HOW SHOULD FUNDS BE SPENT?

By Betsy Scott, Site Council Chair

Every January and February the Site Council focuses on reviewing our strategic plan and goals. We ask ourselves if we accomplished what we set out to do in the previous year with our allocation of the money so generously donated to the Friends of TOPS.

The process of deciding how the Friends of TOPS money is spent is a long one, which started in mid-January with the setting of goals at the January Site Council meeting. Mr. Tubbs will now take what the Site Council has worked on and present it to the staff to determine what their priorities and needs are.

Our goals have been fairly consistent since I have been involved with the Site Council. This year our three broad goals are:

- Support the academic achievement plan
- Provide funding for enrichment
- Promote a positive school climate and parental involvement

At the February Site Council meeting, we will discuss staff priorities within our goals and further refine the Site Council’s priorities.

I invite TOPS community members to come to our next meeting and get involved in this vital process. With your child’s teacher, discuss your ideas and garner their support. It is through the ideas of parents that many of the great programs at TOPS were born.

Coming in March, Request for Proposal (RFP) forms will be available in the school office for those who have ideas on how to spend our Friends of TOPS money. Thanks for your interest!

VOLUNTEER HOURS = MATCHING FUNDS
PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS!

With a note in the Volunteer Coordinator mailbox, on the Volunteer Hours clipboard in the Main Office, or with a monthly e-mail or phone call to Marlies van Bergeijk (328-3064, paul-marlies@worldnet.att.net).

Kindergartners, Joan, and Gary entertain parents with their music and sign language skills.
SITE COUNCIL MEETING—JANUARY 10, 2001

ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the sixth 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

February 16, March 15, April 20, May 11, and June 29.

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

By Gretchen Chambers

During introductions, members signed up to phone voters to ask for support for the February 6 School Levy. Penny Bolton arranged for volunteers to use the phones at her Eastlake office on January 18.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Reporting on his recent meeting with Joseph Olchefske, Mr. Tubbs said that the Superintendent was supportive of TOPS’ Co-Principal.

Mr. Tubbs also asked Site Council members to recommend judges for the Speech Tournament, suggesting community leaders, women in untraditional roles, and others as examples.

Transforming TOPS into a 100 Percent School

This year TOPS is receiving $15,000 in Transformation Money from the Gates Foundation to be used for the planning phase of a four-year grant dedicated to ensuring academic achievement for all students. Every Seattle school is receiving Transformation Money. Next year, TOPS will receive $55,000 toward implementation; in 2002-3, $52,000; and in 2003-4, $45,000. The Leadership Team plans to use some of the planning portion to pay for guest teachers to cover for teachers observing fellow faculty. Observing fellow faculty will help teachers improve and coordinate methods. Mr. Tubbs said it is well within our means, given our capabilities and these resources, to transform TOPS into a 100 percent school (100 percent meeting standards).

Money from I-728

Mr. Tubbs says we can expect some state funds for reducing class size. At TOPS, without room to add more classrooms, reductions will be achieved through attrition and lower enrollment. Starting next year, kindergarten will be limited to 25 students per class. The funds from I-728 may offset what we lose due to decreased enrollment.

Middle School Student Report

Tal Troy reported for the Student Leadership Team. Middle schools are very busy with after school activities and projects: a talent show for March 15; the yearbook and 8th grade passing; the next dance; Spirit Week; Middle School Commons; a photography club; and a community service project. Counselor Jennifer Murray said there is a lot of enthusiasm for the Lawyers and Students engaged in Resolution (LASER) program. She has asked that students interested in the training submit an essay about why peer counseling is important to the school, why it is important to them, and what they would bring to a counseling position. The program has been very successful in other schools and includes two years of follow-up.

Review & Reassessment of Strategic Plan

The last revision of the Site Council’s Strategic Plan is dated June 13, 1999 and was written to align with the Leadership Team’s Academic Achievement Goals. Chairperson Betsy Scott asked that the plan be revised again to be more general in focus to encompass the Academic Achievement goals and other priorities of the Site Council. The members did some brainstorming and listed objectives and ideas under the goals listed below. These lists will be used by the Leadership Team to formulate priorities for Requests for Proposals RFPs, which parents and staff can use to shape their proposals. Mr. Tubbs said the Leadership Team would have a rough draft of goals and priorities by the next Site Council meeting.

