

TOPS NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

By Gary Tubbs

I am so JAZZED about my third year at TOPS! I feel blessed to work with such caring and talented staff, beautiful children, and devoted families. Plus we have this fantastic campus with no boxes to unpack and no significant construction hassles! Maybe I was going through withdrawal because the first thing I felt the need to do upon returning to work was rearrange my office furniture!!

To those of you new to TOPS this year, please accept my sincere WELCOME. We are so happy you selected us, and we are quite confident you'll be very pleased!

I hope your summer has been wonderful. For the first time in my career, I promised myself NOT to work in July. I needed the time to regroup and relax. This proved to be very beneficial as I found myself reading, visiting loved ones, taking short trips, attending my 30-year class reunion (after 20 years away from the Tri-Cities!), and learning to take even better care of myself—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I believe I'm on an exciting journey and more "awake" than I've been in years. Ahhh, now that feels good!

One of the books I'm currently reading, *Jump Time*, by Jean Houston, speaks to our rapidly changing world and the critical "re-patterning of human nature." Houston certainly has me revisiting my personal path in life, but also she has made me aware of how we, as a collective, can impact our world and the world to be experienced by our children and grandchildren. She writes:

The Earth is a hothouse now. Six billion members of the human family and rising, congregated together on a spinning ball, in stress, in ferment, caught between what was and what is yet to be.

I am convinced capacities that have belonged to the few must become the province and requirement of the many if we are to survive the next hundred years. We must each learn to tap into the creative workshops of the mind to solve problems and to bring forth art, poetry, invention. We must discover ways to feel at home with anyone, anywhere, at any time. Most people, given the opportunity and training, can learn to think, feel and know in new ways; function in their bodies with better use and awareness; become more creative, more imaginative, and

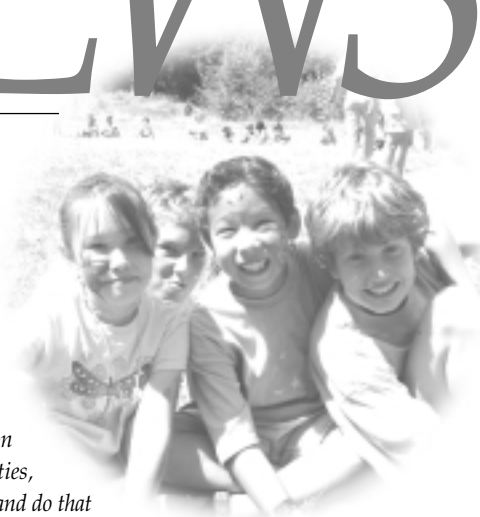
aspire within realistic limits to a much larger awareness, one that is better equipped to deal with the complex challenges of life. The consciousness that solves a problem cannot be the same consciousness that created it. But the consciousness that can rise to this occasion needs models of its own matured possibilities, visions of what the possible human can be and do that go beyond the limitations of academic excellence or dogged persistence to attain certain goals.

Given that, we need a spiritual renaissance commensurate with our technological developments to give us sufficiency of inner inspiration to guide our expanding outer forms. When individuals come into resonance with universal purpose, they know it in their hearts, they feel it in their bones. And they continue to ask, "How best may I serve? How can I plant and nurture the seeds of a better world?"

At TOPS, we have the gifts, talent, heart, resources, and opportunity to take public education to the next level. We will continue to model for others what a healthy, loving, engaging school can look like. We are not afraid to take risks and be "out there." We are not afraid of the obstacles or the conflicts that will arise. We will respectfully hash out our different perspectives, then move forward. We humbly accept that we cannot teach everything, nor can we always teach more and more, faster and faster. But we can individually link into our own limitless potential and inner spirit so that we nourish ourselves and bring more and more soul into our school.

The best thing we can do to take care of our children is to take care of ourselves—body, mind, and spirit. Let them see us model patience, personal growth, cooperation, inner strength, respect, joy, love, and peace. (Ha! I sound like an old hippie!) Let them see us make mistakes, learn from our mistakes, and forgive ourselves. Let them hear us admit we don't have all the answers and need them as active participants in shaping their own futures.

Welcome back to TOPS, 2000-2001! What a great place to be!



