THE COURAGE TO TEACH

By Principal Gary Tubbs

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend a weekend retreat in March entitled “Courage To Teach.” The retreat was held on beautiful Priest Lake in northern Idaho. The guiding vision of the program is, “We Teach Who We Are.” The 24 participants from all over Washington were led through reflection, meditation, and personal growth opportunities that dug deep into the original passion that years ago led us into education. It was a beautiful experience and helped me once again hold in high regard the important influence my profession has on the lives of so many.

Teaching is a calling, a vocation. I have such respect and admiration for the teachers at TOPS. They are not only talented and skilled, but also caring, loving and genuinely “good people.”

Being such good people, they sometimes have a tendency to attempt to do too much, stretch too far, and maybe even “fix” everyone and everything! It’s important we honor ourselves and always work to maintain a healthy balance. TOPS parents realize this and show such amazing support and understanding in this regard. Thank you!

Below is a short piece from Thomas Merton that puts an interesting “spin” on overdoing. I hope you find it helpful in remembering to take care of yourself and supporting others in doing the same. After all, you’re worth it!

THE VIOLENCE OF MODERN LIFE

There is a pervasive form of modern violence to which the idealist fighting for peace by non-violent methods most easily succumbs: activism and over-work. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence. The frenzy of the activist neutralizes his/her work for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of his/her own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.

~ Thomas Merton

SNOW ADDS DAY TO CALENDAR

Thanks to the February 16 snow day, the school year will be extended one day to end on Thursday, June 21.

Eighth grade Passage has been moved to Tuesday, June 19, and Middle School Wild Waves will be on Wednesday, June 20.

- Thomas Merton

The TOPS newsletters are available online in PDF format, usually before the printed copy arrives in your mailbox! From the TOPS home page (http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/tops), click on Hot News Spots, then TOPS Newsletters.
ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the eighth monthly newsletter of the 2000-2001 school year, edited by Julie Pickering. Cindy Suzumura handles the layout and design. Coach Don Zemke always provides great photos, and Gretchen Chambers is supplying informative news. Bruce Pulmano maintains the mailing list and gets the newsletter out to you.

We thank you for your contributions and welcome more—news from the classrooms, faculty, committees, and the larger community, opinions, profiles, compliments, congratulations, kids’ art, photographs, additions to the calendar, and anything else that needs to “get out there.”

Submit your contributions to the newsletter box in the Main Office or to Julie Pickering (by e-mail at jpick@halcyon.com or by snail mail at 2624 East Olive Street, Seattle 98122-3144).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2001

April 20, May 11, and June 29.

Anyone interested in working on the newsletter should contact Julie at 720-4552.

After introductions, Chair Betsy Scott passed on a warning from Sharon Mentyka that the State Legislature is chipping away at funding approved by voters in Initiative 728. Sharon urged the Site Council members to call or write their legislators.

Volunteer Coordinator Marlies van Bergeijk noted that delivery of the TOPS newsletter had been delayed due to a mailing problem. It was corrected with new labels (applied by Marlies). (Thanks, Marlies! And apologies from the Editor.)

TREES AND PLANTS

Cheryl Thomas, a member of the Eastlake community, presented a plan to install a planting bed in the sidewalk between Roanoke and the freeway directly across from the school. The 500 square-foot bed would be planted with trees and drought-resistant plants. She asked the Site Council for a letter of support to the Washington Department of Transportation and for help watering new trees during the summer. Mr. Tubbs responded that because school was not in session during the summer, helping with watering would be difficult. It was suggested that TOPS families in the area could be approached.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Peggy Riehle distributed and briefly reviewed the February budget report.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Mr. Tubbs reported that the Leadership Council has been working on the school staffing and operations budget during the waiver holidays and expected to have it ready by the next meeting.

Earthquake Preparedness Put to the Test

The school’s response to the earthquake was basically good, and the staff is grateful to have had a harmless test of our preparedness. We did learn that our evacuation was called prematurely. Because we have relatively safe buildings, we should have waited to send the kids out after an assessment of the exterior of the building.

Mr. Tubbs said that the dance and arts organization, On the Boards, wants to extend their community partnership with TOPS and is working on a grant for a dance program for 6th graders.

