2001-2002 Budget Process Underway

By Site Council Chair, Betsy Scott

This past month the Site Council budget process continued with the Executive Committee and full Site Council looking at ways to streamline the procedure.

We began the year by asking the TOPS community to dig deeper into their pocketbooks for the No Bake Bake Sale with the stated goal of raising enough money to continue to fund a school counselor position and to fund the difference in the salary of an assistant principal to principal.

This year the No Bake raised more money than ever, and it was with excitement and gratitude that we were able to promise $30,000 to the Leadership Team for those stated goals.

We then looked at those budget items, such as drama, elementary art, and teacher classroom allowances, that have routinely been funded with our Site Council money; these items total about $60,000. If the auction is as much fun and as successful as it usually is, that leaves about $10,000 to fund new proposals or to increase currently funded budget items.

Realistic Goals

In previous years during the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, many people spent much time and creative energy writing proposals that were never funded. To those of you with proposal ideas for next year, keep in mind that there is only $10,000 or so to be allocated. And remember our three priorities of enrichment, parental involvement, and positive school environment.

It is important to know that the items we fund every year are successful and that the money we so generously provide for our school is utilized effectively. A review process for the proposals will be established and implemented.

The timeline for the RFP process will be finalized in the next week or two. Look for announcements in the Wednesday Take-Home and on the TOPS web page for dates and deadlines. The RFP forms will be available in the office.

TOPS at Seward
2500 Franklin Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102
Phone: (206) 252-3510
Fax: (206) 252-3511

Principal:
Gary Tubbs

Site Council Chair:
Betsy Scott

Newsletter Online

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.

Kindergartners hold up the original restored letters from Seward School.
Your loyal parent and staff representatives forsook their Valentines for the monthly Site Council meeting in the Library on February 14. Budgetary issues topped the agenda, with plenty of discussion about how best to organize the annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process, which will divvy up Friends of TOPS funds this spring.

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Principal Gary Tubbs reported that many Middle School students had completed a two-day mediation-training course and would soon be handling student-to-student mediations with Mr. Tubbs, Ms. Scott, or Counselor Jennifer Murray on hand for assistance. Artist Jose Orantes will be working with Middle School students on a mural for the Middle School Commons. Mr. Orantes has generously agreed to handle the project with only the $880 proceeds of Penny Bolton’s stalwart sale of TOPS T-shirts over the last year. The mural will revolve around TOPS’ core values of knowledge, caring, and responsibility.

Mr. Tubbs reported that the Staff Leadership had a successful meeting on February 12. TOPS budget is due to the District on March 16, and Mr. Tubbs reported good preliminary discussions among staff.

Mr. Tubbs asked Technology Committee Chair Kevin Crozier to report on Middle School Science teacher Dan Bloedel’s application for a technology grant from the Gates Foundation. Kevin has already received such a grant, which has brought thousands of dollars worth of technology to the school. This year the Foundation is focusing on grades 6-12, so Mr. Bloedel’s application is timely.

Ms. Scott discussed plans for an all-school community service project that will provide hygiene kits to a local homeless shelter. Students will be asked to bring in supplies and package them for distribution.

Tal Troy reported that the Middle School tentatively plans a talent show for March 22 during the school day. AmeriCorps member Maria Kovacs is coordinating the event with students. Tal also asked for feedback on the present Wednesday Take-Home (AKA “Stay Here”). Tal suggested that an e-mail or website system, with limited hard copies available for those who choose not to use electronic distribution, would save Helen Hundley time photocopying and save trees as well. He plans to ask for your feedback soon.

**FUND DEVELOPMENT**

Fund Development Chair Penny Bolton reported that the No Bake Bake Sale has collected $69,000, and she projected that the total would top $70,000 once United Way funds and matching grants are figured in. She noted that the number of families participating was up this year: 320 compared to 234 last year and 252 in the 1998-9 school year. Average giving was up substantially from $112-132 in the preceding two years to $220 this year. The Site Council briefly discussed strategies for sustaining this higher rate of giving.

The Council also discussed alternative sources of funds over the coming years, including funds from I-728, which will increase over time with the specific goals of lowering class size and promoting professional development among staff.