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.ssd.k12.wa.us/schools/tops>), click on Hot News Spots, then TOPS Newsletters.



TOPS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO STAY TOPS

By Penny Bolton

ABOUT THE OUTRAGEOUS PUBLISHING SERVICE

Welcome to the first monthly newsletter of the 2000-2001 school year, edited by Julie Pickering, Jim Wells, and Sandi Kurtz. Cindy Suzumura handles layout. Bruce Pulmano maintains the mailing list and gets the newsletter out to you.

We need your contributions—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 2000-2001

September 15, October 13, November 10, December 15, January 12, February 16, March 16, April 18, May 11, June 29

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

Last year, in addition to volunteering at school, parents pulled out their wallets and gave substantial money to make TOPS a great place to be. Every year the Site Council works with the Building Leadership Team and Mr. Tubbs, the principal, to create a building budget (School District dollars) and Site Council budget that make sense together. Parent and grant monies go to enhance the curriculum in ways that the parents and staff both support. (See the Budget on page 3 for all you helped pay for.) Money also goes to pay for this wonderful newsletter that keeps you in touch with school and the Roster of Families (without which your child would have no social life!).

Site Council voted to support a wide range of activities this year, but it was a painful process. With about \$85,000, we only had enough money to pay for one-half of the proposals brought to us! The choices were made based on how many students a proposal benefited and whether it supported and enhanced our already full program and its goals. We looked at areas within our program that were important to who we are now, like K-8 art, and funded an art teacher in the elementary school to make the program build from kindergarten all the way through 8th grade.

These choices were not easy and meant that some proposals weren't funded at all or were substantially cut back. Staff asked for funding for tutors to help students who needed it: \$15,000. We cut that to \$5,000. Other items that we couldn't fund within our limits included: Drama in the Classroom; a Middle School Dance program; a mural project; Middle School trips to the library; Middle School Instrumental music; TOPICS drama; and health curriculum for Middle School.

This coming year Mr. Tubbs has identified two additional areas that he would like parent donations for and grantwriting help with.

The first, our counselor, Jennifer Murray, has been funded by a one-time pot of money that the school had from previous years. Staff voted to hire a counselor for two years with this money because they saw it as a particular need in the school. She has worked in many classrooms running classroom meetings and has worked one-on-one and in small groups with an average of 30 children a month. She has also helped with the loads of testing required of our students. In the fall of 2001, that money will be gone and we will need to raise money through parent donations or grantwriting in order to keep the counselor position at TOPS. We estimate that this position will cost about \$50,000.

Mr. Tubbs also wants to keep our Vice Principal, Ms. Clara Scott, with us longer by making her a "co-principal" with him in 2001-2002. This would mean that we would enjoy Ms. Scott's excellent leadership and people skills at TOPS instead of losing her to another school at the end of next year. Mr. Tubbs thinks that this idea would work but would require \$10,000 from some source to pay the difference in pay between a principal and vice principal.

If we are to fulfil these needs in our school, we either have to make tougher choices next year and not fund as many enrichment activities or really put the pedal to the metal and fundraise like heck. We plan on more grant writing but also need you parents to contribute money to keep our school as great as it can be. Watch for your No Bake envelope in the mail!

Please ask at your job about their charitable giving and forward information to Penny Bolton, Chair of the Fund Development Committee (pennyb@windermere.com or 325-5074).

TOPS FUNDRAISING 1999-2000 REPORT

By Penny Bolton

Last year was a successful year for TOPS fund development. Parents raised \$73,000 through our two main fundraisers: the No Bake Bake Sale in the fall and the Auction in the spring.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

TOPS has a policy of limited fundraising activities. We don't sell pizzas or wrapping paper on purpose. Instead we focus our energies on projects that bring in the money and don't add more work to your busy schedules. The No Bake is a "write-a-check" activity. No kneading, no knocking on doors, and no harassing your neighbors!

The No Bake Bake Sale organized by Sue Wardle brought in \$31,662 net over the course of the last school year. This

was an increase of more than \$3,000 over the previous year. Laurie Black and Elaine Moberly will be chairing this easy-on-the-parents fundraiser this fall.

The Spring Auction supervised by Rhian Lombard and her successor, Dan Tobin, netted \$44,628, which included an extra successful "special section" for multicultural books that brought in \$6,000. Previous years averaged \$3,000 for the "special section." The total Auction "haul" increased \$6,000 over the previous year.