A luncheon and assembly was held last week for 125 middle school Honor Roll students.

Mr. Tubbs reported that Chinese and U.S. Grandmasters’ Chess Exhibition held at TOPS on March 13 was a great success. Everyone thanks parent Mark Morales for his stalwart promotion of chess at TOPS.

The Speech Tournament was a great success, and the staff is trying to arrange a special event in which the winners will perform their presentations again.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT

Hygiene Kit Community Service Project

Middle school representatives Mac Hamilton, Karlin Castor-Pack, and Julia Jesse reported on the Middle School’s community service project and dance plans. Middle schoolers are organizing a school-wide effort to create hygiene kits for a downtown homeless shelter. Each grade is assigned certain items, and bagging groups will be arranged. The students hope to have the project covered by the local newspapers. Garry Owens suggested contacting Real Change.

Bad DJs

The students related that they have fired their latest DJ for excessive screening of songs and playing games during the dance (Hokey Pokey!) against student wishes to leave them out of the program. They will be rehiring a DJ from an earlier dance who, they realize now, wasn’t so bad.

BUDGET ITEM RENEWALS

For the purpose of streamlining the process by which the Site Council approves projects for funding by Friends of TOPS, the members identified and evaluated core budget items that are funded every year, such as Drama, AmeriCorps members, the newsletter, auction expenses, technology, etc. During the review, the members identified several categories that had received funds for multicultural assemblies and presentations. These categories were combined into one. At the end of the review, Treasurer Peggy Riehle projected a remainder of $10,000 to $12,500 for funding new Requests for Proposals (RFP), based on the expectation that this year’s auction returns will be similar to last year’s. (See page 3 for more information on the RFP process.)
BUDGET PROCESS MOVING AHEAD

By Betsy Scott, Site Council Chair

This month the budgeting process for next year continued for the TOPS Site Council. Last month the council decided that a set of budget items would be designated as renewable in order to streamline the budgeting process. Renewable items include drama, elementary art and classroom supplies. The Site Council decided such renewable items would be reviewed and evaluated, and only if additional funding is requested will the generation and submittal of a Request for Proposal (RFP) be required.

After evaluating all renewable items, the Site Council determined between $10,000 and $12,500 will likely be available for increasing the funding of renewable items or to fund new projects. Keep in mind that funds raised this year are for activities next year, so the $10,000-12,500 amount is contingent on the success of the TOPS auction, set for May 5.

The Site Council’s three priorities, which will drive decisions on how this money is allocated, are: enrichment; parental involvement; and a positive school environment, with an emphasis on multiculturalism.

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE RFP PROCESS

March 19 .......... Request for Proposals issued. Copies are available in the school office.
Friday, April 27 ..... Deadline for submission for all RFPs.
Wednesday, May 2 ... Public meeting of interested parties to discuss proposals. All those who have submitted a proposal will need to come and answer questions.
Wednesday, May 16 ... Further assessment of proposals with a recommendation of a possible budget.
Wednesday, June 6 ... The Site Council’s executive committee will produce a final proposed budget.
Wednesday, June 13 ... Site Council meeting. The final proposed budget will be forwarded to the Site Council for approval.

I look forward to working with everyone involved in this process and will be glad when we put the budget to rest for another year!

JOIN THE SITE COUNCIL!

Time to sign up for TOPS Site Council positions. The TOPS Site Council is the governing body of parents, teachers, and administrators who plan, fund, and enact school enrichment programs, and building and grounds improvements. Site Council allocates the funds that come from the No Bake Bake Sale and the Auction.

The Site Council meets once a month during the school year—on the second Wednesday from 5 to 7, in the Library.

No prior knowledge or experience is necessary. On-the-job learning is expected! Try it! It’s a wonderful way to get plugged into the TOPS community and help our children get more out of TOPS.

Submit your name by April 12, by dropping a note in the Site Council mailbox in the office or calling/e-mailing Nominating Committee Chair Gary Luke at 826-4304/gluke@sasquatchbooks.com, or Site Council Chair Betsy Scott at 784-5768/ betsy.scott@att.net

Ballots will appear in the May newsletter, and votes will be tallied by mid-May.