This year’s No Bake Bake Sale set a goal of $90,000 to cover the cost of an additional $10,000 needed to fund the proposed co-principalship of Mr. Tubbs and Ms. Scott and the approximately $50,000 needed to retain a school counselor. The full amount was not raised in the fundraiser. The Site Council passed a motion to contribute at least $30,000 of Friends of TOPS funds for such staff support.

Mr. Tubbs is still waiting to get the final details of District funding, exact amounts of I-728 funds, and funds from the student-weighted formula. Then the Leadership Team will approve the building budget, which is supplemented substantially by Friends of TOPS funds.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Peggy Riehle provided two excellent documents that helped Site Council members review the Friends of TOPS budget in light of the strategic goals and priorities clarified at the February meeting: support the academic achievement plan; continue to provide funds for enrichment; and promote positive school climate and parental involvement.

According to Peggy’s preliminary calculations, approximately $10,500 will be available for new RFPs this year. The remaining $100,000-plus of the total budget will be earmarked for ongoing programs. If ongoing programs want more funding, program representatives will be asked to submit a new, and most likely abbreviated, RFP.

The Site Council is adopting this simplified approach in an attempt to avoid some of the confusion experienced in previous RFP processes, when dozens of well-meaning proposers submitted RFPs on the assumption that the whole budget amount was “up for grabs” when, in fact, ongoing programs that are long established at TOPS, such as drama, music, kindergarten dance, 8th Grade Passage, and so on, take up the lion’s share of the budget each year.

Details on the RFP process will be solidified in the coming weeks. Peggy asked for consensus on the new approach.

Continued on page 3.
BALANCING OUR CORE VALUES

By Gary Tubbs

Which of the TOPS core values is most important: knowledge, responsibility or caring?

Which do you want most for you and your child: knowledge, wisdom or creativity?

What should TOPS emphasize: academics, social skills or emotional development?

For me, there is no right or wrong answer. In fact, there is no need to compare or weigh one against the other. There is power in the “circle,” and each trinity contains vital components that help define the VISION of TOPS.

In moving our school forward and in our relationships with others—particularly children—it’s important we remain conscious of maintaining a balance. TOPS sets a good beginning example of how education will evolve. Since “we must be the change we wish to see in the world,” clearly it serves us optimally to practice each moment, school hours included!

Site Council member Carla Griswold asked the Site Council to make the RFP process clear to the community and to address the concerns of those who submitted valuable RFPs in past years, which were underfunded or not funded at all. Jennifer Shaw added that some kind of evaluation form should be created to confirm that funded programs are being carried out effectively before funds are allocated again. The Site Council agreed to look into some kind of follow-up evaluation. Parent rep and Diversity Coalition Facilitator Garry Owens noted that such accountability would help Site Council justify a high level of fundraising. As an example of a successfully funded program, Mary Chao and Willie Jones described how the tutoring program has helped TOPS students this year.

Peggy also noted that Friends of TOPS has approximately $5,000 of interest income, which Site Council Chair Betsy Scott suggested might be earmarked for the facilities budget to handle any contingencies arising with the new building.

DIVERSITY ISSUE COALITION

Garry Owens noted the Attack the Gap talk will soon be available on the TOPS website. After the January 23 talk, an additional 12 people signed up to join the Coalition’s study circle on race issues. Garry also reported that multicultural books funded by last year’s Auction are now being ordered.

HISTORY OF TOPS

Lori Eickelberg announced that a committee has been formed to build an archival record of the TOPS program, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2002.

FRIENDS OF ROGERS PLAYFIELD FUNDRAISING

Rebecca Sadinsky of the Facilities Committee sent a letter to the Site Council reporting that leaf sales funding the renovation of Rogers Playfield have been slow, and the renovation project may be forced to cut funding for playground equipment. She asked for the Site Council’s support, in the form of a special appeal at the TOPS auction and/or more robust support for the glass leaf sales. Site Council members sympathized, but some expressed concern about breaking the tradition of only two annual Site Council-sponsored fundraisers. For more on playfield fundraising, see page 10.
VISITORS FROM ZAMBIA WARM WINTER ASSEMBLY

On February 15, Chipo Mashingaidze and Robert McClaren (Mshengu Kavanagh) returned to TOPS with songs, music, poems, dances, and slides of some of the countries of southern Africa. Guitar, drums, a big gourd (mbira), and beautiful African fabrics gave Middle School and many grade 3-5 students and teachers a quick glimpse into the lives of the Shona, Sotho, and Xhosa peoples living in Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa.