GRANTWRITING

TOPS received money from the City Levy for the Middle School Grant (\$30,000) to focus on social and emotional growth at the Middle School level and also for one-half of the Volunteer Coordinator position (\$2,000).

continued on page 4

WELCOME BACK! FROM BETSY SCOTT, SITE COUNCIL CHAIR

Wow, what a great summer Seattle has had. Only the truly cranky can complain about the weather this year! As August rolls around, thoughts of fall creep into my head. The first day of school is going to be here before we know it.

Last year at this time frantic last-minute construction on the school was underway, and we didn't know if we were going to start on time. Everything the teachers owned was in boxes awaiting the big job of unpacking and cleaning. Countless problems with the building were being noted for the contractor to fix or finish.

Fortunately, this year little energy needs to be expended unpacking boxes and cleaning. Instead, all our energy can be directed toward planning for the education and enrichment of our children.

This summer work was started on improvements to the gym so that our wonderful drama productions will be easier to enjoy. Included in the improvements are acoustical adjustments, the purchase of curtains, installation of an improved sound system, and the addition of bleachers.

Construction was started on both the Middle School Commons and the music room. In addition, every classroom should have a projection screen big enough to use, and cork strips are being added in the hallways so that the beautiful work our children create can be easily displayed without damaging the walls. The District has also provided additional computers, and we have added hardware to more effectively use them.

It is with pleasure and honor to serve as TOPS Site Council chair this year. The Site Council serves as TOPS governing body. Its role is to support, evaluate, and assist in the hiring of the principal, assure quality of educational programming, assure the financial stability and security of the organization, and advocate for the school's interests. I encourage every member of the TOPS community to participate in Site Council meetings and join in committee work. We meet the second Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. in the Library, but please note: our first meeting in September will be held on September 20 to coincide with the State of the School meeting and Volunteer Fair.

See you in the fall.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY SITE COUNCIL

CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Performing arts	Drama Elementary and MS plays	4000
	Set Design, matching grant	500
	Music & dance from world	2500
	Dance—kindergarten	2000
Visual Art	1-4 art teacher	9000
Science	Visiting Geologist	280
	K-8 Science supplies lab equipment	4500
World languages	Scholarships for am/pm class	2600
	MS "0 hour" class scholarships	3100
Technology	Computers and Internet upgrade	6000
Auction special section ...	Multicultural Books	6000
	Student to Student. Cultural Relations.	500
	Multicultural Assemblies	1500
	Holocaust studies	1050
	Diversity Coalition Overhead	250
	Science Thru Native American Eyes	325
	Different Perspective Mini-Grants	800
	Diversity Arts & Lectures.	800
	Classroom supplies	5500
	Tutors—pay regularly scheduled tutors	5000
	AmeriCorps—hire two FT volunteers	6000
Middle school	8th Grade Passage	1600
Chess	Chess Doctor	400

OVERHEAD

Site Council operations ...	Insurance, mail, etc.	1200
	Volunteer coordinator—matched by City	2000
	Communications Co.—Newsletter	1850
	Roster	2400
	Childcare	200
	Staff Appreciation	600
Contingency Fund	Contingency	2000
Immediate Assistance	Immediate Assistance	1000
Safety	Safety	250
	Lunchroom loans	150

RECURRING /NON-CURRICULUM RELATED

INCOME GENERATING ITEMS

Finance Operations	300
Auction Costs	8000
No Bake Expenses	700

TOTAL BUDGET **84,855**

MONEY RAISED BY PARENTS 99-00

Auction	52000
No Bake	30000

WELCOME FROM THE NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR!

As you may know, Karen Dyson, last year's Volunteer Coordinator, recently moved to San Diego to be closer to family, and I decided to take on the job. My name is Marlies van Bergeijk. I have been a TOPS parent for three years. I was a somewhat reluctant volunteer the first year, a Room Rep the second year, and served on Site Council the third year. (Makes me wonder if there is something in the water!) I will serve on Site Council this year as a Grade 3-5 Rep and the Volunteer Coordinator.

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).