2001 TOPS CALENDAR

APRIL

4 (W) .............. Site Council meeting, Library, 5-7 p.m.
9-13 (M-F) ....... Spring break
23-May 11 ...... WASL

MAY

1(T) ............... Double Dutch Tournament at Chief Sealth High School, 3:45-7 p.m.
5 (S) ............ TOPS Auction, Asian Resource Center
9 (W) ............ Site Council meeting, Library, 5-7 p.m.
18 (F) ............ Teacher workshops. No school
28 (M) ............ Memorial Day. No school

JUNE

1 (F) .............. TOPS Art Fair, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
8-9 (F-S) ........ Elementary School Play
12 (T) ............ Instrumental Music Concert, 7 p.m.
13 (W) ............ Site Council meeting, Library, 5-7 p.m.
19 (T) ............ 8th Grade Passage
20 (W) ............ Middle School Wild Waves
21 (Th) ............ Last student day
22 (F) ............ Last teacher day
24 (S) ............ Site Council Retreat
JUMP ROPE FOR HEART 2001

By Don Zenke

February is Heart Month in the TOPS P.E. program. One component during the month is our Jump Rope For Heart program in which students are taught how to exercise, using a variety of different jump rope techniques, set individual jump rope goals, and then demonstrate their new skill during an exhibition at the end of the month.

The heart unit also includes teaching heart-healthy habits, such as proper nutrition, staying away from alcohol and drugs, and the importance of an active lifestyle.

One voluntary component of the Jump Rope For Heart is collecting donations for the American Heart Association. This year TOPS students collected $3,725.00. Thanks to all students and parents who supported this community service piece.

BUY A LEAF, BUILD A PLAYGROUND

From Rebecca Sadinsky

If you haven’t yet, please buy a leaf from the Friends of Rogers Playground. Buying a leaf will directly support the building of a new playground in Rogers Playfield that TOPS students will use each school day. The more leaves purchased, the more equipment will be purchased—as much play equipment as we can safely fit into the northeast corner of the park. Best of all, by buying a leaf or two or three, you can leave a message, or several messages, that all can read for years to come.

HERE ARE A FEW MESSAGES RECENTLY ORDERED.

Ian McKinley 2001
Quin McKinley 2004
Follow Your Rainbows
Have fun. Read a book.
Ki, Marty & Vava Gottberg/Cole
“Sweet Family Love”
Run, Jump, Play, With Abandon!,
Mary Anne Stusser
Pazzo’s on Eastlake–Is Proud To Be Part Of Our Community
Remember to Laugh
LaPatra Gals, PDX Grandma
Alex J Plays Here
Giggle and Laugh Lots!
Bergmann Ness Family
Karen Kodama
Dave Greggs, TOPS Student
Jesse and Ariana B.
The Chapman Kids Laughed, Learned and Played Here
For Our Seven Grandchildren
One Fish, Two Fish
Samuel and Holden Tubbs
Alana Loves Will & Owen
Dr. Chi-Mei Chao
Mary Tien Hui Chao

To order a leaf, fill out and return this handy order form.
Have questions? Call Jules James, 329-1885, or Rebecca Sadinsky, 723-7378.

Name_____________________________________________________
Address___________________________________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________________________
Telephone ________________ E-mail______________________

I want to purchase ______small leaves at $60 each and/or ______ large leaves at $200 each. Enclosed is my tax-deductible check made out to Seattle Community Council Federation/ECC-Rogers for $______________.

Leaf message: Small leaves $60, Up to two lines, 12 spaces each.

Large leaves $200, Up to three lines, 20 spaces each

Fill out, detach and mail to: Friends of Rogers Playground
117 E Louisa PMB 453, Seattle, WA 98102
TOPS VOLLEYBALL 2001

By Don Zemke

The TOPS girls’ volleyball team is real lucky to have an experienced and highly qualified volleyball coach in Carolyn Papineau this year.

Carolyn played for the University of Puget Sound and played on scholarship for the University of Washington. After graduating from the UW, Carolyn played on several USVBA Women’s Open indoor teams, traveling to play in Oregon, Idaho, and Canada. Carolyn also played competitively outdoors; first on grass, then on sand.