1. Support Academic Achievement Plan
   “Attack the Gap”—tutors
   Science
   Artists in residence
   Technology
   Math
   Music
   Community
   Diverse Literature
   Language
   Speech
   Early intervention (K, 1&2)

2. Continue to Provide Funds for Enrichment
   Drama
   Dance
   Multicultural activities / e.g., Taste of Tops
   Chess
   Art
   Ski Club
   Photography
   After school sports for elementary
   Community Service
   End-of-year camps
   Staff development for accelerated learning

3. Promote Positive School Climate & Parental Involvement
   Get more parents involved in TOPICS
   Volunteer Coordinator
   Newsletter
   Roster
   School Counselor
   Family Support Worker
   Website
   Go-homes
   Collaborative school leadership
   Americorps
   Scholarships
   Lunch support program
   Taste of TOPS
   Improving community relationship

Continued on page 3.
Fundraising efforts aimed at improving Rogers Playfield are going well. As of early January, close to $160,000 had been raised from Safeco, Kenmore Air, Macearn Foundation, the Neighborhood Matching Fund, and the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation.

The new playground is slated to open in September 2001, and now we all have an opportunity to be part of the renovation project by making a tax-deductible contribution and receiving recognition with a personalized glass leaf. Designed and created by local glass artist Jerry Newcomb, these unique leaves will be imbedded in attention-grabbing entry pillars designed by TOPS dad and landscape architect, Randy Allworth.

The leaves come in two sizes, small ($60) and large ($200). Examples will soon be available at the kiosks on Franklin Green Street. Brochures with all the details are available at Lake Union Mail, behind Louisa’s on Eastlake. You can fill in the order form there or at school. For more information, contact Rebecca Sadinsky at 723-7378 or Jules James at Lake Union Mail (329-1468).

**FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The No Bake Bake Sale is doing very well. The current total has already surpassed past campaigns. Penny said the Committee needs help with grant writing.

**FACILITIES**

Rebecca Sadinsky reported that bids for improving the lighting in the first and second floor classrooms on the east side of the elementary building came in $3000 higher than the $7500 the SC allotted for the project. After discussion, the Site Council moved and seconded a motion to go ahead with the project borrowing the additional funds from money budgeted for a sound system in the lunchroom. Penny thought some funding that was not spent on the gymnasium sound system could be diverted to cover the lunchroom project if need be.

Rebecca urged members to help promote the Leaf Campaign for Rogers Park. She said that work on the playfield itself was revving up, citing a possible complication in a Park Department proposal to run a wheelchair ramp from the Eastlake/Louisa corner north along the west fence and then east through the middle of the playfield to the Franklin entrance. The Committee and the Eastlake community are hoping the wheelchair access in the main entrance from Franklin, which they made sure was compliant, will be sufficient.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Volunteer Coordinator, Marlies van Bergeijk, still needs an e-mail address at school from which to put in the background checks for volunteers. About 100 forms have been turned in. It was noted that parents helping with the end-of-year camps must be sure to hand in their forms. Marlies said she can complete the checks very quickly. She reiterated Mr. Tubbs’ call for parents to lead tours for prospective parents.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Kevin Crozier said the District is making a push to get the teachers’ e-mail addresses and word training in mid-January.

**DRAMA**

Drama Co-chair, Linda korbus, reported that the Drama Committee’s pilot programs are underway with Julie Jamieson’s 3rd Grade production of *Midsummer’s Night Dream* and Jen Kulak’s 7th grade production for the health class. The Elementary School Play will also be directed by Julie Jamieson and performed June 8 and 9. David Crandall will write the play and music.
WRITING IN PE?

By Don Zenke

Some students still question why we have writing assignments in PE. Why? Because we are always looking for ways to integrate our curriculum with other academic disciplines, teach to the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALR), and keep our curriculum meaningful.