The Volunteer Coordinator job is a paid position of \$4,000 a year, half of which is funded by the Site Council. The other half comes from a Families and Education Levy grant administered by the Seattle Public Schools Volunteer Services Office.

A work plan has been submitted outlining

priority activities for the 2000-2001 school year. Sometime in August, TOPS will receive a letter indicating approval of this plan. Priority activities are:

- ◆ Recruiting at least two Room Reps per class
- ◆ Overseeing the printing of the school roster (How would you have a social life without it?)

- ◆ Overseeing the school newsletter (nine issues)
- ◆ Quarterly documentation of all volunteer hours and assisting with the planning of school celebrations
- ◆ Developing a "buddy system" to help new ESL families' transition into the TOPS community. We plan to recruit families who would like to welcome one ESL family and help them connect to their new school and its community throughout the school year.
- ◆ Assisting with finding tutors (parents and outside volunteers)
- ◆ Assisting with the coordination of training to build a TOPS tutoring program.

The workload is expected to average 10 hours a week for the school year. It will be very easy to spend way more time than this, but my intent is to focus on "coordinating," rather "volunteering" myself for everything. That means all of you will have lots of opportunities to share your talents and enhance the educational experience of all kids at TOPS.

You will get regular updates from me in this newsletter, as well as bulletins and e-mails. My plan is to be in the building several times a week (Hours are still to be announced.) and to work from home at other times. I really look forward to an exciting year as TOPS Volunteer Coordinator and to meeting both families new to TOPS, as well as families who have been here a while.

Fundraising Report continued from page 2

We applied for but did not receive a major team AmeriCorps grant. We did benefit from Lianne Sheppard's writing a grant for this year's two AmeriCorps volunteers – Lauren and Neesa.

The Drama Committee received a grant to hire a director for an anti-violence play project that was truly amazing. They also received a Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple grant to study how to finish the drama/gym space. This work was done in February and January and led to us applying for a large Neighborhood Matching Fund grant to finish the space with improved acoustics, curtains, lights and a soundboard.

We were successful with that application and will receive \$22,200 of city money to match the Site Council contribution of \$14,500 cash plus \$8,000 in in-kind or volunteer hours match. The planning work will take place over the summer and construction in the fall with, hopefully, completion in time for the Middle School play in December.

PLANS FOR 2000-2001

As the District money is getting tighter over the next several years, Friends of TOPS needs to plan on raising more if we want to simply maintain our level of excellence, let alone improve on it. The Fund Development Committee will continue the mainstays of TOPS fundraising – the No Bake and the Auction. Our goal this year is to substantially increase the contributions our parents make to the No Bake. In addition, we plan on pursuing more grant opportunities that focus on areas supporting the programs we already have at the school. We will be putting together a list of potential grantors and asking the Site Council and Leadership Team to point us in the right direction. We will continue our discussions with Site Council and the community about the idea of a TOPS endowment.

We will also continue to need members of the committee who can help write grants next year. Please contact Penny Bolton (325-5074; pennyb@windermere.com).

A QUICK GLOSSARY FOR THOSE NEW TO TOPS

(From the TOPS Handbook)

BOC (Bilingual Orientation Center)

TOPS BOC is a self-contained grade 1-5 transitional program for students with limited English who are new to the US. Students come from diverse cultures, language groups, and educational backgrounds. The program prepares these new students for entry into the Seattle Public Schools' English as a Second Language (ESL) system. BOC students usually stay for one-half year and then move on to a school with ESL support. BOC students attend separate classes except for PE and some special projects, which they share with other TOPS students. TOPS is adding its own ESL program this year. See the next issue of the newsletter for details.

BUILDING LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team comprises elected representatives from the staff who, along with parent reps from Site Council, form an advisory governance body dealing with issues of staffing, budget, policies and procedures.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

An all-school event, Curriculum Night (October 4) gives parents the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and hear about their plans for the school year.

KIDS COMPANY

Before- and after-school care is provided by The Kids Company, a program operated by Evergreen Children's Association. Licensed to provide care for children 5-12 years old, Kids Company is open 7-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. The program is also available for winter and spring breaks, early dismissal periods, and staff in-service days. City and state subsidies accepted. For more information, call Lisa Stokell at 709-8487.