Other experience includes JV and Assistant Varsity Coach for Redmond High School, Advanced Skills Camp coach at the University of Washington, Assistant Women’s Volleyball coach at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO (A Division II school), Advanced Skills Camp Coach at Regis University in Denver, and coach of an 8-10 year-old girls team at Miller community Center in Seattle.

I know our TOPS girls are really going to benefit from having such an experienced coach and will develop a good skills foundation for their team play this year and for many years to come. Be sure and check out the team schedule on the TOPS P.E. web site (http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/tops/pe.html) and come watch the team play! Games are Saturday mornings through May.
SUMMER CAMP RECOMMENDATIONS

By Amy Hagopian

Summer is fast approaching, and working parents really have to hustle to ensure their kids have a rewarding summer. Here’s how I do it. Start with a matrix: each of the weeks down the side, each kid across the top. Then I just start plotting it out.

My formula is: two weeks home doing very little (being bored is good practice for life); two weeks of family vacation; one or two weeks of overnight camp; five to six weeks of day camp. If you can get grandparents to volunteer for a week, you’re way ahead. Most of the day camps still think moms are home filing their nails waiting for camp to be over after lunch, but some offer childcare till 5 or 6 for an additional fee.

Most kids prefer going with a friend. That way you can carpool with some other parent(s) as well. Another thought is to organize a “do it yourself” camp where you agree to conduct a week of camp-like activities with three other families, and they do the same, and then you’ve got a whole month covered!

However, all this requires early organization and planning, so get going!

Seattle Parks and Recreation has affordable day camps at most of its centers around the city. Call 206-684-4360. These can be very good, depending on the personnel, and are a real bargain ($95 a week). We’re told program guides won’t be available until mid-May at the Community Centers (why so late?). Try checking their website at http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/parks/Environment/school.htm. Call 206-386-4236, or see http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/communitycenters.htm for the program for kids aged 6-11: www.pacsci.org.

Skyhawks Sports Camps, at 425-486-7430, ext. 1, offer a variety of summer sports day camps throughout the city. Usually 9-3, for about $100. They have a very fancy brochure which is always late. Call 206-281-2205. Check this website for the program for kids aged 6-11: www.outreach.washington.edu/k12/summerday.asp. Cost is $430 to $465 for three weeks of day camp for ages 6-11, June 25-July 13 and July 16-Aug 3. August 6-17 is $310. There’s a new program this year at the Arboretum for kids 9-11, at $175 per week, 9-4, July 9 to August 17. Middle School programs (www.outreach.washington.edu/extinfo/youth.asp#anchor209653) are 8:15 to 4:30, $400 per two-week class.

The UW has some nice, but pricey, programs primarily (but not exclusively) for Middle Schoolers. Call 206-543-2310. Check out http://www.nwssoccer.org. Or phone 206-281-2904. Camps cost about $550 for a week. We really like the series of one- and two-week art camps, but the brochure is always late. Call 206-281-2205.

The UW also offers a week of camp for kids, from sports to art. The best organized of these is NOOC, at 425-486-7430, ext. 1, offer a variety of summer sports day camps throughout the city. Usually 9-3, for about $100. They have a very fancy brochure which is always late. Call 206-281-2205. Check this website for the program for kids aged 6-11: www.outreach.washington.edu/k12/summerday.asp. Cost is $430 to $465 for three weeks of day camp for ages 6-11, June 25-July 13 and July 16-Aug 3. August 6-17 is $310. There’s a new program this year at the Arboretum for kids 9-11, at $175 per week, 9-4, July 9 to August 17. Middle School programs (www.outreach.washington.edu/extinfo/youth.asp#anchor209653) are 8:15 to 4:30, $400 per two-week class.

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The Seattle Science Center also has some nice day camps, if you can afford them. Call 206-443-2925 or go to www.pacsci.org.

Skyhawks Sports Camps, at 425-486-7430, ext. 1, offer a variety of summer sports day camps throughout the city. Usually 9-3, for about $100. They have a very fancy website: http://www.skyhawks.com/skyhawks.html.