Some students volunteered to join the dancing, with the last dance showing us some very rhythmic and bouncy participants. Robert laughingly mentioned later that he kept from being swept off his short stool by extending his leg while still playing his guitar!

Bob and Chipo are making their second trip to Puget Sound-area schools and churches to share their special kind of theatre, the proceeds of which benefit Chipo’s AIDS Education project and Roberts Children’s Performing Arts Workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Thanks again to TOPS teachers, especially Don Zemke, for their flexibility, to Assistant Principal Clara Scott, and to parent Sally Buckley.

Presenters’ stipends were paid from a TOPS Site Council “Different Perspectives” Mini-grant. Teachers and parents who would like to invite a guest with a multicultural perspective for one or several classes, please get in touch with Sally Buckley at 524-4772 or Clara Scott at 252-3510.

6TH-8TH MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT FORUM

Tuesday, March 20, 2001
7-9 PM in the Library
You’ve been asking for it, and here it is!
“Parenting Adolescents 202”
The Whats and Why’s and How’s of Parenting Adolescents

Victor Larson will facilitate a timely discussion and sharing about the burning issues TOPS parents currently have on parenting their young adolescents. Come join and contribute to a lively discussion and learn some new skills to get you through these wonderful years. Parents asked for a chance to meet around this topic–so here it is.

This will be the only grade 6-8 forum on this general issue. Don’t miss the opportunity.

If you are planning to come, please call another Middle School parent and invite them to join you. The more we have, the better for everyone.

Other forums this spring (late April, early May) will be grade-specific meetings on grade-appropriate issues and a wrap-up 5-8 meeting to look at next year and learn from out-going 8th grade families how to get the most out of Middle School for your child.

MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY RESOURCES

By Sally Buckley

Since November, the Diversity Issues Coalition Library Committee (Arthur Dorros, Gary Luke, Sally Buckley Garry Owens, and Elizabeth Dickinson) have held monthly meetings to plan selection and purchase of multicultural items for the TOPS library collection.

Prior to our first meeting, teachers were asked to submit requests for multicultural titles or topics. They suggested such things as bilingual dictionaries needed by the Bilingual Orientation students, multicultural selections specifically requested by teachers, and fiction and nonfiction by and about people of a wide range of cultures.

Committee members have been researching titles under the guidance of Librarian Steve Haines. Some books have already been ordered, and the balance should be ordered and the list available by our May 5 Auction or earlier!

The multicultural book additions are being funded by a special $6000 grant from the TOPS Site Council to the Diversity Issues Coalition. The funds were raised at last year’s Auction.
AUCTION 2001 COUNTDOWN: 
IT’S TIME TO GET YOUR ITEMS IN!

Once again we’re nearing the deadline for procuring items for the TOPS Spring 2001 Auction. All forms need to be turned into the office by Friday, March 30. Remember, right now it’s more important to bring in the forms than the items themselves—you can bring your items any time up to and including the morning of the auction itself (which would especially apply to the samples of home-baked cookies you’ll be delivering once a month to some lucky auction go-er!).

Thanks so much to all the families who heeded our call for help and have already turned things in. It is an incredible help and relief to not have 90 percent of the auction items show up the last few days as has happened in auctions past. Now things can be recorded, catalogued, and numbered calmly and rationally. The auction committee is very appreciative.

NEED IDEAS?

If you are still looking for more ideas, here are some favorites from the past: Mariners, Sounders, and Sonics tickets or gear, home-cooked dinners, vacation rentals, themed baskets, dance lessons, professional consulting, restaurant certificates, jewelry, hand-knitted babywear, haircuts and massages, software, coffee, wine, and chocolates... almost anything you could imagine donating, someone else will want to bid on. Any other questions about procuring? Call Laurie Black at 285-7079.

Please remember to fill the forms out completely and legibly (or you will get a call from someone asking just what is a “left-handed wombat” and how much do you think someone would pay for it?). For those who have so generously given their time to supervise class art projects and theme baskets, don’t forget to hand in a form, so your items will be accounted for. Then just bring them to the Asian Resource Center the day of the auction. Theme baskets will need a typed list of the contents attached to the outside. You can call Diane Magasich at 633-0546 to update the value as your items get turned in.