LRC (*Learning Resource Center also known as the Library*)

The LRC—staffed by our full-time librarian, Steve Haines—emphasizes learning through the use of a wide variety of resources that address children's different learning styles. The library serves as a technology resource center where students can develop research, publishing, and multimedia authoring skills on its many computers and peripherals.

PEAK (*Parent Enrichment Alternative Kindergarten*)

A successful kindergarten experience can be the key to a positive attitude toward school. TOPS has developed an innovative kindergarten program that combines a tuition-based Parent Enrichment Alternative Kindergarten (PEAK, 1 FT teacher) and the School District's funding for 1.5 teachers for kindergarten. This program allows TOPS to provide a full-day kindergarten for all families (100 percent of current kindergarten families participate). A team of three certified teachers provides a smaller student-teacher ratio during writing and reading time (18:1), and a curriculum designed to enhance the creative, social, and intellectual

development of each student. Scholarships are available.

SITE COUNCIL

The 18-member Site Council serves as the advisory body for the TOPS community. Parents, teachers, the principal, support staff, and a community member serve on this body, which makes policy decisions along with the Building Leadership Team, composed of faculty and staff, about curriculum enhancement projects, community building, facilities planning, staffing, and strategic planning. Meetings are open to all members of the community and are held once a month.

TOPICS

This long-standing TOPS program is becoming a bit more structured with multi-week courses focusing on the arts and Spanish. In the past, parents, teachers, and students taught in small multi-age groups of first-fifth grade students a couple afternoons a week, covering everything from Ukrainian Easter eggs to card tricks. There is movement toward longer multi-week courses, some taught by artists-in-residence.

VOLUNTEERING AT TOPS—STRONG FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Parents, teachers, principal, and staff work closely together on all aspects of the TOPS program. In addition to providing classroom and tutoring assistance to teachers and students, parents help with curriculum support, communications, financial planning, and fundraising through the Site Council and the Friends of TOPS foundation. It is the strong commitment of the staff and parents that make TOPS so successful for its students. The Site Council's policy is that we encourage each single-parent family to volunteer 15 hours and each two-parent family to volunteer 30 hours per year to TOPS. There are many ways for parents to become involved—pick something you enjoy and do it! Room reps are good people to ask about volunteer opportunities that fit your skills and schedule.

KIDS COMPANY

Kids Company provides before- and after-school care for registered students beginning the first day of school. For more information, check the web at <http://www.kidscompany.org/seward/seward.html> or call Lisa Stokell at 709-8487.

Save this page!

2000-2001 TOPS CALENDAR

AUGUST

31 (M) Staff Development Days

SEPTEMBER

6 (W) First student day

20 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.
State of the School and Volunteer Fair, 7-9 p.m.

OCTOBER

4 (W) Curriculum Night

11 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

13 (F) Teacher workshop. No school

NOVEMBER

3 (F) End of 1st quarter (Middle School grades)

8 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

10 (F) Veterans Day. No school

22 (W) One hour early dismissal for Thanksgiving

23-24 (Th-F) Thanksgiving vacation

DECEMBER

13 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

22 (F) Winter break begins

JANUARY

8 (M) School starts again

10 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

15 (M) Martin Luther King Day. No school

29 (F) End of semester (Middle School)

29 (M) Learning Improvement Day (teacher workshops). No school

FEBRUARY

14 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

19-23 (M-F) Mid-winter break. No school

MARCH

9 (F) Teacher workshops. No school

16 (F) Teacher workshops. No school

14 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

APRIL

4 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

9-13 (M-F) Spring break

MAY

9 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

18 (F) Teacher workshops. No school

28 (M) Memorial Day. No school

JUNE

13 (W) Site Council meeting, 5-7 p.m.

20 (F) Last student day

21 (M) Last teacher day

TOPS MISSION STATEMENT

We are a relatively small, central city, K-8 public alternative school. A diverse range of Seattle families enroll here on a completely voluntary basis because they seek a balance between structure and nurtured independence for their children. While offering a strong, academically challenging program, we also enhance the personal, social and emotional growth of students by building skills of conflict resolution, social and personal responsibility, values, and self-esteem. Our staff and faculty work with students and their families as partners in building an engaging, active, positive, and supportive school community. Working in cross-age groups, TOPS students have regular and important opportunities for decision making, innovation, and risk-taking.