Discovery Park in Magnolia has day camps. Last year, it was about $120 for 9 to 1, with a $95 add-on option for 1 to 5. Call 206-386-4236, or see http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/parks/Environment/school.htm.
Seattle Audubon Society Nature Day Camp in Magnuson Park on Lake Washington offers “hands-on learning for the young and curious naturalist.” Camps are programmed into three groups; grades 1-3, 1-6 and 6-9. 9:30 to 3:30. Day Camp ages 6-11: No prices listed yet, but last year it was about $150 per week and $230 for the teen program. Various discounts and scholarships are available. Call 206-523-4483 for a brochure or the 24-hour info line: 206-528-4355. Information also available online at www.seattleaudubon.org.

Chess players will enjoy Orlov chess camp. Announcements aren’t out yet, but last year two weeks were available for kids grades 1-12, hours 8:45 to 4. $125 if paid by May 15. Inquiries to web site: http://www.chess.ca/occamp.htm, or TOPS’ Mark Morales at 206-325-4079.

Burton Music Camp (http://www.burtonmusiccamp.com/) meets on Vashon Island and hosts overnight music camps each week in July. Cost is about $400 per week.

Music Works Northwest has summer music day camps in Bellevue for all ages. Generally $130 a week for 9 to 4. For more information, see http://www.musicworksnw.org

Four Winds offers an overnight camp on Lopez Island for ages 7-10: $700 for August 23 (Th)-August 29 (W). There are also two month-long options for $3,100. Contact http://www.fourwindscamp.org or 360-376-2277.

Here are some I found on the web but have no personal experience with:

The Seattle Children’s Theatre Drama School, at 206-443-0807, has a theatre arts program. Classes meet at the Charlotte Martin Theatre at Seattle Center and cost about $145 for 9:30-12:30 for grades 4-6. Grades 7-12 can get one-day seminars (10 to 4) for $50. There is a website, but it’s a really long address—just do a search.

Neo Art School meets at the good Shepherd Center each week, all summer. Cost is $225 for 8 to 6 or $120 for 9 to 1. See http://www.neoa rtschool.com

Wilderness Awareness Summer Camp, at 425-788-1301, has a Seattle camp 7/23-8/2, but they also have other camps around the region. They focus on “ancient skills such as aid-less navigation, bird language, plant identification and animal track interpretation.” http://www.wildernessawareness.org/ . $210 per week if you register by May 20, 9 to 3.

W.O.L.F. Camps—Western Outdoor Learning Foundation — offers overnight camps in Bellingham in which they teach tracking, edible and medicinal plants, bird language, matchless fire making, and adventure. Call 360-319-6892 or 604-813-6892.

Woodland Park Zoo — Call 206-684-4800 and ask the education department about its half- and full-day programs, for kids of various ages, as well as their co-produced (with Seattle Children’s Theater) zoo and drama camp.

Experience Arts Camp, an extension of the Experience Music Project, is an “intense” summer arts program offering three separate sessions for aspiring artists ages 7-9, 10-12, and 13-15. Tuition for the two-week sessions is $580, with scholarships available. (Last year, one in three received a scholarship.) Applications are due April 7. Call 206-262-3278 or email them at artscamp@experience.org.

OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The following are specifically for middle school and above, but many of the elementary programs (in the above section) also offer a middle school component (so don’t skip those!).

There is a Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club, which offers summer classes for kids grades 6-12. 206-684-4074.

Youth in Focus offers Intro to Black and White Photography classes for Middle Schoolers starting June 25. Classes meet in Columbia City for three hours twice each week through August. Full scholarships are available. Recipients will be given a camera to use, film, paper, and access to the darkroom. They learn to take great pictures, develop their own film, and make exhibit quality prints. They are assigned to work one-on-one with a skilled photographer, and their best work will be framed and exhibited for public reception. Application deadline for scholarships is June 1. For an application, or more information, contact Youth in Focus at 206-723-1479 or visit their website at www.youthinfocus.org

Seattle Center Academy’s two-week program is designed to give Middle Schoolers hands-on experiences in the arts and sciences. It also provides specialized and integrated opportunities for students with disabilities. Elective activities include acting, singing, dancing, painting, video production, and more—all at the Seattle Center in classes presented by professional groups. Application is due April 27. Open to students currently in the 7th and 8th grades. Program runs the last week of July/first week of August, M-F, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bus transportation, lunch, and snacks are included in $350 cost, and scholarships are available. Online application and information available at http://www.oz.net/~seacnr/indexinside.htm, or call, 206-233-3959 or e-mail academysc@ci.seattle.wa.us.