Our current Middle School writing assignment asks the students to describe their current level of fitness, set fitness goals, and develop a fitness plan detailing how

---

EALR 1.3 states that “the student will understand the concepts of health related fitness and develop and monitor progress on personal fitness goals.” EALR 4.2 states that “the student will develop a health and fitness plan monitoring system.” The above EALRs are part of our physical fitness goals. (Editor’s note: For more information on the standards, see Washington’s Superintendent of Public Instruction’s website at http://www.k12.wa.us/reform/EAIR/standards/arts.asp)
AUCTION 2001 COUNTDOWN:
ALL ITEMS DUE MARCH 30

TOPS Auction 2001 is set for Saturday, May 5, at the Asian Resource Center—the same excellent venue we’ve enjoyed in recent years past. We look forward once again to an extraordinarily successful event, one that will bring plenty of joy to Mudville in the form of educational goodies—both academic and extra-curricular—for our TOPS kids.

Of course, an auction is not an auction without interesting, creative, valuable (sentimentally, if not monetarily), and useful items for auction attendees to bid on. Now is a critical time to get out in your community and find items to donate. Be inventive, resourceful, and smart. Visit individuals and businesses that have contributed in the past. Team up with a friend or start up a friendly competition to see who can come up with the most items, making sure to keep a few donation forms handy whenever you’re out shopping.

The deadline to submit your items to the TOPS office is March 30. Once you’ve turned in your items and their corresponding forms, Carol White (634-3105) and Diane Magasich (633-0546) will begin the daunting task of recording, cataloging, numbering, and sorting through the mountain (we hope!) of items for both the silent and live auctions. You can help Carol and Diane immensely by turning in your items as you get them and not all at once. And please, please don’t wait for the last minute.

Here’s a summary of what the committee does with the auction items: After receiving all the items, the committee writes descriptions of live auction items for the auctioneer, fills out bid sheets, and creates display cards for things that are gift certificates rather than physical items. Then they decide how everything will be displayed on the tables. So you can see that there’s a lot of work done behind the scenes—and a smooth-running auction absolutely depends on your getting your items in by the March 30 deadline!

We’ve already received several great items: a long weekend stay at a cabin in Mazama; a month of dance classes at the American Dance Institute; a wine tasting party at the EB Foote Winery; a baseball card and baseball signed by John Olerud of the Mariners; two United Airlines tickets to Europe; an $100 gift certificate for Tiffany’s; and the opportunity to be a TOPS co-principal for a day! What kind of items will you contribute?

If you have any questions or comments or you’d like to volunteer to help out on the auction committee, call auction committee chair Dan Tobin at 325-8155. Extra procurement forms are available in the office or through Laurie Black (285-7079). Laurie can also answer your procurement questions. Thanks in advance for all your work!

Sylvie likes P.E.
"NO BAKE" KEEPS ON COOKING

By Laurie Black

As of January 9, No Bake Bake Sale donations from 200 families, friends, and staff topped $65,000 dollars, with 53 percent of TOPS' 180 families contributing.

Thanks to all who have given. You are helping us reach our goal of $90,000. We still need donations from the rest of TOPS' community. Our goal is 100 percent participation. We need your contribution, no matter how small. Please send in your donation today.

Forms are still available in the office. Or mail a check to school with No Bake Bake Sale written on the outside of the envelope. The school address is: 2500 Franklin Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98102.