SITE COUNCIL 2000-2001

Contact these folks when you need information, have suggestions, or want to help.
(Staff can be contacted at TOPS: 252-3510.)

Principal	Gary Tubbs
Asst. Principal	Clara Scott
Chair	Betsy Scott (784-5768, david.scott@worldnet.att.net)
Assistant Chair	Gary Luke (322-2789, gluke@sasquatchbooks.com)
Secretary	
Treasurer & Parent rep 3-5	Peggy Reihle (285-5397, peggybn@msn.com)
Parent rep K-2	Jerry Galloway (285-5226, jamre@gte.net)
Parent rep K-2	Mark Remijan (782-3278, MARKRsea@aol.com) & Joe Foye (731-3510, porrasfo@u.washington.edu)
Parent rep K-2	Gary Luke (322-2789, gluke@sasquatchbooks.com)
Parent rep 3-5	Betsy Scott (784-5768, david.scott@worldnet.att.net)
Parent rep 3-5	Marlies van Bergeijk (328-3064, paul-marlies@worldnet.att.net)
Parent rep 6-8	Jeanne Spurlock (324-1934, spurlockj@home.com)
Parent rep 6-8	Jennifer Shaw (325-4079, jennifer@aoki-sakamoto.com)
Parent rep 6-8	Carla Griswold (632-6710, ctgwold@jps.net)
Diversity Issues Coalition rep.	Garry Owens (782-2565, gomojo@earthlink.net)
Eastlake Community Council rep. ...	
Kids Company rep	Lisa Stokell (329-1895)
BOC rep	Karen Wong
Learning Assistance Program Staff ...	Mike Anderson
Staff rep	Jennifer Murray
BOC Rep	Karen Wong

ROOM REPRESENTATIVES 2000-2001

Room Representatives facilitate communication between parents and the classroom and school-wide communication through the newsletter and selective use of the phone tree and/or e-mail messages. Being a room rep is a great way for mothers *and* fathers to get involved in the school community and their child's education.

When the room lists are posted on the TOPS homepage (<http://www.ssd.k12.wa.us/schools/tops/index.html>), parents are urged to volunteer for room rep positions. For more information and to volunteer, contact Marlies van Bergeijk (328-3064, paul-marlies@worldnet.att.net). Ideally, we need two reps per teacher in K-5 and 2 reps per grade in 6-8.

Faculty rep K-2	Carla Fetterley
Faculty rep K-2	Joby Moore
Faculty rep 3-5	Tal Troy
Faculty rep 3-5	Mary Chao
Faculty rep 6-8	Lori Eickelberg
Faculty rep 6-8	Luzita Roll

COORDINATORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications Committee	
Volunteer Coordinator	Marlies van Bergeijk (328-3064, paul-marlies@worldnet.att.net)
Drama	
Diversity Issues Coalition	Cathy Chun (362-3774, CChun@sccd.ctc.edu), Sandra Hinojosa (634-2353, hinojosa@nscdux.sccd.ctc.edu), Garry Owens (782-2565, gomojo@earthlink.net)
Executive Committee	Betsy Scott (784-5768, david.scott@worldnet.att.net)
Facilities & Community Relations	Rebecca Sadinsky (723-7378, rcpmac@wolfenet.com)
Fund Development	Penny Bolton (325-5074, pennyb@halcyon.com)
Internet Committee	Kevin Crozier (kcrozier@halcyon.com)
Middle School Committee	
Newsletter Editor	Julie Pickering (720-4552, jpick@halcyon.com)
Nominating	Gary Luke (322-2789, gluke@sasquatchbooks.com)
PEAK Coordinator	Pm Weizenbaum (524-6346, pmw@oz.net)
Safety	Dan Bloedel
World Languages	Sandra Welsh (285-6254, swelsh@u.washington.edu)

STAFF

(* New)

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal	Gary Tubbs
Assistant Principal	Clara Scott
Counselor	Jennifer Murray
Family Support Worker	Paula Murray*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Administrative Secretary	Helen Hundley
AmeriCorps Volunteers	Neesa Sonoquie and one more
Attendance Secretary	Linda Downing
Compensatory Education	Mike Anderson
Custodial Engineer	Saream Dy
Evening Custodian	Joe Rivers
Kitchen Manager	Ernese McQueen
Nurse	Ann Uomoto
Office Assistant	Susan Larson
Office Assistant	Joann Sparks
Psychologist	Mary Yarnall
Resource Room (Special Education)	Patty Maffit
Psychologist	
Speech	Cindy Nitz