Centrum offers incredible, but pricey, overnight workshops for more advanced students (includes adults), check out Centrum’s Workshops in Port Townsend and Marrowstone Island. For more information, see http://www.centrum.org/ or write for brochures at Centrum, P.O. Box 1158, Port Townsend, WA 98368 360-385-3102. These workshops are pretty high-powered and inspiring!

Northwest Mountain School, at 509-548-5823 or http://www.mountainschool.net, offers extensive training in rock climbing, backpacking, and mountaineering for students aged 13-20. Courses are seven to 30 days long. (Expensive!)
MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY RESOURCES UPDATE

By Elizabeth Dickinson

Thanks to the generous support of TOPS parents and staff at last year’s auction, many new multicultural resources will soon enhance our library collection.

About 140 books have been ordered to date in the areas of the arts, math, history, cultural identity, holidays, reference, folktales, fiction, and picture books.

Books have been chosen with the goals of supporting the multicultural dimensions of teachers’ current curricula, providing resources for TOPICS exploring diversity, and expanding the characters and cultures that children will encounter in their fiction and nonfiction reading. During the selection process, we have discovered many high quality and inclusive books already on the library shelves.

A subcommittee of the Diversity Issues Coalition has worked on multicultural acquisitions with TOPS librarian Steve Haines, whose love of books, commitment to diversity, and familiarity with children’s reading preferences have been invaluable. We hope that our children will find themselves and their experiences reflected in these new volumes and will gain new understanding of other people and cultures.

We would welcome any suggestions of additional resources you would like to see in the TOPS library. (Please contact Elizabeth Dickinson at 320-0432 or by e-mail at joem@u.washington.edu).

For a taste of our growing collection, a few of our new titles are listed here. Look for a more complete listing in the weeks to come.

Come Home with Me: A Multicultural Treasure Hunt
By Aylette Jenness. Four youngsters with diverse ethnic heritages take readers on a tour through their homes and neighborhoods in Boston. Grades K-5.

Everybody Bakes Bread

Let’s Talk About Racism
By Diane Shaughnessy. This book celebrates each child’s uniqueness and discusses the roots of racism. Grades K-4.

Fire on the Mountain*

I Have Heard of a Land

Oh, Freedom! Kids Talk About the Civil Rights Movement with the People Who Made It Happen*
Edited by Casey King. Thirty-one interviews by children, and three historical essays. Grades 5-8.

Just Listen to This Song I’m Singing: African-American History Through Song*
By Jerry Silverman. The history of African-American experiences from the 1860s to 1960s is explored through the music and lyrics of 13 songs. Grades 5-8.

Story of the Chinese Zodiac
By Monica Chang. A humorous retelling of how the gods chose which animals would be in the Chinese zodiac. Grades K-3.

Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam*
By Hynh Qyang Nhuong. An entertaining story of a boy and his two water buffalo friends. Grades 2-5.

American Eyes: New Asian-American Short Stories for Young Adults**

My Name is Maria Isabel
By Alma Flor Ada. A story about how a Puerto Rican girl affirms her cultural heritage and name in her new school. Grades 2-4.

The Tree is Older Than You Are: A Bilingual Gathering of Poems and Stories from Mexico with Paintings by Mexican Artists**

*School Library Journal starred review
** Named Notable/Best Book by the American Library Association

Continued on page 9.
FAMILY MASK-MAKING AND PUPPET WORKSHOPS

By Laura Bahor Roth

If you’ve ever enjoyed the wild puppets and costumes dancing down the street in Fremont’s annual Solstice Parade and wondered whether you could make them yourself, here is your chance!

The Fremont Arts Council has lured two carnival artists from London to conduct a series of workshops on mask making, puppets, and costume design for three weeks this April.

The artists, Sofie Layton and Julian Beere, have created masks and puppets for dozens of arts festivals around the world, and are bringing their knowledge of Carnival techniques from Trinidad and London to inspire new ideas and community participation in the festival arts here in Seattle.

A special Family Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 7, from 10-6 at the Redhook Brewery (34th and Phinney) in Fremont. Bring the whole family for a day of fun making simple masks and body puppets using cardboard, bamboo, fabric, string, (or whatever you can find or bring in!) The workshop costs $25 for two family members, with $5 for each additional person.

