sculpture, Masks, Kites and Hand Painting. For all of the details, pick up a flyer in the office or go to art4kidsnw.com. Sign up early to ensure a space.

Start Times May Change

The Seattle School District (SPS) is considering making significant changes to school start times for the 2009-2010 school year. On March 4th a proposal was made that would change the start time at TOPS (and all High Schools, Middle Schools and K-8s) to 8:00 a.m. All K-5s would start at 9:15. The Transportation Department initiated the changes as part of a plan they say will save \$2.2 million for the school district.

With the Open Enrollment period under way, we can expect to hear the proposal to change start times announced as a final decision **VERY SOON**. The TOPS Site Council addressed the proposal at their Wednesday March 11th meeting. Please contact your representatives (see the inside back cover of the TOPS directory) to communicate your family's opinion and to find out what happened at the meeting. Watch for room rep emails on the subject and consider joining the TOPS_Info Yahoo group.

The current proposal is posted on the SPS web site at:

www.seattleschools.org/area/board/08-09agendas/030409agenda/transportationpresentation.pdf

District FAQ about the proposal are here:

www.seattleschools.org/area/m_news/20090302_bell_time_faq.pdf

There are ongoing discussions about the proposal at two local education blogs::

saveseattleschools.blogspot.com and **harium.blogspot.com**

If you have strong opinions about the proposal (in favor or against), please share them with the following people as soon as possible (the Board will be discussing this on March 18th):

1) Harium Martin Morris (TOPS' Board Member) harium.martin-morris@seattleschools.org and/or the entire School Board: schoolboard@seattleschools.org

2) Tom Bishop (Transportation Manager) tabishop@seattleschools.org

3) Ammon McWashington (Oversees transportation, athletics, etc); mcwashington@seattleschools.org

4) Don Kennedy Chief Operating Officer drkenedy@seattleschools.org

5) Carla Santorno, Chief Academic Officer cjsantorno@seattleschools.org, particularly with potential impacts on learning and academic achievement

Inclusion Taskforce

Are you interested in issues of inclusion at TOPS? Would you like to be part of a group that helps our bilingual, special needs and just plain new families feel informed and connected? Join Susan Welch, Dan Hurley and other TOPS families to brainstorm and act. Contact Susan at 755-3684 or susan.welch1@comcast.net.

Site Council News

It's time to start thinking about representatives for next year. Are you considering a run for office? Come to a meeting and check it out. Site Council meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5-7 in the library. The April meeting will be held on the 8th. All TOPS Community members are always welcome to come to the meetings and provide input.

Dates to Note

March 13th TOPICS
13th Middle School Dance 6:30-
18-19 Book Fair in the TOPS Library
19th Eighth grade to EMP
19th Taste of TOPS 6:00-9:00 (note time change from last year)
20th **NO SCHOOL** – Professional Development
22nd The Big Climb – *TOPS to the Top* climbs the Columbia Tower
25th Young Authors Celebration, 2:10-2:50
26th 6th, 8th, SPED to SCT, *Tale of Two Cities*
27th Kindergarten ABC Party
27th TOPICS
30 - **NO SCHOOL** – Spring Break Begins
(Note that the TOPS Speech Tournament is on sabbatical this year. Questions? Ask Steve)

April 6th School resumes after Spring Break
8th 1st grade Poetry Slam 5:30-6:30, Mrs. Stoneberg's room.
8th Site Council Meeting 5-7 Library
15th Disaster Preparedness Presentation, TOPS Library

Save the Dates:

April 18th Landscaping Work Party
May 2nd *Spring for TOPS* Auction
May 15th Art Fest (and Elementary Play?)

Camp Dates:

K-2, DHH, ASL: Camp Long, June 9th
3-4: Camp Arnold, June 4-5
7th: Mount Saint Helens, May 13-15
8th: Deception Pass, June 2-5

The Coalition for Social Justice Presents the

**Tenth Annual Taste Of Tops
Our Theme Will Honor The Culture Of:**

CHINA

Thursday, March 19, 2009

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Taste of TOPS is an all school multicultural celebration, family potluck, and talent showcase. We will have the opportunity to share a part of us that makes us who we are through the foods we love.

**Please bring a potluck dish to share
reflecting your family traditions.**

Potluck dinner

6:00-7:30 p.m. TOPS Cafeteria

- ◆ Featuring samples of Chinese cuisine

Events throughout the evening

- ◆ Chinese music and performance including the Lion Dance
- ◆ Chinese arts and crafts including calligraphy
- ◆ Participate in a social justice project benefiting children in China

Student Talent Showcase

7:30-9:00 p.m. TOPS Gym (Forms to sign up for the Talent Show will be available in the front office beginning March 1.)