TEACHING STAFF

K-6

Kindergarten	Joby Moore and Joan O'Connor
Kindergarten PEAK	Hiroimi Pingry
1st grade	Carla Fetterley and Tabitha Beaupain*
2nd grade	Louise Chacartequi and Willie Jones
3rd grade	Tracy Seefeld and Katie Waters
4th grade	Mary Chao and Joe Drummond
5th grade	Kevin Crozier and Tal Troy
6th grade	Lana Fuller and Marianne Trangen*
BOC	Loren Smith and Linda Orantes
BOC Instructional Assistants	Sorayya Aly and ???
ESL	Gretchen Jacobsen*
PE	Don Zemke and Eric Herndon

7TH/8TH GRADE

Art	Luzita Roll
Language Arts	Lori Eickelberg
Math	Mark Ellis
Science	Dan Bloedel
Social Studies	David Wilhelm

TABITHA BEAUPAIN NEW FIRST GRADE TEACHER

TOPS welcomes our new First Grade teacher, Tabitha Beaupain. Tabitha taught preschool on Mercer Island for two years before earning her Masters in Teaching degree and endorsements in special education and social studies from the University of Washington. She has interned at the second grade level in Seattle.

Tabitha was raised in California, and she's been married for just over two years to a Washington native she met at the University. The couple has recently moved into their first home.

When asked about her goals at TOPS, Tabitha replied, "It is my belief that education is a means of empowerment

and a way to prepare students for real life. Therefore it is my responsibility to make sure that all students grow both academically and socially over the next year. It is also important that I give them the tools to continue learning beyond the walls of TOPS."

Tabitha also hopes to encourage multicultural understanding and diversity in the TOPS community. "In our classroom, we will build upon the strengths and tools that students bring from their homes and cultures. We will celebrate the diversity around us and create a community where differences are respected and students can work together."

HELLO FROM NEW ESL TEACHER



I'm Gretchen Jacobsen. I am new to TOPS, but not to its principal. I worked for Gary Tubbs as a teacher at Beacon Hill for several years. At Beacon Hill, I taught third and fourth grade. At TOPS, I will be primarily working with children ranging from kindergarten through fourth grade who are still developing their English skills.

At Beacon Hill, I frequently worked with children for whom English was still a skill to be learned. These children were a great asset at Beacon Hill; their energy and diversity enriched the classrooms for all. I look forward to helping develop the skills of these children as they join the TOPS community.

I took several years off from teaching after Beacon Hill; three children of my own kept me more than busy. My three girls are now in various stages of pre-school and elementary school, so I look forward to working half-time at TOPS.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

From Linda Downing, Attendance Secretary

If your child has an unplanned absence (personal illness/injury or family emergency), please telephone the Main Office as early in the school day as possible. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps us crosscheck absences to be sure a student is indeed missing from school. New this year is "Attendance Office" voice mail: 252-3518—for leaving messages outside of school hours.

Notification of planned absences (family trip, dentist or doctor appointment, or religious or special event) should be sent to the Main Office in writing or telephoned to the Attendance Office number prior to the absence. Please do not assume your notification to the teacher will be forwarded to the office. Requests for planned absences longer than three days should be made in writing to Mr. Tubbs.

PRESIDENTS PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST

By Don Zemke and Eric Herndon

The Presidents Physical Fitness Test is used in our program as a baseline for goal setting and to measure how much students improve over the course of the school year. The scores are averaged nationally; students who average 85 percent or better in the five categories are given a "Hip To Be Fit" T-shirt from the Seattle School District.

Test categories include the V-stretch (flexibility), mile run/walk (endurance), shuttle run (quickness), pull ups (upper arm strength), and curl-ups (abdominal strength). We test students close to the beginning of each quarter, so they can document their progress and see if their goals are being reached. This test will be included in each student's P.E. portfolio, a new feature to be introduced to all grades this year. (More on the portfolios later.)