Other workshops in the series cover costume and character design, GIANT puppet construction (the kind that use frame packs and/or stilts!), and puppet animation and performance. The series kicks off with two free slide lectures from each artist, showing examples of their work with community-based art from around the world. If you can’t make a workshop, these slide lectures are sure to inspire! (Plus, they’re free!) A complete list of workshops will be posted in Luzita’s classroom, or you can call (206) 789-5198 for more information (and to register).

Don’t miss this chance to learn some new and easy techniques from internationally recognized artists! You’ll not only have some fun, you could even bring what you’ve learned to the greater TOPS community by teaching a new TOPIC!

Multicultural Library Resources continued from page 8.

Totem Pole
By Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith. A Tsimshian boy in Washington State describes how his father carved a totem pole for the Klallam tribe, the meaning of the animal symbols it depicts, and the ceremonial celebration for its unveiling. Grades 2-5.

Powwow
Photos and text by George Ancona vividly depict a powwow on the Crow Reservation in Montana. Grades 1-5.

Jewish-American Family Album
Edited by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler. Diaries, letters, memoirs, news articles, and photos bring to life the history and experience of Jewish Americans. Grades 4-8.

Ramadan
By Suhaib Hamid Ghazi. Describes the meaning of Ramadan and its celebration by an Islamic family in the United States. Grades K-3.

American Islam: Growing Up Muslim in America
By Richard Wormser. Interviews with Muslim American youth, and an introduction to the cultural, literary, and scientific heritage of Islamic civilization. Grades 5-8.

Women in the Material World
Photos and interviews with women in 20 countries. All ages.
2001 TOPS SPEECH TOURNAMENT

By Steve Haines

What do 64 of our 3-6th graders have in common? They participated in this year’s TOPS Speech Tournament by representing their classes in the following categories: storytelling, expository (a “how-to” speech), oral interpretation (a memorized piece), and editorial commentary (current news topic). Impromptu speeches were not given this year due to the snow day.

This ever-popular tournament was the “brain-child” of former fifth grade teacher, Tom Rowe. He had observed a similar event at his son’s school and thought it would be a good fit for the TOPS/Excel program at Stevens. In the early years, the tournament was held in the auditorium with all of the classes in attendance as observers. All the speeches in the different categories were given on the same day. The finalists would have to repeat their speeches to the judges in the “trophy rounds”. It made for a long morning for the spectators, with much waiting for the anxious contestants.

The various categories of contest are now spaced one week apart, this year starting in early February. The competitors, along with four judges and a timer, are situated in the library loft. The speeches are presented one at a time, with contestants given points for the quality of their speech.

JUDGING

Each speech is judged for different factors, such as suitability of the material, vocal and facial expression, effectiveness of delivery, logical development of topic, eye contact, ability to keep in character, and use of props. The speeches are also timed. Points are deducted for going overtime. Finally, the points are tallied, and the top four places are awarded a trophy, with everyone receiving a certificate. Students may only participate in one speech category per tournament. This year we heard about everything from “preparing tea” (Abigail–4th), and “Dale Earnhardt publicity” (Christoph–5th), to listening to “Casey at the Bat” (Erin–5th), and “Spider School” (Georgia–3rd).

LOTS OF PREPARATION

The actual planning for the tournament starts months before with Mary Chao (4th grade teacher) making any needed revisions to rules and judging sheets, then organizing and decimating information for the 3-6th grade teachers to use. Mr. Tubbs is responsible for gathering the judges for each category, and then ordering the trophies. There is a good mix of judges mostly from outside the building. Included school district administrators, business leaders, and people who work in TV and radio.

The actual student preparation starts in the primary grades as classes participate in a “speech festival” where all children recite short poems. By 3rd grade, it’s on to the voluntary competition. Each 3-6th grade class assigns some of the speeches for everyone to present in the class. Finalists are then chosen from among the students who would like to try the competition.

The TOPS students are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in this long-standing tradition. Many of the school district’s academic standards for communications are being met from 2.1, “Communicates clearly to a range of audiences for different purposes” to 2.3, “Uses effective delivery.”