NO BAKE BAKE DONORS AS OF JANUARY 9, 2001

Virginia Abaog
Anne Adolphson
D. Albani
Gayle Allworth
Lisa Allworth
Sorayya Aly
Paul & Diana Abson
William Ames & Gretchen Chambers
The Bach/Smart Family
Kathy Barker
Scott Barnhart & Ouri Mallaris
Dean Barnes
Luis Enrique Barrias Quintana
The Bengtsson Family
Barbara Bennett
Sandy Berger & Fred Smith
Ann Bergman & Michael Renck
RR Bilyeu
Tom Blue & Maude Scott
Penny & Vernon Bolton
Braybrooks & Simon Family
Jeffrey Burgess & Mary Hull
Vasana Burana & Thom Laz
Thomas Caldarola
Dana Carey-Twight
Deb & Bill Carpenter
Peter Carter & Sharon Andrews
Richard Cassell
The Castor-Peck Family
Virginia & Roger Chambers
Mary Chao
The Chapel-Lombard Family
Ed & Kay Chapin
Michael Chapko & Marcia Weaver
Eric Chiappinelli
The Chima Family
Andrea Chin & Vance Martin
Leanne & Gaylord Clark
Mike & Carol Clay
Judy & Sarah Cohen
Keith Cohon
Toni Colon-Barnes
Piyale Comert
Hilary Costin
The Cotner/Sherk Family
The Cox-Czosnyka Family
Robin Cox
The Dawson Family
Gordon Davenport & Xue-Qiao Zhao
The Demornbynes Family
The Denton/White Family
Ishbel Dickens
Elizabeth Dickinson & Joe Merrill
Michael & Jade Dodd
Cynthia Domingo & Garry Owens
Carol Drewyer
The Duncan/Van Dalfsen Family
The Durham/Goldberg Family
Bill Enger & Judy Debel
Joan Erickson & Tracy Wayman
Frank Fabens
Fred Finkelstein & Nora Paille
Lynn Flaherty & Ben Magista
Martin Fleck
Gregory Flood
Paul Franson & Marlies Van Bergeijk
Stacey & John Frantzen
Sue & Steve Frost
The Frost/Johnson Family
Lawrence Fung & June Hayakawa-Fung
Jerry Galloway
The Germani Family
The Gillie-Atlas Family
The Gilson/Kounts Family
Joseph & Remy Ginez
Jeffrey & Anne Girvin
Kim Gittere Abson & Michael Scupine
Galen Goff
George Goodall & Sandy Kurtz
Karen Gottberg & Martin Cole
Paul Goren
Sandy & Jim Green
Barbara Green & Anne Gage
Tom & Elaine Greggs
Leo Griffen & Leslie Cossitt
The Griffen/Burmeister Family
The Griswold Family
David Grossman & Cezzanne Garcia
Amy Hagopian & Stephen Ludwig
The Hahn Family
Jun & Alice Hayakawa
Jeffrey Heft & Tammy Luthy
The Bob Hale Family
Randy Hall
Pat & Mike Helgren
Robert Heller & Rebecca Fox
Esther & Larry Hexter
Melora & Henryk Hiller
Rich & Wendi Hirshberg
Bill & Libby Hirshberg
Vida & Shari Hirshberg
Peggy Hoban & Lionel Halvorsen
Nancy Hom
June Hom & Bill Swerbenski
Marcy Harty & Randy Price
The Holub Family
Laura Hopkins & Brett Baba
Mark Huck & Nadine Schultz-Huck
Carolyn Hughes & Harry Ehlers
William Hurley & Jill Rollkoetter
Kristen & Alex Johnston
Kris & Ted Johnson
The Jamieson Family
Janis Jones
Jules James & Alex
Kirsten & Alex James
Steve Kaimmer
Janet Kavadas
Kathleen Kettner