If you have any questions or comments—or, better yet, if 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. Thanks again in advance for all your work!

Love That Staff

By Janet Moore

In February, the Staff Appreciation Committee hosted a Latte day for the staff at TOPS. We had three Latte machines run by Terry Denton, Catherine Slaton, and Janet Moore. Debra Boyer, Susan Spieker, Heather Worthley, and Tammy Luthy provided treats. This was a great treat to all the staff at TOPS.

Join Us! The Staff Appreciation Committee was formed because there are a number of staff at the school who do not get recognized by individual classes and are a vital part of the school: the custodians, reading specialist, office staff, the librarian, and many more. If you want to help on the committee, please call Janet Moore (238-7284). It really is a blast to do. Thanks to Starbucks who donated the coffee.

2001 TOPS CALENDAR

MARCH
13 (T) ............... Chinese/US Grandmasters’ Chess Exhibition at TOPS, 4-8 p.m.
14 (W) ............... Site Council meeting, Library, 5-7 p.m.
16 (F) ............... Teacher workshops. No school
17 (S) ............... Chess Tournament at TOPS, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
24 (S) ............... Taste of TOPS, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

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, Library, 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

OVERHEARD

From Rachel Bruner

The Village Voice features a comic strip called “Stan Mack’s Real Life Funnies.” Stan Mack is a snoop roaming the streets of New York eavesdropping, and then recording amusing/strange/bizarre moments of New York street life. I’m not suggesting that the TOPS newsletter replicate this format, but the other day I was leaving the elementary commons and happened to overhear a most amusing conversation.

Fourth grader coming breathlessly up the stairs after TOPICS bumps into a pal and says, “Hey, your brother thinks the planet Pluto is actually an asteroid!!!! (as though there was not the remotest possibility)

Response from the fourth grade pal: “Well, actually, some people do still consider Pluto a planet, while others say asteroid. Some think of it as possibly a satellite. It is really small, and has a weird orbit.”

First fourth grader, “Oh, I hadn’t heard about that yet . . .”
NO BAKE BAKE SALE 2000-2001
A SUCCESS WITH $70,000 RAISED!

Thank you so much to the families, friends, and faculty who have made their gifts and pledges to the 2000 No Bake Bake Sale—TOPS annual fundraiser. We raised over $70,000 as of Feb. 15. It’s exciting to know that when we ask for your support you are there. A total of 320 families donated to support the education of all our kids. The TOPS community has upped their average donation to over $220 per participating family! Matching funds and payroll deductions account for almost $15,000 of the total.

NO BAKE BAKE SALE 2000-2001
A SUCCESS WITH $70,000 RAISED!

If you wanted to charge your donation, you should see the charges on your February 2001 bills. If you didn’t turn in United Way forms with your No Bake slip please do, so we can collect your generous gifts.

The Site Council has voted to support funding the counselor’s position and the co-principalship position with at least $30,000 of this money, contingent on the school’s Leadership Team voting to fully fund the balance for both positions. We appreciate our community pulling together to help make TOPS a better school. Thank you to all of the families and staff that participated this year!

NO BAKE BAKE SALE DONORS AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Virginia Abaog
Paul & Diana Abson
Anne Adolphson
Andrea Akita
Gayle Allworth
Lisa Allworth
Sorayya Aly
The Andrews Family
William Ames & Gretchen Chambers
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Jennifer Gage
Margaret & N.L. Gage
Jerry Galloway
The Germani Family
The Gille-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 Cossit
The Griffen/Burmeister Family
The Griswold Family
David Grossman & Cezanne Garcia
Amy Hagopian & Stephen Ludwig
The Hahn Family
Jun & Alice Hayakawa
Jeffrey Heft & Tammy Luthy

HELP IN THE LIBRARY

From Librarian, Steve Haines

Working in a library is like owning a home: there is always something to do. I could use help with the following tasks, which never seem to get completed: repairing books, covering new books, shelving books, calling families on overdue books, helping to supervise before school or at lunch recess, processing new books, maintaining library computers, etc., etc.