TOPS & TECHNOLOGY

By Kevin Crozier, Internet Committee Chair

TOPS students, teachers, parents, and community will see a change toward more technology use this coming school year.

Personally, it is exciting for me to think about the learning opportunities and lessons that can occur because of this new technology. Internet access will be greater and faster throughout the building. Our library will have better machines for accessing books, information, and the Internet, and teachers are receiving training and becoming more skilled at integrating technology into the curriculum. Many positive things are happening and will continue to happen throughout this next school year.

All this new hardware, software, and networking in our building means TOPS will need much support and patience during this time. New computers will be phased in through the year, so one classroom may be set up while others wait. Teacher computers for staff e-mail will be delayed, and when they are set up, we'll need time to perfect e-mail use between staff and parents through the district office. In addition, students will need new guidelines on using and sharing these more powerful tools of learning correctly and appropriately.

So, please think about our new school year and how we can all benefit together from this new infusion of technology at TOPS. Share your ideas, guide your children's learning, and support all the staff as we move forward for another successful year. Thanks.

HORIZONTAL TRAVERSE CLIMBING WALL

By Don Zemke

One goal of the TOPS P.E. program is to expose our students to a variety of alternative, success-oriented activities and lifetime sports. During the 2000/2001 school year, I am going to pursue having a horizontal climbing wall installed in our gym.

As most of you know, the P.E. program is getting away from just basketball, baseball, and football in which only

some of the students get involved. Kids love to climb, and a climbing wall allows everybody to be involved and have success at their own level. A climbing wall also has the flexibility to be more or less challenging and also allows for teamwork and cooperation opportunities.

If anybody has any thoughts, ideas or would like to help me pursue this project, please contact me.



CAREER DAY 2000



Assistant Principal Clara Scott organized an informative Career Day for TOPS Middle Schoolers on May 25. Students had an opportunity to discuss career options with 20-some Seattle professionals from many fields.

SPRING CAMPS 2000



The spring camp experience is a cherished tradition at TOPS. Here Middle Schoolers hit the road—to the mountains and the sound—in Spring 2000. Contact your room rep to help organize your class camp this year.

AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS

TOPS is actively recruiting two AmeriCorps member volunteers to work at TOPS for the 2000-2001 school year. Positions are due to start in September and last for 11 months. Candidates must be ages 18-25. The position is full-time and includes a \$700 monthly living allowance, basic healthcare coverage, and a childcare subsidy, if eligible. A \$4,725 educational award voucher is provided at the end of the term to finance higher education or pay off education loans.

In the past, our "best" AmeriCorps volunteers have been referred by TOPS parents. So please discuss this position with the young people you know. Consider friends, neighbors, relatives, babysitters, nannies, camp staff, or any other young person who loves working with kids. Our TOPS kids will directly benefit from your recruitment efforts. Volunteers will:

- ◆ Coordinate tutoring activities
- ◆ Teach special topics to small groups
- ◆ Tutor individual students and ESL students
- ◆ Support classroom activities by working with individual students, leading small groups, and coordinating university students
- ◆ Plan and participate in a summer learning activity for students.

For more information and to make a recommendation, please contact Lianne Shepherd (206) 633-2184 and leave a message, or e-mail her at sheppard@biostat.washington.edu.

GREEN STREET



Eastlake community members and TOPS families helped complete the planting on Franklin Green Street in spring 2000. Many thanks!



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SPEAK OUT!

Write a Letter to the Editor—informational, worshipful, or just plain indignant. The TOPS Newsletter wants to hear your ideas, suggestions, and complaints. Let's stir things up.

Outline your vision for a perfect TOPS. What should our kids be learning that they're not? What are other schools doing right that we could learn from? Which teachers, kids, office personnel, or parents deserve special recognition for a job well done? How about fundraising ideas, TOPICS, community happenings, puzzles and games, a comic strip, and perhaps an irresistible recipe or two?

We look forward to hearing from you at the newsletter box in the Main Office or via Julie Pickering (jpick@halcyon.com or 2624 East Olive Street, Seattle 98122-3144).

TOPS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH IS HAPPENING!

8 - 8:50 a.m. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

Enrollment is still open for current 6th and 7th graders.

If you are interested, call Ouri Malliris (634-3185)
or Signe Gilson (632-3882) for information.

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