The Taste of TOPS flyers are available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Tagalog, and Tigrigna in the TOPS office or by request.

To volunteer or for more information contact:

Lynne Goodrich (206) 725-6656 or goodrich_yas@msn.com

TOPS SPRING BREAK 09

March 30th -April 3rd

BASKETBALL CAMP 2009 *and* INTERACTIVE GAMING CAMPS

With TOPS P.E. teacher, basketball coach and gaming enthusiast Eric Herndon. The basketball camp will focus on basketball fundamentals, passing, shooting and dribbling, as well as team offensive and defensive techniques. The gaming camp will include gym activities combined with gaming on the Wii, X-Box and Playstation. Space is limited.

COST: \$100.00 Per session. 1st grade through 6th grade

TIME: Session #1: ***Basketball*** 9:00am to 12:00pm

Session #2: ***Gym Activities and Gaming*** 12:30pm to 3:30pm

LOCATION: TOPS Gym – 2500 Franklin Ave., E. (206) 252-3516

REGISTRATION AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

Please return no later than March 20th

Campers Name: _____ Grade _____

Session #1 AM Basketball _____ Session #2 PM Gaming _____

Shirt Size: Youth M _____ L _____ Adult S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

I verify that my child has been checked by a licensed physician and is physically able to participate in Eric Herndon's summer basketball camp. I hereby authorize Eric Herndon to act for me in his best judgment in any emergency requiring medical attention.

Participants assume all risks associated with normal participation in the camp, including those inherent in the game of basketball.

Parent/ Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Past or present health problems or injuries _____

Current medications _____

Health insurance carrier _____ Group # _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Return this form and payment to Eric Herndon @TOPS or 910 N. 195th St., Shoreline WA 98133 (206)252-3516

Celebrate Earth Day at TOPS

Saturday, April 18 from 9am until 1pm

TOPS Spring Landscape Family Work Party

Has everyone noticed the respect that TOPS kids show toward their school and the surrounding property? Many of our children have taken time during their day to learn the value of caring for their school grounds by planting bulbs, pulling weeds, and picking up litter. You can see the proud and satisfied looks on their faces as they pick up even the tiniest bits of trash. In the spirit of Earth Day the Stewardship Committee has planned a family work party for April 18 to help them care for the schoolyard. We will be weeding and heavily mulching the grounds of TOPS to break the cycle of weed germination and to help with water retention for our resilient but sometimes trampled plants.

Come on over any time between 9 AM and 1 PM. Stay for an hour or for the whole morning. It is a great way to log in volunteer hours, to meet other TOPS families, and to enjoy being outside. Everyone, K - 8 and graduate, is needed and welcomed. If you have high school students who need community service hours, we will be providing forms for documentation to take back to their schools.

The School District will be supplying some tools, gloves, mulch, clean green bags and even a district gardener! However, if you have your own tools and gloves that fit well, please bring them (be sure to label them with your name). **Weeders and shovels are especially useful to bring. We can also always use LOTS of wheelbarrows.** As part of the weed suppression exercise, we will be laying layers of newspaper down before putting 4" to 5" of mulch over the top. **PLEASE BRING LOTS OF NEWSPAPER WITH YOU FOR THIS JOB. START SAVING YOUR STACK NOW!**

We'll have coffee and some treats, but plan to bring a water bottle. We will have access to the bathrooms in the school.

We hope to see all of you at this fun, community building event!

Please RSVP via email to one of us to let us know your timeframe and number of family members attending-

Amy Paige amycpaige@gmail.com

Kathy Schmid schlemans@comcast.net

Jennifer Wise-MacColl sjmaccoll@comcast.net

Sandy Shettler sshettler@msn.com

Molly LaPatra lapatra@comcast.net

Brought to you by the **Stewardship Committee**. Thanks in advance for volunteering to take care of our great school!!