If one or more of these jobs interest you, please let me know. THANKS, and a big thank you to those lucky parents who already help in our library.
The Bob Hale Family  
Randi Hall  
The Harris Family  
Marcy Harty & Randy Price  
Pat & Mike Helgren  
Robert Heller & Rebecca Fox  
Carlos & Lynn Hernandez  
Esther & Larry Hexter  
Melora & Henryk Hiller  
Rich & Wendi Hirshberg  
Bill & Libby Hirshberg  
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Kirsten & Alex James  
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Shawn Kavanaughs & Heidi Randall  
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Maggie Lubov  
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Barbara Lui & Kip Tokuda  
Steven Magasis  
Rebecca Manglinong  
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Estelita Manglinong  
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Joan Markman  
Tom Marra  
The Martin Family  
Charles McCarty  
Jim McDonald  
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Alan Ness & Margaret Bergman-Ness  
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Linda Orantes  
The Owings Family  
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Laurice & Michael Palmer  
Cheryl Pappy  
Elise Pasol  
The Paulson Family  
Philip & Maresa Patterson  
The Pekar Family  
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Julie Pickering  
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Charles Pickel & Shirley Bossier  
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Peggy Riehe & Benson Low  
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Roxanne & David Robinson  
Tim Robinson  
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Bruce & Betsy Scott  
Clara Scott  
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Susan Spieker  
Terry & Steve Sperling-White Family  
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Jana Swett & Paul Loovis  
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Julia Tambig  
Glen Tamura  
Russ Thompson  
Vanessa Timmen  
Keith Touissant  
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Marianne & Gordon Trangen  
Leslie Tregillus & Tom Jones  
Talbot Troy  
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Gary Tubbs  
Darcia Tudor  
Andy & Lucie Ury  
Lori & Monty Vanderbilt  
Rudolf & Jimi Vernice  
Pat Vernie  
Mavis Von Tomme  
Debrah Walker & Daniel Baldner  
The Wardle Family  
Phil & Barbara Weinstein  
Chuck Weinstock  
Stephanie & Daniel Weiss  
The Winter Family  
Jim, Susan, Brady & Austin Wells  
The Williams/Dickeman Family  
Bob Woolworth & Jan Shave  
The Williams Family  
David White  
Ron & Catherine White  
Winifred Weiner  
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Jennifer Winward  
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Eric & Winnie Wong  
Jean Worthley  
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Olga Zawada  
Miao Yu Zeng  
Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Company  
Walter Zisette & Andrea Akita

26 ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

CORPORATE DONORS

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Boeing  
The Bon Marche  
SafeCo  
Costco  
Zymogenetics  
The McArthur Foundation  
Commercial Fabric
A FEW SUMMERTIME P.E. ACTIVITIES

Greenlake Aquatics Center: rowing, sailing, canoeing.

Camps: Eric’s basketball camp at TOPS, baseball, flag football soccer, jump rope.

Community Center Activities: Track, swimming, gymnastics, dance, martial arts, badminton, table tennis,

Response to “I’m bored”: Stretch, ride bikes, skate, skateboard, juggle, handstands, gymnastics, yo-yo, frisbee, jog, rock climb, hike, run the dog, dribble basketballs, throw and catch, golf, unicycle, soccer juggle, pull-ups, bump your volleyball, jump rope, shoot baskets, toss a football, hula hoop.
ESL AND BOC AT TOPS

By Annie Gage

There is so much to learn as a new TOPS parent! Despite various gatherings and orientations before the school year started, I continue to discover things about which to have questions. One of these is the difference between ESL and BOC.

I began reading books to Linda Orantes’ Intermediate BOC class twice a month in the fall and assumed that all of the students would be at TOPS for the whole school year. I was surprised to learn that the January Ice Skating trip was in part a farewell celebration for BOC students. Where were they going, I wondered, and what about the ESL students?

I couldn’t stand it. I had to understand. I was sure other parents wanted to know, too. Linda graciously explained the similarities and differences between the two programs.

NEW TO SEATTLE

When students who do not speak fluent English move into the Seattle School District, they are given an oral test. Depending on their score on that test, they get different choices. If they score at one level, their parents can choose for them to attend BOC (Bilingual Orientation Center) classes or be immediately mainstreamed into their grade-level classroom. If they score at another level, their parents can choose for their children to receive ESL (English as a Second Language) instruction, or not.