George & Linda Keylon
C. Kimball
Kal Klass & Michele Soble
Bruce Kochis
R.K. & Laurie Koehler
Linda Korbus & Greg Flood
Stephen Kovnat
Grace & Len Kubota
Veronica Kvam
Siu Fong Kwok
John LaCoste
The LaPatra Family
Rosemarie & Norman LeMoine
The Leonard Family
Jack Lee & Pm Weizenbaum
Jane & Rocky Leung
The Lovell Family
Maggie Lubov
Gary Luke & Beth Wheeler
Barbara Lui & Kip Tokuda
Steven Magasis
Rebecca Manglinong
The Maraghe Family
Estelita Manglinong
Jon & Ellen Markman
Joan Markman
Tom Marra
Jim McDonald
The McKeon Family
Kirk McKinley & Sarah Meeker
Kimberly McRae & Shabae Diquan
Sharon Mentyka & Stephen Schlott
David Messerschmidt
Floris Mikkelsen & Sally Buckley
Gail Miller
Lea Ann Miyagawa & Scott Winter
Kent & Elaine Moberly
Paul Mocha
Janet & Doug Moore
Howard Morishige
Jennifer Murray
Michael Nailen
Gene & Erica Nelson
Alan Ness & Margaret Bergman-Ness
Jon Nishida & Camille Sata
Christine O’Leary
The Onouye Family
Ann Palmer
Cheryl Pappy
Elsie Pasol
Chris Pfohl & Rebecca Sadinsky
Jay & Rachel Pickering
Richard Phillips & Debbie Girts
Charles Pickel & Shirley Bossier
Julie Pickering
Virginia Powers
Ely Redolfin
Carol Reingold
Mark & Catherine Remijan
Karen Rice
Peggy Riehle & Benson Low
Merrill & Francie Ringold
Bok & Luis Rivera
Roxanne & David Robinson
Tim Robinson
Jan Rockas
The Roth Family
Cynthia Ruggeiro & Blake Hannaford
Bruce & Betsy Scott
Clara Scott
Julie Schott & Bill Haggerty
The Schacht Family
Stephen Schwartz
Patty & Charles Seales
Richard Seroussi & Louisa Turner
Nikki Sewell
John & Julia Shaw
Jennifer Shaw & Mark Morales
Lianne Sheppard & Bill Badgeley
The Shure Family
Catherine Slaton
Rocky Smith & Marcia Barholme
The Smith Hayashi Family
The Spears Family
Susan Spieker
Terry & Steve Sperling-White Family
The Stannard Family
The Stevens Family
The Suzumura Family
Jana Swett & Paul Loovis
Collin & Lucia Tam
Julia Tambig
Glen Tamura
Russ Thompson
Vanessa Timmen
Keith Touissant
Holly Townes
Leslie Tregillus & Tom Jones
Gregory Tuai & Ben-Ling Wong
Gary Tubbs
Darcia Tudor
Andy & Lucie Ury
Lori & Monty Vanderbilt
Rudolf & Jimi Vernon
Pat Vernie
Mavis Von Tomme
Debrah Walker & Daniel Baldner
Chuck Weinstock
Stephanie & Daniel Weiss
Greg & Sandra Welsh
Chuck Welsh
Jim, Susan, Brady & Austin Wells
The Williams/Dickeman Family
The Williams Family
David White
Winifred Weiner
Anyा Woestwin
Carl Woestwin
Bob Woolworth & Jan Shave
Jean Worthley
Eileen Young
Olga Zawada
Miao Yu Zeng
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Company
Walter Zisette & Andrea Akita
11 anonymous donations
Microsoft
Boeing
The Bon Marche
Safeco
Costco
TOPS BASKETBALL UPDATE