TENTH ANNUAL TASTE OF TOPS AND TALENT SHOWCASE

OUR THEME WILL HONOR THE CULTURE OF CHINA

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 2009

6:00-9:00 PM

Potluck dinner 6:00-7:30 PM TOPS cafeteria

Student Talent Showcase 7:30-8:30 PM TOPS gym

Events to entertain and educate about China will happen throughout the evening

- Chinese music and performance including the Lion Dance
- Chinese arts and crafts including calligraphy
- Participate in a social justice project benefiting children in China

The Taste of TOPS is an all school multicultural celebration, family potluck and talent showcase. We will have the opportunity to share a part of us that makes us who we are through the foods we love. **Please bring a dish to share from your family's cultural heritage.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This years' theme honors China if you would like to contribute or volunteer please contact: Lynne Goodrich (206) 725-6656 or goodrich_yas@msn.com

TALENT SHOWCASE

For more information regarding the Talent Showcase please contact:

Keith Toussaint (206) 322-6374 or toussaint@msn.com

Don Zemke (206) 252-3516 or dwzemke@seattleschools.org

The Taste of TOPS flyers are available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Tagalog, and Tigrigna in the TOPS office or by request.

This event is sponsored by the CSJ, Coalition for Social Justice.

CALLING ON STUDENTS!

DO YOU HAVE A TALENT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

SIGN UP FOR THE TASTE OF TOPS TALENT SHOWCASE

ONLY 10 SHOWCASE SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR PERFORMANCE TO 2 MINUTES

Student name _____

Grade/Teacher _____

Talent _____

Parent's Signature _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO THE TOPS OFFICE BY
MONDAY, MARCH 16TH 2009

SPRING FOR TOPS!



Auction Quick Facts:

May 2, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Asian Resource Center

Procurement / Donation deadline: **April 8, 2009**

The TOPS Auction is rapidly approaching and our goal is to raise \$110,000 to fund the programs few of us would want our kids to do without. **Look for your invitation in the mail soon!** RSVP for the Auction before April 8 and receive a \$5 discount on your ticket price!

There's a tremendous amount to look forward to – an evening of uninterrupted conversation with your friends, great food, the raffle prize, a huge variety of silent auction items, the class projects, and the Golden Raffle! Too excited to wait for auction night? You can now view the growing auction catalog online at the TOPS Auction web site – <http://tops.maestroweb.com/>. In the meantime, there are so many ways to help:

- **Procure 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 ticket** – 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.

Questions? Check out the TOPS Auction web site at <http://www.topsk8.org/helping/auction/> 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	323-4278
Silent Auction	Janet Morrison	janetm@blarg.net	634-2203
	Ellen Levi	elevi@comcast.net	282-5596
	Romany Surla	rsurla@metalmetrics.com	
Live Auction	Cam Sata	clsata@hotmail.com	525-0938
	Barb Lui	bjlui@aol.com	725-3204
Class Projects	Cam Sata	clsata@hotmail.com	525-0938
	Barb Lui	bjlui@aol.com	725-3204
Underwrite/Register	Jamie Flaxman	jamieandsam@earthlink.net	286-1295

Looking for a fun and easy way to donate to the **TOPS Auction?**

Host a TOPICS for Grown-Ups Party!

These are fun social events hosted by TOPS families. The host chooses a theme, a date, how many guests they would like to have, and how much to charge per person. The sign up fee usually ranges anywhere from \$20 to \$100 per person, depending on what you feel the value of your Topic is worth. At the auction, guests sign up to attend the party until the party is full. Many people join with two or three other families to host a party.

Previous TOPICS party themes include:

Adult Ski Bus to Crystal Mt.
Cabernet and Crafts
Evening in Casablanca Dinner
Flip Flop Lemon Drop
Garden Stone Workshop
Guilty Pleasures: Pride and Prejudice Marathon
Jewelry Class
Learn How To Make Challah
Literary Scavenger Hunt
Sanity Saturday For Moms
Truffle Making
Watercolor En Plein Air
Wine Tasting

So think of something you enjoy doing and share it with the TOPS community while raising money for our school. Call or email Janet Morrison with questions at janetm@blarg.net or 206-634-2203.



Join us at the 2nd Annual **TOPS BOOK FAIR!**

In partnership with Secret Garden Bookstore

WHEN: Wednesday, MARCH 18 ~10:00a - 4:30p

**TASTE OF
TOPS!** Thursday, MARCH 19 ~10:00a - 9:00p

WHERE: TOPS Library

WHY: To buy books that benefit TOPS, you and a local bookstore, The Secret Garden.

Please donate to “A BOOK FOR EVERYONE” Fund while visiting the Book Fair (this will ensure that all TOPS kids have the chance to get a book at the Fair).

Last year, we earned over \$1,200 worth of books for teachers, the TOPS Library and to subsidize “A Book For Everyone” Fund. **THANK YOU!!!**



Teacher Wish-List books also available for purchase!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP MAKE THIS YEAR'S BOOK FAIR A SUCCESS. To help, email susan.welch1@comcast.net

PLEASE NOTE: The Fair will not be open before the school day starts this year.