BOC is designed as a half-year program. BOC teachers Loren Smith, Linda Orantes, and Karen Wong help their students learn basic vocabulary. They are assisted by tutors Barbara Mendoza, who speaks Spanish, Hiromi Pingry, who speaks Japanese, and Liane Wong, who speaks Vietnamese and three dialects of Chinese. The teachers use a variety of approaches to help their students acquire new vocabulary. They work with a lot of stories that have pictures. Concepts are made more tangible through the use of objects and props. For example, a teacher might bring in a tent and other camping supplies to help bring alive the concepts about camping. BOC students go on lots of field trips to places like the aquarium and the zoo. In addition, they take walking field trips around TOPS and practice using the vocabulary, such as colors, that they are learning.

BOC classrooms often include students whose previous school experiences are extremely different from each other’s. For instance, some children may have never attended school, whereas others might have been in a highly structured school. Part of what happens in BOC is that students become oriented to the culture of public school in the United States.

After the half-year is up, if a student has attained a certain level of reading and writing ability, she can go into a mainstream class at her grade level in one of the schools for which her address qualifies her. Parents are strongly encouraged to choose a school with an ESL program, for much-needed continuing support. Students who would benefit from a longer time in a BOC class are allowed to do so.

All ESL students are in mainstream classrooms. These children already speak and understand some English, and ESL helps them expand their vocabulary and focuses on developing speaking, writing, and reading skills. TOPS ESL teacher, Gretchen Jacobsen may work with them in their grade-level classroom, or she might pull them out of their class so they can work in small groups. Instructional assistants Sorayya Aly and Manuel Bermudez also work with ESL students in their classrooms.

HELP WANTED: FUND DEVELOPMENT

This intrepid team of hunter-gatherers brings in the parent-raised and outside funds to supplement the TOPS Seattle School District budget. Three sub-committees will need help next year.

Fund Development: This team decides with the Site Council what the monetary goal is for the No Bake Bake Sale and Auction. They also work on grant-writing as needed or requested by staff. All TOPS grants need to go through this group to avoid duplication in applications to funders. Meets once a month.

No Bake Bake Sale: This team plans the appeal, designs a mailing to go out to our community, handles bookkeeping to keep track of money, donors, and thank you notes, and coordinates follow-up with families. Meets in the late summer and starts work in fall. Appeal should go out by mid-October and drive ends by end of January. Labor-intensive in the fall through January. Then you’re done!

Auction: This fun-loving team puts on our annual auction in the spring. They meet starting in the fall once a month and put on a incredible party that brings in a pretty penny. Lots of room here for party planners, auction item procurers, publicity people, and worker bees on the day of the auction.

This year Penny Bolton has been the chair of Fund Development. Hopefully, her daughter will be graduating and they’ll move on to high school. If you are interested in participating in any aspects of Fund Development, No Bake, or the Auction, please contact Penny at pennyb@windermere.com or 206-325-5074.

We are having a Fund Development meeting Monday, March 12, 7:30pm at Penny’s house, 2507 E. Helen just above the Arboretum off 23rd Avenue East.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER?

The newsletter is looking forward to 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. Many thanks!
DINING OUT FOR KIDS APRIL 22
A BENEFIT FOR NEW ROGERS PLAYGROUND

Just the excuse you need to skip cooking brunch and dinner one Sunday. On April 22, Eastlake restaurants will do more than just serve up some of the best food in the city. To show their support for the new playground at Rogers Playfield, many Eastlake restaurants are participating in a neighborhood-wide fundraising event and donating 10-20 percent of their food profits. The money raised will help with construction and equipment costs of the playground, scheduled for opening in September 2001. The funds will be virtually doubled, thanks to the $115,000 matching grant from the Department of Neighborhoods.

Circle the date on your calendar, and plan on dining out at an old favorite or trying something new.