The TOPS girls’ basketball team, coached by Eric Herndon, and the boys’ team, coached by Thomas Walker, invite you to come to their games in February. Here are their records and schedules for the rest of the season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>TOPS</td>
<td>Blaine</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>McClure</td>
<td>McClure</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 14</td>
<td>TOPS</td>
<td>Whitman</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>TOPS</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan. 11</td>
<td>TOPS</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan. 18</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Eckstein</td>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Jan. 25</td>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday Feb. 1</td>
<td>Byes</td>
<td>Noms</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOMS plays their home games at the Ballard Community Center.

WHAT'S UP FOR SUMMER?

Spring’s around the corner, and it’s time to start planning for a fun and constructive summer. The newsletter welcomes your suggestions for summer activities—day and overnight camps, enrichment programs, art classes, swim clubs—whatever has worked for your family. Let us know what makes these activities great and help us collect contact information. Send your contributions to jpick@halcyon.com or the newsletter mailbox in the office. We’ll publish it all in the April newsletter. Thanks!

CHESS CLUB NEWS

By Mark Morales

On Tuesday, March 13, TOPS will be launched into the international chess world. Grandmasters from the U.S. and China will simultaneously play children from all over the Seattle area. Included in the Chinese team will be the current Women’s World Champion and the youngest grandmaster in the world. We look forward to hosting this wonderful event.

On Saturday, March 17, TOPS will host the Chess Mates Foundation Chessfest 2001. This annual event celebrates the hard work and intellectual effort the students make throughout the school year in learning and playing chess. Chessfest emphasizes fun, friendship, and team spirit, and provides an excellent way to introduce students to tournament play. This tournament is open to schools from the Seattle and Highline School Districts, which participate in the Chess Mates program. The tournament is not rated and is not part of the Washington State qualification system. The tournament is free to all students.

The tournament format will be a four-round Swiss system. All students will play four games, regardless of wins or losses, and no student will be eliminated from competition. Volunteers will be needed to help with childcare, judging, setting up the gym, and snack bar duties. This is a major fundraiser for our chess club. If you can, come and help us out. This is a wonderful way for the Middle Schoolers to get some credit for their community service hours.

If your children are interested in participating in the tournament or the simultaneous exhibition, and if you would like to volunteer to help out, please call Mark Morales (325-4079) or e-mail memoral@flashcom.net.
A TASTE OF TOPS – A RECIPE FOR EXCELLENCE

By Thalia Nawi, Administrative Intern

Ingredients:
- 580 Students
- 1 Beautifully renovated historic school
- 100’s of dedicated parents
- 2 Dynamic administrators
- 30 Dedicated teachers and staff
- 1 Urban Seattle setting

Directions
Distribute students to teachers. Place throughout new building in well-apportioned classrooms. Mix in staff and support teachers as needed. Position parents in the school at all times of the day, filling a variety of flavor needs. Place administrators last, in key positions, so they can season the whole school. Sprinkle with Seattle rains. . . Voila! A great urban school.

Flavor to Taste
As you enter TOPS, it feels almost as though you are coming into a family home, up an arching staircase leading to a wide, well-lit hallway with a view of the library.

This homey feeling continues as you are greeted by friendly, competent office staff, and referred to teachers who take their business of educating kids seriously. Something deliciously indescribable wafts through the air, spreading the sense of a special school. It is simmering in the classrooms, percolating on the playground, and throughout it all, there is a sense of growth and common purpose.

The TOPS recipe comprises a multitude of people, each involved in a different way. There is no doubt that there is something concrete about being involved with TOPS. It is in people’s eyes when queried, in the tone of the school, in the way people fiercely proclaim greatness to this institution.

School as Community
TOPS has a “multi-region” draw, and students attend from all over Seattle. That is one of the reasons, one parent explained, that it is so special to be at TOPS. The school is the community—the substantive piece that holds all these families and kids together despite geographic, racial, and social differences. One parent described TOPS as “…a school community that is inclusive, a collaborative effort between families and the school.”

TOPS is a community unto itself, fiercely protected, and well taken care of. In a recent discussion at a Site Council meeting, an 8th grade student stood and spoke in favor of maintaining the city-wide draw. “We come from all over, that’s one of the things that makes TOPS special. This is where we all belong.”

The students, TOPS’ raison d’etre, certainly know and identify with being TOPS students. When a conflict arose on the playground, a student said to the agitator, “You haven’t been at TOPS very long, have you?” Within that simple question lies an implication that those who have been here know and abide by a set of rules specific to the school.

When asked what they like about their school, first graders respond enthusiastically: Their teacher! New friends! TOPICS! The Principal! A solemn first grader told me that TOPS was so great, she thinks everybody should get their parents to choose that school. They all seemed very cognizant of the fact that it is a choice inherent in TOPS. Said a second grader “Have any parent choose TOPS as a first thing, it’s the best school for them to go into.”

(Thalia is now serving as Administrative Intern at West Seattle High School. For more of her extended discussion of what makes TOPS TOPS, see the TOPS website at http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/tops)
3rd Grade Quilt Project

By Eliza Cohn, 3rd grade

Tracy’s class is doing a project with my mom, Rachel Brumer. This project is with houses and homes around the world. We are doing a quilt for the auction. We will be learning how to silkscreen onto fabric. So far we have been learning about materials that people use to make their homes. We made models of Nomadic tents. Barbara Bennett, a mom at TOPS, showed us a video about homeless children and the school that she works at called First Place. Look for the quilt at the auction.