A full range of emotions is felt by many of the students. Arielle and Erin (5th grade) said, “It was exciting to participate but also very nerve wracking.” Catherine (5th grade) felt proud of herself for the challenge of memorizing a book. She also thought the judges were nice.

Do the TOPS elocutionists stop after the 6th grade? Absolutely not. As they move into 7th and 8th grade, they learn how to correctly participate in debates in Ms. Eickelberg’s language arts class. This is very motivating. Have you ever known a teenager not to argue or debate about something?

Bye, Bye Birdie

By Leslie Cossitt

Broadway Bound Children’s Theatre presents the musical “Bye, Bye Birdie” April 26, 27, and 28 at Hamilton Middle School Auditorium, 1610 N. 41st Street. There will be three evening performances at 7 p.m. and one matinee at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 28.

TOPS student performers include Lani Farley, Brendan Griffin, Josephine Jardine, Justin, and Jessica Savage. Tickets are $5.00 per person and can be purchased at the door. For more information, call 632-3256.
PRESENTLY, the Seattle School District has finished delivering computers to the students at TOPS. Our school now has 57 new machines in the classrooms and 14 in the library. In addition, 39 refurbished, older PCs have been delivered.

The generous support of the Site Council and the School Budget has allowed the school to supplement the computers with printers, digital cameras, hubs, etc. During this school year, the students and staff are making more and better use of this hardware to support their learning and teaching.

In the future, our goals and focus are threefold:

Staff & student training—With the hardware here, purposeful and useful training can increase. Recently, some staff members have had training by using District e-mail and are beginning to use their e-mail accounts. Training for this will continue so ALL staff members will have and use their school e-mail accounts next year.

Staff, student, and hardware support—With increased hardware and software use, the need for support will grow. Next year, the school will hire a U.W. “Uwired” student to work ten hours per week maintaining the network and hardware, training teachers, and supporting the students in their use of technology.

Acquiring computers for teachers—The levy (approved in February) includes money for new teacher computers. The District reports that this will take about six months. Hopefully, by early next school year, each teacher will have a new computer for all his or her schoolwork, including e-mail.

All in all, the process of integrating technology to support student learning has taken big steps this year. I believe the future looks bright for training, support, acquisition, and use of technology at TOPS.

BIRD-SITTING?

Joan O’Connor, kindergarten teacher, has a pair of zebra finches that need a home until next September. They are small birds, needing minimal care. They have a soft, rolling call and come complete with food and cage. Joan can’t keep them at her house because she has a cat, and she can’t have them in the classroom this year because of a bird allergy in one of her students. If anyone would like to care for them, please contact Joan at school, or Gwen Demombynes at 632-0494. The birds are at Gwen’s house right now.

ERI C I N OLYMPIA

AUCTION 2001 IS COMING MAY 5! ANY VOLUNTEERS FOR ROOM SET-UP?

A huge thank-you to everyone who has contributed time, effort, and donations to TOPS Auction 2001! A special thanks to those thoughtful people who got their items and paperwork in before the deadline. . . . You have contributed greatly to a calm and enjoyable process for those behind the scenes who put this complex event together.

We’ve got a roomful of great items ready to bid on, in both the silent and live parts of the auction. There are vacation homes in Mazama, Lopez Island, and Ocean Shores, co-principal for a day, star-gazing with Dan Bloedel, software, dance, gymnastics, Spanish and drawing classes, haircuts, massages, a wine tasting party, a live performance by a string quartet, a baseball signed by John Olerud, backpacks, books, CDs, a soccer camp, theater tickets, gourmet baskets, jewelry, an Indonesian dinner for 10, clothing, and many more. A special round of applause to the group of parents and teachers who worked with our kids to develop this year’s class art project . . . Just wait till you see them.

So, your auction items are in, your RSVP mailed, your babysitting arranged, and you’re ready for action. Are you certain you’ve covered everything? How about volunteering to help set up the room at the Asian Resource Center on May 5, the day of the auction? We’ll also need runners and spotters and recorders during the Live Auction. Volunteering on the day of the Auction is a great way to meet your fellow TOPS parents, have a lot of fun, and get revved up for the big night. If you can lend a hand—and we could use plenty of willing hands—please call Auction Volunteer Coordinator Anna Savage, at 633-5718, to donate your services.