As of February 10, the following restaurants have agreed to participate:

- Serafina
- Pazzo’s On Eastlake
- Pomodoro
- Café Ambrosia
- 14 Carrot Café (serving Sunday brunch)
- Louisa’s Bakery (serving Sunday brunch)

Save that date for a special time to see other TOPS families, meet Eastlake neighbors, experience delicious food, and support the playground while having a good time. Look for event posters and flyers in a few weeks for a complete list of participating restaurants. For more information, call Laurie at 323-4556.

2ND GRADE SPLASH

Compiled by Toni Hahn

The 2nd graders and their families enjoyed their third annual pool party on February 9. Here’s what a few of the kids had to report:

CAROLYN: I thought it was fun because we played a game where we got toy sarks, and skwatered them at the ether team. I like swimming, it is fun to play games in the water.

MAYA: The swim party was really fun because most of the people plade a really fun game. There was a lot of good foods.

ELI: It was fun when we had a water fight. And when I deinfilated a float.

LINDSAY: It was fun because I got to be with all my friends. We played a game it was so fun.

MADELINE: It was really fun at the pool party. We had a really fun game where the boy’s and the girl’s tried to dump water on each other.

JOSIE: I enjoyed the swim party because I got to swim.

Swim Party

By Henry: I swam around the pool. I ate lots of food. Got a bloody lip. I had a lot of fun! THE END

(twas pretty wild)

NICHOLAS: I went swimming at Josh’s swim party. It was also stayed over time. I berly ate anyting, I kinda had fun. Koji got stiched.

DERIC: I went siming in a pool at a pool party. At Josh’s hole I hat the cloring. It was 11 feet at the depest.

CONNER: I like the swim party because my friends were there. I got a new friend named Davis.

KOJI: It was fun when I did jumps but when I hit my chin on the corner and I got stiches.

CLEO: It was fun at the pool because we got to swim alot. We got to play with water toys.

NATALIE: It was fun at the swim party because we got to play with swim toys. I liked playing in the pool with my friends.

JAY: I did a flip in the pool. Langston’s tooth got knocked out.

LANGSTON: I did a 720 in the pool. And I got my tooth knocked out by a kid Jack. My friend Jay did a flip in the pool! it was very fun.
CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

From Marlies van Bergeijk, Volunteer Coordinator

Please mark your calendars for the Taste of TOPS on Saturday March 24th, starting around at 5:30PM. All parents who volunteered to assist with this event will be contacted in the near future to sign up for specific jobs.

THANKS TOUR GUIDES!

Special thanks to the parents and teachers who helped with providing tours to visitors during January and February. Those of you who were put on the spot by me responded graciously. Keep “giving a tour” in mind for next year as a way to fulfill your volunteer hour obligation. It is a fun way to be involved, and visitors really like interacting with parents of TOPS students and the MS students who are very ably assisting with the MS tours.

The remaining Middle School tours are on Wednesdays (3/14 and 3/28). Mrs. Scott would appreciate your help. Please call the school at 252-3510 or Marlies at 328-3064 to sign up for a date.

TUTORING

We have a few new community volunteers, all of whom work in the neighborhood, who have started tutoring students in the past month. We hope to welcome others and especially would like including grandparents in our volunteer midst.

NEW! AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS

UNICYCLING CLUB

Monday’s new After School Sports activity will be the formation of the TOPS Unicycling Club. This activity is open to all ages from 3:30 to 4:30 after school.

Don Zemke’s goals for the club are to teach new riders to ride, to improve current riding skills, to develop a demonstration/competition team, and to have fun!

For further information, please contact Don at 252-3516.
2ND ANNUAL TASTE OF TOPS
POTLUCK CELEBRATION
MARCH 24, 2001
5:30–8:30 P.M. AT TOPS

Join the fun at this second annual all-school multicultural celebration and family potluck. Mix and mingle, eat great food, buy an incredible “Taste of TOPS” cookbook filled with wonderful stories and recipes, see some performers from our community, and peruse America’s Stirfry collection of multicultural books for sale. And be sure to bring a dish to share from your family’s cultural heritage. Last year’s spread was incredible!

If you have a special skill to share, belong to an ethnic dance or music group, or tell stories, please contact Clara Scott at school to be part of the performance. To volunteer for decorations, food monitors, clean up, and other very appreciated support, contact Marlies Van Bergeijk, Volunteer Coordinator. Contacts via email: cscott@seattleschools.org or paul-marlies@worldnet.att.net.