Nominate A Star For An A+ Award!

March 1, 2001 is the deadline for students and parents to nominate an educator or support staff member for an A+ Award, sponsored by the Alliance for Education. The A+ Awards is an ongoing project designed to honor the best of the Seattle Public Schools and community.

An independent panel made up of District and community representatives will review the nominations, then select four recipients who each receive an A+ trophy and a $2000 award. Recipients are announced in early May and are invited to an awards ceremony at Benaroya Hall on May 24.

Nomination forms are available in the TOPS office and in downloadable PDF files at the Alliance’s web site at http://www.alliance4ed.org/events_awards.html. Let’s recognize our great educational community!
FAMILY SKI WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 22-25

Sign up by February 8 for the family ski weekend at Mission Ridge Ski area, 12 miles up from Wenatchee. All ages are invited for alpine skiing, snowboarding, and tubing.

The Cedars Inn in Wenatchee, just 20 minutes from Mission Ridge, has set aside 30 rooms for TOPS families to reserve. Lift tickets are available at the hotel. Call (800) 358-2074 or (509) 886-8000 by February 8 to reserve your room, or send email via their website at: http://www.cedarshotels.com/CedarsInn-Wenatchee.html

A Family Potluck is planned at the Inn for Friday night, February 23 at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish for eight, some beverages, and plates/utensils for your group.

Check out the Mission Ridge Ski area and their ski lessons/programs/daycare at: http://www.missionridge.com or call (888) 75-RIDGE or (509) 663-6543 to reserve your private lesson. Students in grades 6-12 are eligible for the Mission Ridge Three O Club. Just show them your Student ID card and your report card with a 3.0 g.p.a. or better, fill out their registration form with a parent/guardian signature, and you will get $11 lift tickets!

The registration/permission form for Mission Ridge 3.0 Club for Honor roll students is available at http://www.missionridge.com/guest_services/rates/i30club.html, or at ski shops and the ticket window.

For more information, contact: Julie Schott at (206) 324-6546 or Carla Griswold at (206) 632-6710 or ctgwold@jps.net

2001 TOPS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY
14 (W) .......... Site Council meeting, Library, 5-7 p.m.
19-23 (M-F) .... Mid-winter break. No school

MARCH
14 (W) .......... Site Council meeting, Library, 5-7 p.m.
16 (F) .......... Teacher workshops. No school

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

MAY
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
8 (F) .......... TOPS Art Festival
8-9 (F-S) .... Elementary School Play
13 (W) .......... Site Council meeting,
Libraries, 5-7 p.m.
18 (M) .......... 8th Grade Passage
19 (T) .......... Middle School Wild Waves
20 (F) .......... Last student day
21 (M) .......... Last teacher day
24 (S) .......... Site Council Retreat
TWO LEVIES ON FEBRUARY 6 BALLOT

Two Seattle School Board levies are on the February 6 ballot. The Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O) is a renewal levy presented to voters every three years. This levy supports basic educational programs and represents more than 22 percent of the District’s annual fund budget. It pays for a reduction in class sizes throughout the District; one full-day kindergarten class for each elementary school; instructional support in the classroom; enhancements to bilingual and special education programs; and more.

The second measure, the proposed Building Excellence Phase II Levy (BEXII), follows up the Building Excellence I (BEXI) levy approved by voters in 1995. The BEXII plan would generate $398 million and includes: secondary school improvements including the renovation of Cleveland, Garfield, Roosevelt, Lincoln (for Hamilton), and Madison; improvements at Hale, Ingraham, and Sealth; start-up money for a new small high school; and more, much focused on South End schools.

For more information, check the District website at http://www.seattleschools.org/area/main/comp.dxml?app=Story&storyId=39 and your local newspaper, then make an informed decision on February 6.